

# MSAR TMDL/Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force Meeting Notes

April 17, 2018

## PARTICIPANTS

Pat Boldt  
Steven Wolosoff  
Nisha Wells  
Joe Rosales  
Melissa Cansino  
Lynn Merrill  
Mike Roberts  
Cynthia Gabaldon  
Elroy Ruvalcaba  
Richard Meyerhoff  
Megan Brousseau  
Suzan Given  
Stella Shaw  
Tim Moore  
Scott Bruckner  
Mark Smythe  
Ken Theisen  
Ava Moussavi  
Andrea Gonzales  
Kyle Gallup  
Edwin Quinonez  
Ed Filadelfia  
Arlene Chun  
Susan Longville  
Mark Norton  
Rick Whetsel  
Darcy Ebentier  
Roshan Christoph

## Via Conf Call

Ray Akhtarshad  
Kimberly Colbert  
Bobby Gustafson

## REPRESENTING

Agricultural Pool  
CDM SMith  
City of Chino Hills  
City of Montclair  
City of Pomona  
City of Rialto  
City of Riverside  
County of San Bernardino  
County of San Bernardino  
GEI Consultants  
Inland Empire Water Keeper  
OCPW/Environmental Resources  
OCPW/Environmental Resources  
Risk Sciences  
Riverside County Executive Office  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Riverside County Flood Control  
Riverside County Flood Control  
Riverside County Flood Control  
Riverside County Flood Control  
Riverside RWQCP  
San Bernardino County Flood Control District  
SAWPA Commission  
SAWPA  
SAWPA  
Wood (formerly Amec Foster Wheeler)  
Wood (formerly Amec Foster Wheeler)

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
The Colbert Group for the City of Claremont  
Riverside RWQCP

### **1. Call to Order & Introductions**

The MSAR TMDL/Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force Meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Rick Whetsel at Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA). Brief introductions were made by the attendees.

### **2. Approval of the Meeting Notes**

Rick Whetsel asked for any comments on the January 18, 2018 meeting notes. There were no comments and the meeting notes were deemed acceptable.

### **3. Update: Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) (CDM Smith)**

Steven Wolosoff presented to the stakeholders an overview of the implementation of the Santa Ana River Bacteria Monitoring and reported on the key findings of the program as follows:

Priority 1 – Waters

- Support Recreational Use

Priority 2 – MSAR Bacteria TMDL Waters

- Other factors have limited TMDL waters from achieving WQOs

- Significant reduction in dilution flows
- MS4 bacteria reduction apparent in mass balance analysis

Mr. Wolosoff informed stakeholders that the Draft Report will be distributed to stakeholders in the upcoming weeks after a final review of the water quality data.

A copy of the CDM Smith presentation for the Regional Bacteria Monitoring Plan is available on the SAWPA website: <http://www.sawpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2018-4-17-RMP-Annual-Monitoring-Summary.pdf>

#### **4. Discussion: Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force (SAWPA)**

Tim Moore/ Risk Sciences provided stakeholders an overview of why the Middle Santa Ana River Pathogen TMDL and the Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force have been working jointly through a single meeting and why it may make sense to hold separate meetings in the future.

The Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force is an obligation coming from the 2012 Basin Plan Amendment of stakeholders to conduct monitoring of recreational waters to ensure their efforts are protecting REC-1 water quality standards. The resulting monitoring program designed to encompass all recreational water in the watershed incorporated the monitoring of the Middle Santa Ana River Pathogen TMDL, as well as, other water bodies on the 303-d list, which do not currently have a TMDL. This expanded the effort to bring Orange County into the program.

Until recently, the obligations of the Regional Monitoring Group and the support provided by Tim Moore have been limited to the implementation of the monitoring program, with limited exception of providing comment on bacteria listings to the most recent 303-d list.

Now, because to the impending 303-d listings, which do not have a TMDL and issues with the 303-d list that came up last year relating to bacteria, that impacts all three Counties, questions have come up, as to how they should be addressed by this group.

Tim Moore suggested the way to address these issues is to separate and focus bacteria related issues such as implementation of the monitoring for the Basin Plan amendment, the Regional Board triennial review, 303-d listings and de-listings, and the States pending Bacteria Water Quality Standards through the Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force and to make it a monitoring and assessment Task Force encompassing all three Counties. Regional issues that this group will be looking at specifically are as follows:

- 1) Revisit the anti-degradation thresholds written into the Basin Plan amendment to be in alignment with the State and EPA. This may include a study to re-evaluate Santa Ana River flows, due to the loss of recycled water inputs.
- 2) Evaluate the ten stream segments in Orange County and the five stream segments in the upper watershed that are listed for bacteria on the 303-d list, and due for TMDLs to see if we can get them off the list. This will need to be done before the next listing cycle in 2019 or 2021, as we cannot delay a TMDL.
- 3) The preparation of the next 303-d list in 2022, with a submission of water quality data due in 2020.
- 4) Waterbodies that we are wanting to de-list including Santa Ana River Reach-4, Prado Park Lake and possible others.
- 5) Preparation of recommendations to Regional Board for their triennial review, which staff hopes to have together by the end of summer and to their Board by the end of the year.

Whereas, the efforts of the Middle Santa Ana River Task Force would focus on issues relating to the pathogen TMDLs, and because of the recent audits, this will include updates to the CBRPs.

It was requested that Tim Moore scope out, prioritize, and prepare a schedule moving forward for the Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force.

**5. Review: CBRP Audit Workshop (Regional Board, Risk Sciences, CDM-Smith & GEI)**

Ray Akhtarshad/ Santa Ana Regional Board informed the group that the audit by staff is nearly complete. Only three cities (Riverside, Eastvale and Ontario) are left to interview and it is expected that the audit report will be available in late June or July.

Tim Moore stated that the CBRPs are effectively the water quality based effluent limits for Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. There was a lot of work by the Counties, Cities and consultants that went preparing for the audit to show the work that has been done through these CBRPs. As a follow-up to the Audits the Regional Board staff had requested additional documentation related to some of the task deliverables. San Bernardino has already submitted their supplemental documents and Riverside County will soon submit their supplemental documents.

Tim Moore next discussed the outcome and recommendations from the lessons learned from the audits:

- Recommend a better system for tracking stakeholder documentation. The effort was tremendous to pull together the sum of all of the work done since the inception of the Task Force in 2005-2006 for the audit.
- Recommend a more formal and detailed process to clearly document our decisions. We rely heavily on the Task Force process to inform stakeholders. This is mostly done through presentations followed by discussion of the appropriate response action and direction to consultants. Documented through Task Force meeting notes.
- Recommend expanding our mailing list to include other Regional Board staff, so that we have more than one point of contact for reporting on Task Force activities.
- Recommend annual reporting to the Regional Board for all Task Force efforts, with a strong emphasis what have we done and how well it is working.
- Recommend better measurement and reporting metrics to evaluate progress.

Lynn Merrill recommended that we need to be doing a better job of informing regulatory and elected officials to promote the work done and successes by stakeholders and the Task Force. To that point, Tim Moore noted the discussion with SAWPA staff on a dashboard on the Task Force webpage and proposed the concept of a report card prepared by the Regional Board.

**6. Discussion: Submit Petition to Revise MSAR TMDL and Anti-degradation (Risk Sciences)**

Tim Moore informed stakeholders that the time is soon approaching that the Task Force re-issue their request to the Regional Board to revise the MSAR TMDL. This includes revising the 2012 Basin Plan Amendment to address the anti-degradation thresholds.

**7. Update: Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plan Implementation Activities**

RCFC&WCD

Edwin Quinonez informed stakeholders of the County's efforts working with the City of Riverside on the conceptual design for the diversion of stormwater from the Phoenix storm drain and working with JCSD on the Eastvale Lines D and E diversions to sewer. The County is currently performing water quality monitoring to assess impacts to water quality.

SBCFCD

No additional update for this meeting.

Orange County

Julie Carver reporting for the City of Pomona informed stakeholders the City has submitted its ROWD to the Board for renewing their permit, which is up in October. The City is partnering on a couple of

projects; 1) with the Chino Basin Water Conservation District to assemble water quality data to support a diversion project, and 2) a conceptual project to divert water from the CalTrans 71 improvement project to an infiltration basin being developed on the Palm Lakes golf course.

Kimberly Colbert reporting for the City of Claremont informed stakeholders the City has submitted its ROWD to the Board in accordance with their permit deadline. The City is moving forward with an RFP for a stormwater infiltration project on Foothill Boulevard that will encompass both the MSAR and East San Gabriel watersheds. The project is expected to be completed in 2019.

#### Pomona & Claremont

No additional update for this meeting.

#### Agricultural Operators

No additional update for this meeting.

### **8. TMDL Task Force Administration (SAWPA)**

#### Draft Task Force Brochure

Rick Whetsel shared with the stakeholders a draft informational brochure on the Middle Santa Ana River Pathogen TMDL Task Force. The focus of this brochure is upper management, legislators, Congressmen, Regional Board. Once the brochure is finalized it will be distributed to the stakeholders.

#### Status Update: Amendment to MSAR Task Force Agreement

Rick Whetsel reminded stakeholders to get the Amendment signed and submitted to SAWPA.

### **9. Other Business**

The Arlington Area Tier-2 Source Evaluation Study is final and posted on the SAWPA website.

Julie Carver provided an update on the LA Regional Board workshops for a regional permit combining Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The first workshop will be on May 10th.

### **10. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Middle Santa Ana River Pathogen TMDL Task Force is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2018, 1:30 p.m. at SAWPA.

A separate meeting of the Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 15, 2018, 1:30 p.m. at SAWPA.

### **11. Adjourn**

There being no further business for review, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.