

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

**May 23, 2018**

PARTICIPANTS

David Jensen  
John McNamara  
Melanie Sotelo  
Tad Nakatani  
Rae Beimer  
Rae Beimer  
Cynthia Gabaldon  
Lynn Merrill  
Mike Ali  
Nancy Horton  
Richard Meyerhoff  
Greg Kahlen  
Ankita Vyas  
Paul O'Neal  
Shawna Bennetts  
Mark Smythe  
Tim Moore  
Andrea Gonzalez  
Richard Boon  
Rebekah Guill  
Mark Norton  
Rick Whetsel  
Pat Boldt

REPRESENTATIVE

CDM Smith  
CR&R  
City of Hemet  
City of Menifee  
City of Canyon Lake  
City of Moreno Valley  
City of Perris  
City of San Jacinto  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
GEI Consulting  
The Kahlen Group  
Michael Baker/Caltrans  
Nevada Hydro  
NV5 (Representing the City of Beaumont)  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Risk Sciences  
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
WRCAC

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL

Nicole Dailey  
Chris Stransky  
John Rudolph  
Lauren Sotelo  
Al Javier  
Steven Wolosoff  
Ken Theisen

City of Lake Elsinore  
Wood (formerly Amec Foster Wheeler)  
Wood (formerly Amec Foster Wheeler)  
March JPA  
EMWD  
CDM Smith  
Regional Water Quality Control Board

**Call to Order & Introductions**

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Mark Norton at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Riverside, California.

**Meeting Notes**

The Task Force deemed the Meeting Notes acceptable for the meeting held on March 13, 2018.

**Update: Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumping Storage (LEAPS) Project (LESJWA Staff)**

Mr. Mark Norton /LESJWA provided an update on the April 19<sup>th</sup> LESJWA Board meeting regarding the contribution of contingency funds to the LE&CL TMDL Task Force from Nevada Hydro (representing the LEAPS project). The LESJWA Board informed staff that due to ongoing litigation among some LE/CL TMDL Task Force agencies and the LEAPS proponents that such funding was deemed inadvisable and not recommended. Further, the Board recommended to the LE/CL TMDL Task Force that any work to include the LEAPS project into the TMDL Update Waste Load Allocation was premature and should be handled by the LEAPS project proponents at a later time.

Following discussion of the inclusion of the LEAPS project in the TMDL revision, it was determined that LEAPS would remain in the TMDL document as part of the implementation Chapter (within a table of potential

projects) and as part of the CEQA section, but the project fact sheet would be removed, as it made assumptions that cannot be validated at this point in time.

Mark Smythe /Regional Board noted that for the LEAPS project to be permitted, it must be assigned a wasteload allocation by the TMDL. Mark Norton responded that as the LEAPS project is still very conceptual, the Task Force should not expend resources to conduct the analysis to calculate a wasteload allocation for the LEAPS project and as the project progresses the project proponents can do that analysis.

Next, discussion ensued regarding issues with bringing in private firms like CR&R and Nevada Hydro into the Task Force. A motion was put forward by Lynn Merrill and seconded by Rae Beimer for the LESJWA Board to request policy direction on bringing in private parties into the TMDL Task Force and if funding contributions should be accepted by non-Task Force agencies to participate in Task Force studies. The motion was passed unanimously, with Nancy Horton /EVMWD abstaining.

Relating to the TMDL, Tim Moore recommended that the Task Force consider establishing a wasteload allocation reserve that is unassigned. This would provide Regional Board the ability to assign a project a wasteload allocation, without having to revise the TMDL and would serve as an additional margin of safety for the TMDL.

### **Discussion: Update and Revise TMDLs (CDM Smith & Risk Sciences)**

Richard Meyerhoff /GEI Consulting provided a presentation on the effort to update and revise the TMDLs. This presentation focused on discussion of the final report figures and updates to the report including EMC's for agriculture, impacts to Climate Change and updates to the TMDL WLA/LA Allocations to serve as a margin of safety for the TMDLs. An additional challenge will be addressing cyanotoxins, as there are currently no formal standards or objectives designated by the State or EPA. It is not expected that the TMDL will establish a Target for cyanotoxins, but instead cyanotoxins will be managed through monitoring.

Mr. Meyerhoff then laid out the path to completion of the TMDL Technical document (expected to be about 500 pages). The expectation is the entire technical document including executive Summary and Administrative Record will be completed by the end of June, and ready for one final review by the Task Force.

The final step will be for the consultant team to work with Regional Board to prepare the Basin Plan Amendment Plan.

### **Discussion: LEAMS 2017 Credit Hours (Risk Sciences)**

Tim Moore /Risk Sciences provided an update to stakeholders on the nitrogen and phosphorus offsets due to LEAMS estimated by Dr. Alex Horne in 2017.

An evaluation of the effectiveness of LEAMS in addressing of nitrogen offsets is conducted every three years as a permit obligation of EVMWD in relation to the addition of recycled water to Lake Elsinore. The 2017 report is the third iteration with previous studies completed in 2011 and 2014. The results of the analysis to calculate the number of nitrogen offset credits generated from LEAMS initially assigned to offset the recycled water, which is a requirement of the EVMWD permit and then any residual credits available are licensed to offset other loads.

The 2011 study set the basis for our 22 kg/hr. offset for nitrogen and the 2014 study affirmed that number, which was used to estimate 2016 and 2017 annual budgets for licensing of offset credits. The next steps will be for Mr. Moore to work with Dr. Horne to evaluate the new 2017 data to see if it is necessary to make any adjustments to the annual budgets for 2018, 2019 and 2020 for licensing of offset credits.

It was requested to distribute a copy of the 2017 Nitrogen & Phosphorus Offsets Due to Aeration Mixing in Lake Elsinore to the Task Force.

## **Lake Updates**

### Lake Elsinore

Nicole Dailey/City of Lake Elsinore noted that lake level is currently 1236.48 and there are concerns of the impacts of the decreasing water level on the lake fishery. The City has spent \$150,000 on stocking of game fish over the past three years. She also noted a kids fishing tournament is scheduled for Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Next, Nicole Dailey and Mark Smythe/Regional Board informed stakeholders of a recent bird die off (approximately 200 swallows) at Lake Elsinore. Due to concerns that the die-off was caused by cyanotoxins from the Lake, CA Department of Fish & Wildlife collects several bird carcasses for analysis and Regional Board collects several water samples for testing for cyanotoxins. Results of the water quality analysis by Regional Board showed only levels of cyanobacteria in the caution range, similar to the results of the Task Force HAB monitoring in April 2018.

The City has posted year round signage (27 locations) around the Lake warning of the dangers of cyanotoxins. The City communicates with all of the owners of private boat launches about sharing information on HABs and the City maintains a Lake Watch webpage on the City's website.

The City has no plans to conduct regular monthly HAB monitoring, but does have a contract in place with Wood Environmental (formerly Amec Foster Wheeler) to conduct monitoring of cyanotoxins upon request.

### Canyon Lake

Nancy Horton /City of Canyon Lake noted that lake level is currently 1377 and there are concerns of the decreasing water level. The Lake is expected to drop another three feet over the summer, if there are no significant storms.

Nancy also noted the lake is three distinctly different colors, The East Bay is brown, the North Ski area is very green, and the Main body of the Lake looks relatively good.

Discussion arose regarding the brown color of the East bay and concerns about golden algae. Wood Environmental was tasked to collect samples from the various beach areas in the East Bay and to analyze for the various cyanobacteria species.

## **Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)**

### Status Update: Amendment No. 1 to Task Force Agreement

Rick Whetsel informed stakeholders that he will be following up with calls to staff regarding the outstanding signature pages to Amendment No. 1 to Task Force Agreement.

## **Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

## **Schedule Next Meeting**

The next LE&CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 18 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at SAWPA.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.