

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

March 22, 2017

ATTENDEES:

Al Javier, EMWD
Ashley Gibson, YVWD
Cindy Li, Regional Board
Dennis Williams, GeoScience
Edgar Tellez Foster, CBWM
Edward Filadelfia, RWQCP
Greg Herzog, City of Riverside PU
Jayne Joy, EMWD
Jesus Gastelum, EVMWD
Joe LeClaire, CDM Smith, Inc.
Johnson Yeh, GeoScience
Joshua Aguilar, IEUA
Kapo Coulibaly, GeoScience
Keith Person, Regional Board

Kevin King, YVWD
Lyndy Lewis, IRWD
Lynn Merrill, City of Rialto
Marissa Flores-Acosta, SBMWD
Mark Bulot, SBVMWD
Michael Cruikshank, DBSA
Mike Roberts, City of Riverside
Raul Arevalo, City of Corona
Sudhir Mohleji, EVMWD
Tim Moore, Risk Sciences
Mark Norton, SAWPA
Zyanya Blancas, SAWPA
Phone: Curtis Paxton, CBWM
Phone: Bob Tincher, SBVMWD

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) office located at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. Brief introductions were made.

Approval of February 14, 2017 Meeting Summary

Meeting summary was approved as posted. Mark Norton noted the agenda would be taken out of order to improve meeting flow.

Supplemental Environmental Document & Economic Analysis Change Order No. 1 Ratification – CDM Smith

The potential for dispute in the Chino-South Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ) Basin Plan Amendment required additional due diligence and further analysis, including an analysis of nitrate concentrations in groundwater between the Santa Ana River and the Chino Desalter wellfield. This resulted in a Change Order to the Task Order No. CDM374-02 for an additional \$10,000. The Task Force was asked to ratify the Change Order.

MOVED, to ratify the approval of Change Order No. 1 CDM374-02 for CDM Smith, Inc.

Results:	Adopted (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Joy/Merrill

Comments to the draft Supplemental Environmental Document for the Proposed Basin Plan Amendment to Revise the Water Quality Objective for Nitrate-Nitrogen in the Chino-South GMZ are due by April 5, 2017 to Joe LeClaire and Mark Norton.

Triennial Ambient Water Quality – CDM Smith, Inc.

Joe LeClaire, CDM Smith, Inc. provided a PowerPoint presentation updating the Task Force on the Triennial Ambient Water Quality (AWQ), which is expected to be completed by June 30, 2017. LeClaire stated that all water levels and water quality data, with the exception of the Chino Agricultural Area, have been uploaded to the AWQ database. CDM Smith, Inc. located 15 new wells using GeoTracker GAMA as part of Optional Task 2 – Improve the Spatial Distribution of Monitoring. All water quality and water levels, with the exception of Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), have been hand-drawn contoured and are being digitized by Daniel

B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. (DBSA); they are expected to complete the digitization onto a map by the end of this week. Michael Cruikshank, DBSA, stated that the map will be distributed to the Task Force for comments. EMWD is expected to provide their hand-drawn contoured data to DBSA by April 14, 2017.

The TDS and Nitrate point statistics are being developed to be used as a guide to the contours. Simultaneously, CDM Smith, Inc. is converting the water quality time series graphs into PDFs and should be ready in about a week.

CDM Smith, Inc. continues to have difficulty obtaining data from private well owners in the Chino Agricultural area. There have been numerous attempts to contact the private well owners with the assistance of the Agricultural Pool Committee (Ag Pool) and only 25% of the owners have agreed to share their data. It is unsure whether the distribution of the data points is located in areas that would allow CDM Smith Inc. to produce water level and/or water quality contours. Discussion ensued regarding options to obtain the missing data:

- Continue with the 25% of data in hopes that it will be enough to develop water level or water quality contours;
- Since the private owners had no issues providing the data to Wildermuth Environmental Inc. (WEI) in the past, the Task Force may have WEI collect the data and have the Ag Pool or Chino Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) fund this option;
- Since the Watermaster already has the data, they may be asked to create the contours, in which case, the Watermaster will be asked fund this option;
- As a last resort, the Regional Board has drafted a letter advising the Watermaster of their Maximum Benefit Program being jeopardized as they are not completing all the maximum benefit commitments; Consequently, their discharge permit will be revised.

Watermaster will continue to explore other options and is working diligently to resolve this issue.

SAR Wasteload Allocation Basin Plan Amendment Status – Geoscience

Johnson Yeh, Geoscience, provided a PowerPoint presentation updating the Task Force of the Santa Ana River Wasteload Allocation Basin Plan Amendment (WLAM).

To update the WLAM, Geoscience used the Hydrologic Simulation Program – Fortran (HSPF) which is comprehensive and physically based, simulates all water cycle components and water quality, is supported and maintained by federal agencies, such as EPA and USGS, and its widespread usage ensures availability and maintenance of the code. Yeh reported that the HSPF is calibrating well with the results from the existing R4 WLAM for the period 1994 to 2006.

Task 1, Update the Data Used in the Wasteload Allocation Model, is expected to be completed in early April; and Task 2, Update and Recalibrate the WLAM, is expected to be completed by end of May.

Dewatering Project Permit Request from USACE – Regional Board

By the request of the Regional Board, this item was added to the agenda.

The Regional Board currently has a small discharge permit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Recently, USACE's submitted an application to the Regional Board for two dewatering projects. Flow is designed to discharge 7-14 mgd into Reach 2 of the Santa Ana River and is expected to contain 1500-2500 mg/L of TDS. Cindy Li, Regional Board, stated that although they claim the projects are de minimis, there will be an impact to the water quality, therefore suggested it be added to the Wasteload Allocation Model and suggested having USACE join the Task Force. Regional Board has the authority to add provision/conditions to USACE's permit and requested guidance from the Task Force as to what to include.

The Task Force determined that there wasn't sufficient information provided regarding the project and requested that USACE submit detailed information to Regional Board particularly for the project duration so they can

better determine how to proceed with their recommended provisions/conditions. They also suggested that perhaps USACE could discharge into the Inland Empire Brine Line.

Southern California Salinity Coalition Study Status – SAWPA/Risk Sciences

Tim Moore, Risk Sciences, provided a verbal update on the Drought Related Compliance Study (Study) issued by the Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC). The Study is up and running; CDM Smith, Inc. has commenced the data analysis. Some of the participating agencies are having issues providing a consistent monthly water quality and flow data, therefore the research questions will be addressed in different ways. Results are expected in about three weeks.

Regional Board 303 (D) List Comment Letter – Risk Sciences

Tim Moore, Risk Sciences, provided a verbal update on the Regional Board 303(D) listing decisions related to salinity. On March 6, 2017, SAWPA, on behalf of the Task Force, submitted a comment letter to the draft 305(b) Integrated Report recently posted for review and comment by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board). The letter provided evidence as to why the report did not propose any new 303(d) listing for TDS, chloride, sodium or sulfate, and also described significant errors in the underlying data analysis.

Moore clarified that the report was prepared by the State Board and not Regional Board. Because State Board is not familiar with the Santa Ana River and its habitats, incompliances were noted incorrectly. Regional Board supports the comments submitted to the State Board and is in the process of finding solutions to address this issue in the future.

Comments to the report are due by Monday, March 27, 2017 and a hearing is scheduled for Friday, April 28, 2017. Moore stated that it would be best to wait until after the hearing of the 303 (d) listing issues from the Regional Board before moving forward with the Chino-South Basin Plan Amendment.

Future Meeting

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. and the following for Monday, May 15, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

3:59 p.m.