

MSAR TMDL TASK FORCE
MEETING NOTES

April 7, 2015

PARTICIPANTS

Richard Meyerhoff
Steve Wolosoff (Via-Conference Call)
Kimberly Colbert
Julie Carver
Lynn Merrill
Kevin Street
Mike Roberts
Liz Hurst
Pat Boldt
Chris Crompton
Suzan Given
Marsha Westropp
Menu Leddy
Ken Theisen
Jason Uhley
Robert Vasquez
Edward Filadelfia
Tim Moore
Marc Rodabaugh
Mark Norton
Rick Whetsel

REPRESENTING

CDM Smith
CDM Smith
City of Claremont
City of Pomona
City of Rialto
City of Riverside
City of Riverside
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Milk Producers Council
County of Orange
County of Orange
Orange County Water District
Orange County Water District
Regional Water Quality Control Board
RCFC&WCD
RCFC&WCD
RWQCP
Risk Sciences
SBCFCD
SAWPA
SAWPA

Call to Order & Introductions

The Middle Santa Ana River Watershed Pathogen (MSAR) TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Mr. Rick Whetsel at Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA). Brief introductions were made by the attendees.

Approval of the Meeting Notes

Mr. Whetsel asked for any comments or corrections to the February 18, 2015 meeting notes. Corrections were noted to the participants list and the meeting notes were approved.

Update: Bacteria Basin Plan Amendment (Risk Sciences)

Mr. Moore informed stakeholders that the Regional Board is still awaiting the letter of approval from EPA on the Basin Plan Amendment. He noted that the Regional Board was informed on March 18th that the approval letter from EPA was ready to be signed (with qualifications as were discussed at the February 18th MSAR TMDL Task Force meeting).

Update: Regional Monitoring Program Monitoring Plan and QAPP Development (CDM Smith)

Mr. Meyerhoff provided an update on the Draft Regional Monitoring Plan and QAPP, emphasizing that CDM Smith is currently working on the “technical” aspects of the plan and that issues relating to “governance” still need to be discussed. He then went through the submitted comments and discussed the more significant comments with stakeholders.

Mr. Meyerhoff noted that he will incorporate the comments from today’s discussion into the “technical” document and get a revised Draft out for stakeholders to review.

Update: Watershed-wide Compliance Monitoring Program (CDM Smith)

Mr. Meyerhoff provided an update to stakeholders on the Wet Season Monitoring. He noted that the wet season monitoring is complete and overall the e. coli results are lower than typical. This he attributed to the dryer than normal winter. He informed stakeholders that a Draft Wet Season Report will be out for review by the end of April. The Dry Season Monitoring is scheduled to begin in May.

Update: Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plan

RCFC&WCD

Mr. Vasquez informed the Task Force that they are finalizing a plan to investigate uncontrollable sources natural sources influencing the Santa Ana River flow. This includes field work scheduled for early in the dry season beginning at the end of April and into May. Additionally, they have a few follow-up work items to complete the Tier 2 Source Assessment.

Mr. Uhley discussed the efforts of the County to address homeless camps along the Santa Ana River.

Mr. Uhley also noted that the county and some of the cities are looking to revise their landscape ordinances on new, as well as existing development to address the Governor's water conservation mandate to reduce water use by 25%, so we should be seeing reductions in runoff from urban development.

SBCFCD

Mr. Rodabaugh informed the Task Force that CDM Smith is wrapping up the Neighborhood Study to look at correlations between runoff from residential land use and water quality. It is expected that a draft report will be out within the next week.

Additionally, Mr. Rodabaugh noted that regarding homeless encampments he has become aware that the County Flood Control has been collecting data on homeless encampments, however this data was not being reported to the stormwater section. He is now beginning efforts to add this data to the MS4 database.

Orange County

Mr. Crompton reported that they are still waiting on their MS4 permit.

With respect to homelessness, Mr. Crompton reported that he has seen an increase in Orange County and that the homeless encampments are located along the Santa Ana River, north of the golf course to Imperial Highway mostly under bridges.

Pomona & Claremont

Ms. Julie Carver informed the Task Force that the city is working a lot on its watershed management plan and monitoring program that was turned in to the Regional Board, and are still awaiting for final approval. She noted that the city is planning to start monitoring in July.

Agricultural Operators (Pat Boldt)

Ms. Boldt had nothing new to report, but said that there has been ongoing email conversations between the Regional Board and Agriculture/Dairy. Pat asked if the RWQCB had contacted Rob Van den Heuvel at MPC per email discussions. The RWQCB had not yet been contacted.

TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA)

Compliance Monitoring and Program Management

Mr. Rick Whetsel informed the Task Force that regarding the TMDL compliance monitoring currently performed by the MSAR Task Force that will transition to the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program, which includes all of the existing monitoring. SAWPA staff has recommended to upper management that we extend the current agreement with CDM Smith to conduct the upcoming dry season monitoring and reporting. And that staff will work with stakeholders to develop an RFP to bring a consultant on-board to implement the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program, while simultaneously covering the needs of the Task Force.

SAWPA staff will be meeting next week to further discuss the schedule and scope of work for the transition of the MSAR TMDL compliance monitoring into the Regional Program.

FY 2015-16 Task Force Budget

Mr. Rick Whetsel first informed the Task Force that the FY 2015-16 MSAR TMDL budget has been approved and distributed to stakeholders. He then noted an issue that has recently been brought to his

attention that could potentially impact the stakeholder cost allocation to Agricultural Operators and Dairy, through the Chino Basin Watermaster Agricultural Pool (Watermaster).

Due to issues with the Bacterial Indicator Agricultural Source Management Plan (BASMP) submitted by the Watermaster, a number of agricultural operators in Riverside County fall outside the Chino Basin Watermaster area, and will not be covered by Watermaster on watershed –wide monitoring or any deliverables outside their area.

This raises a question of how to address the stakeholders cost allocation to Agricultural Operators and Dairy, which in past years has been paid in its entirety by Watermaster (named party to the agreement). Ms. Boldt is currently working on a proposal to split the stakeholder cost allocation to Agricultural Operators and Dairy by area to estimate the portion of the stakeholder cost allocation within the jurisdiction of Watermaster and outside of Watermaster in Riverside County.

As more information becomes available, Mr. Whetsel will bring it back to the Task Force at a future meeting for further discussion.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Schedule Next Meeting

No future meeting was scheduled.

Adjourn

There being no further business for review, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.