

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

September 23, 2009

ATTENDEES:

Jack Nelson, YVWD	Jayne Joy, EMWD
Kevin Street, City of Riverside	Al Javier, EMWD
Craig Justice, City of Riverside	Greg Woodside, OCWD
Tom Field, City of Riverside	Marsha Westropp, OCWD
Val Housel, San Bernardino MWD	Sam Fuller, SBVMWD
Bobby Gustafson, San Bernardino MWD	Tim Moore, Risk Sciences
Gerard Thibeault, CRWQCB	Mark Wildermuth, WE Inc.
Hope Smythe, CRWQCB	Andy Malone, WE Inc.
Cindy Li, CRWQCB	Eric Lindberg, WE Inc.
Linda Garcia, WMWD	Mark Norton, SAWPA
Norris Brandt, EVMWD	Regina Patterson, SAWPA
Lyndy Lewis, City of Corona	

Call to Order

The Basin Monitoring Program (BMP) Task Force meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority office located at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. Introductions were made.

Meeting Summary Approval – August 24, 2009

Mark Norton presented the August 24, 2009 Meeting Summary for approval. Greg Woodside requested the following sentence be added at the end of the third paragraph on page 4, “Greg Woodside said that the Orange County Management Zone does not have assimilative capacity for TDS and this factor would need to be considered before TDS discharge permit limits were increased.” Cindy Li asked that on page 3 in the first paragraph in the last sentence that the word “upstream” be added before “permits” for clarification. Hearing no further comments or revisions, the Meeting Summary was received and filed as amended.

Amendment No. 1 to Task Force Agreement – SAWPA

Mr. Norton provided a draft amendment to the existing Task Force agreement stating that the amendment may be necessary to define some activities the Task Force will be involved in. The amendment includes the wasteload allocations, and other related studies (specifically stating TDS/Nitrogen Studies will be removed from the draft). This is presented for discussion purposes only and does not require approval today.

Mr. Moore said our efforts pre-dated the State’s salt management plan for use of reclaimed water by a year. However, the Recycled Water Policy adopted in February, requires each watershed region to develop a salt and nutrient management plan and to develop a monitoring plan for salts, nutrients, priority pollutants and emerging constituents (ECs). To conform to the Recycled Water Policy, we will be looking at some additional constituents besides Nitrogen and TDS. This would not necessarily combine the task forces.

Mr. Norton stated this Task Force was formed as a follow-on to the Nitrogen/TDS Task Force. It was agreed to do watershed monitoring for Nitrogen and TDS, the Ambient Water Quality Update every three years, and the SAR Annual Report on Water Quality. This Task Force was responding to the Basin Plan Amendment. It made sense for all the agencies to do this work collectively and reduce costs. He invited thoughts on the concept and the potential to fold in to the EC monitoring program.

Mr. Moore said he recommended the EC report be an appendix or chapter to the SAR annual report because we were looking for a vehicle to indicate those results outside of discharge monitoring reports to avoid the EC data being reported as compliance data. By giving this the same name and same authorization, we are expecting the Board to write that into the permit as a special study.

Mr. Norton said we may need to add some agencies to the BMP Task Force (San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency) or it may require some cooperation between the two groups (EC and BMP) to do other special studies that are related. There will be separate studies done by the cities and by SAWPA regarding salt and salt issues.

Mr. Norton said he will discuss the agreement amendment further with Tim Moore to make sure everything is covered under the Recycled Water Policy, modify it and send to the Task Force for verification of language and terminology.

Addition to Agenda: Well Attrition Analysis – WE Inc.

Eric Lindberg provided an update of the well attrition analysis that was approved by the Task Force reporting the upcoming recomputation period will include data from 1990 through 2009 on a 20-year moving average. The code was run to generate ambient water quality statistics at wells for the new period without including new data. He presented the worse case scenario, if no additional data were received, of how many wells would no longer qualify for having data sufficient to generate a statistic for contouring either TDS or nitrate. The interim results show there are approximately 100 wells out of 3,000 that will lose their statistics for water quality. The most common reason for this is that wells will be rejected for not having TDS or nitrate values in three different years in the 20-year period. Table 1 and Table 2 show a list of wells sorted by management zone and owner. This list will be prioritized by the impact that these wells may have on the contouring effort. The recommended approach is to contact the owners by letter to determine if the wells are able to be sampled, and if wells can be sampled before the end of 2009.

Mr. Moore asked if the wells can be mapped to show the wells that will be lost, and the closest inactive wells, so that we can identify those that may fall out and create a contouring problem? Mr. Lindberg displayed a map showing the spatial distribution of potential well attrition and those wells that may fall out under the current conditions.

Mr. Lindberg will draft the letter for SAWPA's signature and report to the Task Force prior to the next meeting.

Basin Plan Amendment for SAR Wasteload Allocation – WE Inc. and Risk Sciences

Andy Malone reported that all data have not been received so he provided background of the model, what the results represent, and how the Regional Board will use the model results. It is a surface water model that predicts volume-weighted TDS and TIN concentration in surface water at specific locations along the Santa Ana River (SAR) and some of its tributaries. It can also predict the volume-weighted TDS and TIN concentrations of the recharge water that recharges groundwater management zones that underlie the SAR. It simulates POTW discharges, storm flows, rising groundwater and nitrogen losses as the water percolates and as it flows in the river. It excludes non-tributary flows and the affects of OCWD's ponds.

Mr. Malone reviewed the groundwater management zone objectives, model results for the volume-weighted concentrated TIN that makes its way into the groundwater basin, and 5-year running averages of the 1-year running events. He presented and discussed the wasteload allocation conditions for Scenarios 5 and Proposed Scenario 7. Ms. Li said the table may need an additional column for recharge. Discussion ensued and Mr. Malone and Mr. Wildermuth said they will first run a wasteload allocation model to get a best estimate, if there is a problem with the Prado metric or a problem in Chino South, we will work on permit discharge limits.

Mr. Moore said we need a tool that makes this readily accessible for the permit writer, knowing it protects water quality and has the ability to be expressed on a mass basis. It is premature to use the planning tool of the wasteload allocation for the purpose of meeting the objectives. Eliminating the column in the table for now decreases the possibility that the results will be misinterpreted. It may be a requirement to express effluent limits as mass in the future. The translation issues should be worked out first. We should consider maximum plant capacity, estimated plant production, and reuse.

Mr. Malone said the total flow in the model is estimated at below Prado, and what the volume-weighted TIN and TDS concentration would be for those total flows. Many days when there are high storm flows, OCWD will not be able to capture and recharge all of that water. The proposal is to scalp off those storm flows that cannot be captured, diverted or recharged into the Orange County groundwater basin. In a meeting with Greg Woodside, it was stated that OCWD is in the process of creating a model that simulates the amount of recharge they can do in the basins. We can provide our estimates at below Prado so they can take that as input into their model and simulate how much they will be able to divert and capture. From that information we can recompute the volume-weighted TDS and TIN. Their model is close to completion. Mr. Woodside said they have started to look at the value of making improvements in the OCWD recharge system. The model accounts for all the different rules about how the system works at different points along the river. **He offered to provide a brief presentation on the model.**

Discussion proceeded regarding the metrics. Mr. Malone said the mass limits will be removed from the wasteload allocation table. The existing numbers will be used for Rialto.

RWQCB Declaration of Conformance – Risk Sciences

This item was not discussed.

Future Meeting(s)

Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Handout(s) (available at www.sawpa.org)

1. Basin Monitoring Program Task Force Agreement
2. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement to Form a Task Force
3. Table 1 Wasteload Allocation Conditions for Scenarios 5 and Proposed Scenario 7
4. Tables 1 & 2: Well Attrition Analysis - WE Inc. (PowerPoint)