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

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL
Nicole Dailey
Chris Stransky
John Rudolph
Lauren Sotelo
Al Javier
Steven Wolosoff
Ken Theisen

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 19th 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 26th.

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.