

Salinity Management and Imported Water Recharge Plenary Workgroup

February 22, 2008

ATTENDEES:

Linda Garcia, WMWD
Jack Nelson, YVWD
Greg Woodside, OCWD
Marsha Westropp, OCWD
Hope Smythe, CRWQCB
Kathy Kunysz, MWDSC
Peter VonHaam, MWDSC
David Aladjem, SBVMWD/WMWD
Tim Moore, Risk Sciences
Chandra Johannesson, City of Riverside
Gordon Treweek, CBWM
Thomas White, City of Corona
Andy Campbell, IEUA

Behrooz Mortazavi, EMWD
Edward Filadelfia, EMWD
Sam Fuller, SBVMWD
Paeter Garcia, State Water Contractors
Frank Salazar, San Bernardino MWD
Mark Wildermuth, WE Inc.
Joe LeClaire, WE Inc.
Karen Baroldi, OCSD
Tom Crowley, WVWD
Martin McClintock, Geomatrix Cons.
Jack Safely, WMWD
Mark Norton, SAWPA
Regina Patterson, SAWPA

Call to Order / Introductions

The Salinity Management and Imported Water Recharge Workgroup meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority located at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. Introductions were made.

Approval of December 12, 2007 Plenary Workgroup Meeting Summary

Mark Norton asked if there were comments or revisions to the December 12, 2007 Meeting Summary. Hearing none, the meeting summary was received and filed.

Upon motion by Mr. Woodside, seconded by Mr. Nelson, the motion unanimously carried:

IWR 08/02-01

MOVED, approve the December 12, 2007 Meeting Summary as presented.

Final Resolution and Cooperative Agreement Approved by RWQCB

Mr. Norton presented the signed Cooperative Agreement and Regional Board Resolution No. R8-2008-0019 Authorizing the Executive Officer to Sign and Execute the Cooperative Agreement to Protect Water Quality and Encourage the Conjunctive Use of Imported Water in the Santa Ana River Basin.

Tim Moore complimented the group on the accomplishments to date. He reported that the revised version of the SWRCB's Recycled Water Policy is posted on their web site. The most

important part is that it states the new policy applies to everyone except the Santa Ana River Watershed because of what they have in place for Nitrogen and TDS. Our ability to govern ourselves allowed us to decide what happens in this watershed, as opposed to having it decided for us.

Mr. Moore presented a Summary entitled “Cooperative Agreement to Protect Water Quality and Encourage the Conjunctive Uses of Imported Water in the Santa Ana River Basin” dated February 2008. A Cooperative Agreement is designed to displace the need for a waste discharge requirement. To do that you have to accomplish the same as the waste discharge requirements were intended to, and without the regulatory burden. The goals were to encourage the import and recharge of State Project water while at the same time assuring that water quality objectives would be complied with. Our Cooperative Agreement was designed to achieve those ends in a more efficient, less controversial, approach. Nothing about this Cooperative Agreement deletes whatever authority the Regional Board already had to go that route, someday, if they deem it necessary to do so. Our goal was to make it unnecessary for them to do it.

The Cooperative Agreement is like a contract among the parties. There is a specific provision at the end of the agreement that says there are no third party beneficiaries, which means that if you are not a signatory of the agreement you cannot go to court and ask that the court enforce the agreement. If the Cooperative Agreement is implemented in a way that does not meet the described expectations, you would find that the non-signatories would be instead going to the Regional Board seeking a regulatory solution. It is not disempowering to not be a signatory. The implementation of this agreement depends on actions of non-parties specifically. Orange County and NWRI are conducting studies, the result of which were a necessary element for the Regional Board to sign this agreement. Likewise, the Regional Board’s signature is contingent upon production of certain monitoring data starting in year 2010. In the event that does not happen, the SARDA agencies have agreed to a minimal monitoring program to analyze certain constituents named by the Regional Board. Either our own monitoring program assumes that burden or the SARDA agencies will be implementing that beginning in 2010. If not, it would seriously compromise the Regional Board’s endorsement of this compact.

The two elements to the Cooperative Agreement are 1) the signatories have to prepare a triennial water quality report; and 2) what kind of data has to be prepared and submitted for public review and comment whenever a groundwater recharge project is proposed, subject to CEQA requirements. If a project falls under CEQA, these are the rules used to implement the CEQA requirements. Mr. Moore detailed the two elements and discussed the Resolution.

Implementation of Cooperative Agreement for Imported Water Recharge – Nitrogen TDS

Mr. Norton stated there would be a cost savings by merging the two Task Forces. Through an amendment to the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force, the purpose could be changed to state it was for meeting requirements and to implement the Cooperative Agreement. He asked that the group discuss its preferences.

Greg Woodside suggested the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force absorb the Imported Water Recharge but keep the emerging constituents discussion separate. SAWPA should take the role of administering the emerging constituents discussions. Following a brief discussion,

the group agreed to meet in a separate forum to discuss the emerging constituents as a separate task force. The Salinity Management and Imported Water Recharge Workgroup and the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force will meet on the same day, back-to-back, with individual meeting records.

Phase 2 Project TDS Concentrations for San Bernardino Area Management Zones

Mark Wildermuth presented "Phase I - Define Assumptions and Methods" and "Phase 2 - Project TDS Concentrations for San Bernardino Area Management Zones" reporting that in the beginning a lot of time was spent on definitions and assumptions as to how to proceed and what needed to be accomplished. The projection was made in the Chino Basin and subsequently in the Yucaipa and Beaumont areas because when maximum benefit was proposed a higher number than the antidegradation numbers was proposed, and the Regional Board inquired about how fast that would occur. A simple method was developed that was consistent with the information that was available at the time. Modeling has been done since then and better tools are available. The tools may not be consistent in handling salt loadings and things of that nature. He recommended taking 4 to 5 months to reach a consensus at a technical level, on how to count and measure salt. How do you say what the salt loading is in a groundwater basin? Every possible way that water gets into the ground has to be observed, and a concentration for that flow coming in must be established. Some of those things change over time and a basin degrades over time. The two methods to discuss are, the technical method of applying either a continual stirred reactor with salt flux model or a traditional numerical model. Initial conditions cannot be used for groundwater model projections. You have to use the then current concentration. He suggested producing outlines and working documents with the technical staff and reaching a unified assumption that people can incorporate in whatever modeling work they do. The return flow volume weighted average TDS is always high. That's why basins degrade. The concentration of that water going down is four times the level it started at. It 's constantly going in the groundwater basin. Phase I is the only one that reasonable costs could be determined for. If done diligently, it will cost approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Future Meeting

The next meeting of the Salinity Management and Imported Water Recharge Workgroup and the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force is scheduled for April 15, 2008 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mark Norton will prepare a strawman for each group. An interest meeting to discuss the emerging constituents issue is scheduled for April 30, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. All are invited.

Adjournment

The meeting of the Salinity Management and Imported Water Recharge Workgroup adjourned at 11:20 a.m.