

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

February 14, 2017

ATTENDEES:

Al Javier, EMWD
Ashley Gibson, YVWD
Bob Tincher, SBVMWD
Cindy Li, Regional Board
Edgar Tellez Foster, CBWM
Edward Filadelfia
Fakhri Manghi, WMWD
Greg Herzog, City of Riverside PU
Greg Woodside, OCWD
Jayne Joy, EMWD
Jennifer Ares, YVWD
Jennifer Shepardson, SBMWD
Jennifer Torres, City of Corona
Jesus Gastelum, EVMWD
Joe LeClaire, CDM Smith, Inc.

Joshua Aguilar, IEUA
Kevin King, YVWD
Lyndy Lewis, IRWD
Lynn Merrill, City of Rialto
Marissa Flores-Acosta, SBMWD
Melissa Estrada, City of Corona
Parag Kalaria, EVMWD
Sudhir Mohleji, EVMWD
Tod Corbin, JCSD
Veva Weamer, CBWM/WEI
Tim Moore, Risk Sciences
Mark Norton, SAWPA
Zyanya Blancas, SAWPA
Phone: Mark Smythe, Regional Board
Phone: Michael Cruikshank, DBSA

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) office located at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. Brief introductions were made.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of January 5, 2017 Meeting Summary

Meeting summary were accepted with revisions.

BMP Task Force FY 2017-18 Budget Approval - SAWPA

Mark Norton provided a brief break down summary of the Task Force budget for FY 2017-18.

Projected Expenses	FY2017-18 Cost
SAWPA TF Admin and Contract Adm	\$50,000
SAR Annual Report	\$30,000
Risk Sciences Regulatory & Doc Support	\$75,780
AWQ w/Interpretive Tools (2019-2020)	\$116,667
SAR Wasteload Allocation Model	\$0
Total	\$272,447

It was asked if the work as a result of the Southern California Salinity Coalition Study had been budgeted into this fiscal year's budget. According to Mr. Norton, the study to analyze salinity trends through drought cycles is being conducted by a separate consultant with guidance and input by Risk Sciences and is fully funded by the Southern California Salinity Coalition as the first phase. The FY 2017-18 second phase work for follow-on policy development with the Santa Ana Regional Board is included in the Risk Sciences budget line item.

MOVED to approve the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget.

Results: **Adopted (Unanimously)**
Motion/Second: Joy/Shepardson

SoCal Salinity Coalition Study Status – SAWPA

Recently, the Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC) and several members of the Task Force have been working on a Drought Related Compliance Study. The purpose for this study is to report on TDS trend increases associated with periodic droughts, which in turn would support new regulatory policies that would address TDS permitting.

SCSC hired Risk Sciences to develop a Conceptual Study Design and prepare a scope of work supporting a Request for Proposal (RFP) to complete the study. The RFP was issued in January; five proposals were received. Upon an extensive evaluation, the Technical Advisory Committee unanimously elected CDM Smith, Inc. as the contractor for completion of the study.

Discussion ensued on the statistical methods for developing the study. Not all agencies are being asked to participate in the study. A pilot of the study is expected in April, a draft by June or July, and the final study by November 2017.

SAR WLAM Status – SAWPA/Geoscience

Geoscience Support Service Inc. was not present to provide an update for the Santa Ana River Wasteload Allocation Model. Mark Norton stated that they are in the preliminary stages of data collection. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Triennial Ambient Water Quality Update – CDM Smith, Inc.

Joe LeClaire, of CDM Smith, Inc., provided a brief verbal status report on the Triennial Ambient Water Quality (AWQ) update. A significant portion of data from the Chino Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) derives from private wells in the Chino Agricultural area. It was agreed that the Watermaster would work with the Agricultural Pool Committee (Ag Pool) to obtain permission to use data from these private wells for the purposes of the Basin Plan required AWQ recomputation. As of today only 20-25% of the private well owners have provided their data. LeClaire stated that the data collected from the Ag Pool is not enough to develop water level or water quality contours at this time. The Task Force requested the assistance of Regional Board to reach out to the Ag Pool in hopes that more private well owners could come forward with their data.

Regional Board 303(d) List Workshop – Risk Sciences

Tim Moore informed the Task Force of his intentions to submit a comment letter to the 303(d) listing decisions related to salinity posted by Regional Board. It was stated that the alleged exceedances of water quality objectives for salinity were used as Lines of Evidence (LOE) to partially justify a new listing for Benthic Community Effects (BCE) in Reach 3 of the Santa Ana River. A more detailed review of this LOE reveals significant errors in the underlying data analysis.

On February 24, 2017, the Regional Board published a notice that it was no longer proposing to list Reach 3 of the Santa Ana River for Benthic Community Effects because the dataset did not meet the minimum number of California Stream Condition Index scores required. While the Task Force supports the decision to withdraw the proposed BCE listing, concerns that the numerous errors that have been identified in LOE #8263 will remain "in the record." Therefore, the comment letter will petition, on behalf of the Task Force, that Regional Board delete or revise LOE #8263. This will ensure proper interpretation and application of salinity-related water quality standards in all future 303(d) assessments including the proposed BCE listing for Santiago Creek which has not been withdrawn and which also references exceedances of salinity objectives to support the listing.

Comment letter is expected to be submitted to the Regional Board by mid-March. The Task Force agreed to proceed with the comment letter.

SAR Wasteload Allocation Basin Plan Amendment Status – Risk Sciences

Tim Moore, Risk Sciences, informed the Task Force that the SAR Wasteload Allocation Basin Plan Amendment (SAR WLAM) is on hold until the 303 (d) listing issues is resolved. According to Moore, results from the 303(d) list may compromise the integrity of the SAR WLAM.

Joe LeClaire, CDM Smith, Inc., reported that the Supplemental Environmental Document should be completed in two weeks.

Scheduled Future Meeting

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

11:20 a.m.