

**MEETING NOTES
OF THE
LAKE ELSINORE/CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE**

February 22, 2010

TASK FORCE AGENCIES PRESENT

City of Canyon Lake
City of Lake Elsinore
City of Moreno Valley
City of Murrieta
City of Riverside
CalTrans/RBF
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Metropolitan Water District
Riverside County Farm Bureau
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
WRCAC
WRCAC
USFS

REPRESENTATIVE

James Grimm
Rita Thompson
Kent Wegelin
Bill Woolsey
Kevin Street
Gian Villarreal
Ron Young
Lynn Winkler
Steve Pastor
Jason Uhley
Bruce Scott
Pat Boldt (SJRWC)
Mikaila Rimbenieks

TASK FORCE AGENCIES NOT PRESENT

City of Beaumont
City of Menifee
City of Perris
City of San Jacinto
Cleveland National Forest
EMWD
March Air Reserve Base
March Air Reserve Base JPA
Riverside County –Transportation

OTHERS

Aquatechnex
Brown & Caldwell
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Risk Sciences
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Terry McNabb
Khalil Abusaba
Hope Smythe
Tim Moore
Mark Norton
Rick Whetsel
Dawna Munson

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Ron Young at Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Lake Elsinore, California.

Public Comments

Members of the public were invited to address the Task Force on matters within its jurisdiction. There were no comments.

Approval of the Meeting Notes

The 1-18-10 meeting notes were unanimously approved as provided/mailed to the Task Force.

Presentations:

Mark Norton introduced Terry McNabb with Aquatechnex who provided a brief presentation on mapping capabilities for nutrients and chlorophyll a in lakes. Mr. McNabb briefly reviewed via PowerPoint a few sample locations; examples of cyanobacteria in various lakes; the advantages of satellite imagery/monitoring, and the potential for the system to be utilized in Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake. Rick Whetsel said that staff currently is working with the Regional Board in examining the level of work that may be done and whether or not the budget will accommodate it. Some discussion ensued. Tim Moore posed the idea of running a small pilot project, validating it, and then potentially scaling upward from there; see if it would be acceptable to the Regional Board.

Mark Norton noted that the Proposition 40 grant that had been frozen back in 2008 is now available for use and there are some available funds there. A portion of the funds are allocated for work being done by Dr. Anderson and Remetrix, but there is some money remaining that must be used by September 2010. Tim Moore will coordinate with Aquatechnex to prepare a proposal.

Task Force Discussion / TMDL Implementation Tasks

Regional Board Funding for TMDL Activities

Hope Smythe said that the Regional Board receives some money every year for a type of TMDL project that will help to develop TMDLs; although not implementing a project. She had discussed with Mark Norton the concept of combining some smaller projects with the TMDL group. The Task Force will follow up with the Regional Board as to some potential work for which the Regional Board's funds are eligible.

TMDL Compliance and Schedule

Tim Moore provided a schedule of tasks for compliance related to the nutrient TMDLs in Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake. He noted that the majority of tasks are permit requirements in which the dates cannot be missed. As it's written, the effluent limit must be ready by 2021, unless the Regional Board is provided with an alternate method that indicates the Task Force will produce an effective plan. The Task Force would need to demonstrate reasonable assurance to the Regional Board that the plan is likely to achieve the wasteload allocation. We needed a series of projects that showed that these efforts will reduce the adverse effects on the lake, which was Phase 1. He added that as part of Phase 1, a paleo-biologist task should be added that will compare current loads to historic loads. The Task Force also is required to show what we would do as follow up projects – Phase 2.

The first due date is August 30, 2010 for the Task Force to determine if the Tetra Tech models are acceptable so that we can move on to implementation in establishing the effluent level, or if some modifications need to be made. If it's determined that the models still need some work, December 31st is the deadline to show the Regional Board the additional work we'll do with those models. Then we have until the end of 2011. Phase 2 projects must be finished by December 31, 2014. If the Task Force does nothing, these wasteload allocations become the permit requirements beginning January 1, 2021 and are strictly enforceable; that's why there is so much emphasis on this nutrient reduction plan. If the plan doesn't work, then there is a separate obligation for the Task Force to work on it more.

Discussion ensued regarding the individual due dates shown on the schedule; the permit structure in terms of having an interim phase and the final phase toward achieving targets; using Dr. Anderson's algorithms to estimate in lake load allocations; and how some entities will want to pay for projects and receive credits, costing them much less in the long run.

Ron Young summarized that we will await a work product from SAWPA and Tim Moore showing a proposed scope of work for the Lake Elsinore Recharge Pipeline project that includes a priority list of projects to consider for using the grant funding in that time frame. Discussion ensued as to who will prepare the Annual Report that's due August 31, 2010. This issue will be discussed at the next Task Force meeting.

Tetra Tech Model Update – Task 11

Rick Whetsel said that he is working with Tetra Tech and the draft results should be available by the end of March.

TMDL TAC

Rick Whetsel asked for the group's input on an earlier suggestion to have a more focused technical meeting in addition to, or sometimes in place of, the monthly Task Force meetings; perhaps a Technical Advisory Committee to hone in on the more detailed, technical issues. Jason Uhley recommended that Tim Moore become the responsible person in the area of technical tasks to assure that the Task Force progresses appropriately and that the deadlines are met. He also suggested formatting future agendas into technical and administrative issues.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential for a TAC group, and a suggestion was made to hold the TAC meeting on an as-needed basis. Chair Young asked for input as to Tim Moore assuming a coordination role in working with Mark Norton and Rick Whetsel, and for calling a TAC meeting only as needed, where stakeholders may participate on a voluntary basis. This would help assure more timely progress and streamline the accountability. The Task Force concurred.

Task Force Amendment No. 1

Rick Whetsel briefly noted that SAWPA has received Amendments from seven entities to date. The amendment will be re-sent via email as a courtesy reminder.

LESJWA Procurement Policy

Mark Norton provided LESJWA's Procurement Policy for review, as requested at the last meeting. He invited the Task Force to review it and send any comments to him on it over the next two weeks. Chair Young added that the Task Force can discuss at the next meeting how and when the policy would apply. Pat Boldt said her concern is having a type of documentation process for when someone takes a credit. Mark Norton said that he will prepare a draft based on the comments received.

Task Force Budget

Agriculture Credits and EVMWD Credits: Pat Boldt provided a handout that will be discussed at the next Task Force meeting.

LESJWA

Quagga Mussel Risk Assessment for Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake

Mark Norton said that Dr. Anderson's draft report was received and had been sent out to the Task Force. There isn't any evidence of the invasive mussels in Lake Elsinore or Canyon Lake; however, if it does become an issue in the future as is expected, it could cause great damage to the aeration systems.

Proposition 40 Grant Restart

Mr. Norton informed the group that the \$365,000 in grant funds for the Lake Elsinore Recharge Pipeline that had been frozen by the State back in 2008 is now available for use. However, the deadline for projects remains the same – September 30, 2010.

EPA 319(h) Grant Application

Mark Norton said that staff had prepared a grant application for the aeration funding, but it was not selected. The reason is that their preference is to control non-point source pollution at the source; not in the lakes.

WRCAC

Pat Boldt said that WRCAC was one of two Southern California submittals that got to the full submittal process, which was far more tedious and exact than previous submittals. Their proposal included much collaboration with this entity and they were told to remove that section. Unfortunately, it cannot be of benefit to a permitted source. The full three-part submittal is being rewritten for resubmittal later this week.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 2010, at 1:30 p.m., at EVMWD. It was noted that this meeting may be a TMDL TAC meeting instead.

Adjournment

There being no further business for review, Ron Young adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.