

Meeting Notes

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force Technical Advisory Committee

December 15, 2010, at 9:00 AM
Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority
11615 Sterling Avenue
Riverside, CA 92503
Prepared by Rick Whetsel

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Committee Members Present	Hope Smythe, Regional Water Quality Control Board Pat Kilroy, City of Lake Elsinore Jim Grimm, City of Canyon Lake Pat Boldt, San Jacinto River Watershed Council Mark Norton, SAWPA Jason Uhley, County of Riverside
Absent	Ron Young, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Others Present	Norris Brandt, EVMWD; Albert Martinez, RCFC&WCD; Robert Vasquez, RCFC&WCD; Steve Pastor, Riv. Co. Farm Bureau; Kent Wegelin, City of Moreno Valley; Rita Thompson, City of Lake Elsinore; Susan Almanza, City of Perris; Linda Nixon, City of Hemet; Bill Woolsey, City of Murrieta; Dr. Michael Anderson, UC Riverside; Maria Elena Kennedy, Quail Valley; Tim Moore, Risk Sciences; Andy Komor, PACE Eng; Jacob Peterson, PACE Eng; Keisuke Ikehata, PACE Eng; Gian Villarreal, RBF/Caltrans; Ray Stinnett, Stinnett Enterprises; Rick Whetsel, SAWPA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rick Whetsel called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING NOTES

Meeting notes for the November 18th TAC meeting were approved without any comments.

3. PRESENTATION: CANYON LAKE AERATION SYSTEM (PACE ENGINEERING)

Andy Komor/PACE Engineering presented to the TAC an update of the preliminary design work for the Canyon Lake Hypolimnetic Oxygenation System. He reviewed the work that PACE Engineering has completed to date and then described a number of preliminary design alternatives, along with their associated costs.

Of key interest to the TAC, PACE reviewed their estimates for oxygen demand for Canyon Lake, noting that their work was done in the summer when the lake exhibits possibly the highest oxygen demand. After much discussion regarding the variation in the oxygen demand estimated by PACE Engineering versus those previously measured by Dr. Michael Anderson, it was recommended that PACE Engineering perform another round of monitoring during the current winter season.

A motion was passed by the TAC for a Change Order to the PACE Engineering contract for an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for additional monitoring to estimate oxygen demand in Canyon Lake. This Change Order also included work by PACE Engineering to coordinate with Tim Moore/Risk Sciences on the system Design.

4. DISCUSSION: 2011 TMDL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY (TIM MOORE/RISK SCIENCES)

Tim Moore/Risk Sciences provided an overview of the current state of the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force in their efforts to implement the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDLs followed by a review of our current understanding of phosphorus in Lake Elsinore.

Mr. Moore then recommended that the TAC consider a new alternative approach for implementing the TMDLs. The new approach would reallocate existing resources from watershed monitoring to designing/building in-lake remediation projects during the next 3-5 years. He noted that additional near-term monitoring data was not essential to assessing compliance and that the finite resources were better spent on achieving long-term compliance.

Mr. Moore described the technology-based control regulation that is being proposed in Colorado and suggested a similar regulatory strategy might work well for Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore. For example, if the TMDL stakeholders would commit to construct and operate a Hypolimnetic Oxygen System (HOS) to significantly reduce nutrient releases from lake-bottom sediments, the Regional Board could authorize such an approach through the Pollutant Trading Plan. The stakeholders must demonstrate that the HOS would create sufficient assimilative capacity to meet the TMDL by offsetting any new external loads. The stakeholders must demonstrate that the HOS provides the Best Available Technology (BAT) and reduces pollutants to the "Maximum Extent Practicable" (MEP). If the Regional Board agrees, then the HOS project can provide assured compliance through the interim period (until Dec., 2020). Thereafter, it will be necessary to show that the lakes are meeting the final response targets adopted in the TMDL.

The advantage to this approach is that it allows project costs to be amortized over a ten year period and provides the short-term regulatory certainty needed to encourage such large public investments. It emphasizes step-wise project implementation and using real-world results to guide the adaptive management program. The forthcoming Comprehensive Nutrient Reduction Plans (CNRPs) would describe the remediation projects, stakeholder commitments and implementation schedule in detail. If approved by the Regional Board, these plans would become binding obligations on the stakeholders. Failure to implement the CNRPs in a timely manner would be a violation of State and Federal law.

A motion was passed by the TAC to have Mr. Moore prepare a written summary of the proposed approach and submit it to the Regional Board as the Phase 2 TMDL Alternatives, due by the end of the year (December 31, 2010).

5. DISCUSSION: TASK FORCE DELIVERABLE - PHASE-2 LAKE ELSINORE & CANYON LAKE DATA COLLECTION (MONITORING PROGRAM) (TIM MOORE/RISK SCIENCES)

Tim Moore/Risk Sciences continues to work on the letter to the Regional Board detailing the proposed Phase 2 monitoring. Once this letter is prepared it will be distributed to the appropriate stakeholders for review and will be submitted along with copies of the revised Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake monitoring plans to the Regional Board by the December 31st deadline.

6. DISCUSSION: TASK FORCE DELIVERABLE - O&M AGREEMENT FOR LAKE ELSINORE AERATION & MIXING SYSTEM/FISHERY MANAGEMENT (TIM MOORE/RISK SCIENCES)

Tim Moore/Risk Sciences continues to work on the letter to the Regional Board describing the strategy to extend the O&M Agreement for Lake Elsinore Aeration System for one year. Once this letter is prepared it will be distributed to the appropriate stakeholders for review and will be submitted, along with a copy of the Agreement Extension to the Regional Board by the December 31st deadline.

7. DISCUSSION: TASK FORCE DELIVERABLE - LAKE ELSINORE & CANYON LAKE MODEL EVALUATION (TIM MOORE/RISK SCIENCES, GIAN VILLARREAL/RBF, RICK WHETSEL/SAWPA)

Tim Moore/Risk Sciences continues to work on the letter to the Regional Board detailing the proposed modeling strategy. Once this letter is prepared it will be distributed to the appropriate stakeholders for review and will be submitted to the Regional Board by the December 31st deadline.

8. DISCUSSION: TASK FORCE DELIVERABLE – PHASE 2 ALTERNATIVES, LAKE ELSINORE IN-LAKE SEDIMENT NUTRIENT REDUCTION PLAN (TIM MOORE/RISK SCIENCES)

As discussed earlier, Tim Moore/Risk Sciences will work to create a letter to the Regional Board detailing the proposed new alternative approach to address the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDLs as the Phase 2

Alternatives Plan. Once this letter is prepared it will be distributed to the appropriate stakeholders for review and will be submitted to the Regional Board by the December 31st deadline.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is a Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Task Force Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

Rick Whetsel adjourned the meeting at 12:05 a.m.