

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force

July 27, 2016

ATTENDEES:

Al Javier, EMWD
Cindy Li, RWQCB
Fakhri Manghi, WMWD
Ganesh Krishnamurthy, EVMWD
Greg Herzog, City of Riverside PU
Greg Woodside, OCWD
Jack Nelson, YVWD
Jennifer Shepardson, SBMWD
Jennifer Torres, City of Corona
Jesus Gastelum, EVMWD
Keith Person, RWQCB

Lynn Merrill, City of Rialto
Lyndy Lewis, IRWD
Marissa Flores-Acosta, SBMWD
Mike Roberts, City of Riverside RWQCP
Robert Eland, City of Riverside RWQCP
Samantha Adams, WEI/CBWM
Sudhir Mohleji, EVMWD
Mark Norton, SAWPA
Zyanya Blancas, SAWPA
Phone: Michael Cruikshank, DBS&A
Phone: Eric Lindberg, Geo-Logic

Call to Order/Introductions

The Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (Task Force) meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.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 May 25, 2016 Meeting Summary

Meeting summary was approved with minor edits.

Triennial Ambient Water Quality Update – SAWPA & CDM Smith

On May 19, 2016, SAWPA received proposals from Wildermuth Environmental Inc. (WE, Inc.), GeoScience Support Services Inc., and CDM Smith Inc. (CDM) to produce the Triennial Ambient Water Quality Update (AWQ). Interviews were held on June 7, 2016. The three members of the Interview Panel were Jayne Joy (EMWD), Marsha Westropp (OCWD), and Jennifer Shepardson (SBMWD). Upon thorough review, SAWPA recommended that CDM be selected to conduct the work and was then subsequently approved by the SAWPA Commission Board on July 19, 2016 (Agenda Item 5.C.)

Joe LeClaire provided a PowerPoint presentation introducing CDM and reviewed the scope of work for the Triennial Ambient Water Quality Update. CDM will work with subcontractor Daniel B. Stephens and Associates (DBS&A), which has merged with Geo-Logic.

The following is the proposed scope of services by CDM:

- **Task 1 – Compute Ambient Water Quality for Period of 1996 to 2015**
 - Task 1a – Data Collection: August 2016
 - Optional Task 2 – Improve Spatial Distribution
 - Task 1b – Update Physical Model of Pilot GMZ: November 2016
 - Task 1c – Process and Upload Historical Data: October 2016
 - Task 1d – GWQ Point Statistics: November 2016
 - Task 1e – Estimate Regional TDS and Nitrate: February 2017
 - Task 1f – Compute Current AWQ: March 2017
- **Task 2 – Prepare Interpretative Tools: April 2017**
 - Task 2a – Change Maps

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- Task 2b – Key Well Analyses and WQ Trends
 - Task 2c – Well Attrition Analysis
 - **Task 3 – Prepare Technical Memorandum: June 2017**

Mark Norton noted that Option Task 2, Improve Spatial Distribution cost estimate was about \$19,200 and was not included in the task order at this time. If the Task Force would like to move forward, the task order for that item must be approved by October to stay on schedule. Improving the spatial distribution will add AWQ point statistics, which are required to more accurately characterize estimates of current ambient TDS and nitrate concentrations in certain groundwater management zones. Mr. Norton indicated that they may be sufficient BMP budget carryover and contingency from the past year to cover this item and will investigate this.

CDM will focus on map reviews from December 2016 to March 2017 and will request the Task Force review the Interpretative Tools during March and April 2017.

Draft 2015 Santa Ana River Water Quality Report - SAWPA

Final comments from Regional Board to the Draft 2015 Santa Ana River Water Quality Report (Report) are being addressed.

Tim Moore, Risk Sciences, provided a verbal summary of the changes that were made to the Report that was approved by the Regional Board. Two major changes that will be reflected in this year's Report are:

- All tables and charts that summarize water quality sampling data from POTWs will be deleted from the report;
- Summaries will be restricted to most recent years, 1996 – current time, as it represents modern treatment condition.

Moore stated that the data in the Report is being used in the 303d listing process. Due to a significant reduction in data collection, he recommended that the Task Force research ways to augment the monitoring routine or collect data from other agencies, such as the MS4 data collection. He urged the Task Force to reexamine whether the Task Force has a good monitoring program to serve regulatory decision. Moore will also include in future reports details that provide explanations to data gaps.

SAR Wasteload Allocation & Chino South GWR Management Zone Basin Plan Amendment

Regional Board has indicated that all documents that support the adoption of the Wasteload Allocation Model (WLAM) and the Chino South Groundwater Recharge Management Zone Basin Plan Amendment (Basin Plan Amendment) have been submitted and both documents are ready to be generated. Due to limited resources, Regional Board has asked the Task Force to undertake a Draft Basin Plan Amendment.

Tim Moore will allocate time to prepare the Draft Basin Plan Amendment, which will include the Adoption Resolution and Staff Report. Moore suggested that the Task Force hire a consultant to prepare the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Substitute Environmental Document (SED) and the economic analysis. Moore set goals to have the first draft sent to Regional Board by early to mid-October, second draft by the end of November, and have it ready for SAWPA Commission approval by Spring 2017.

Substitute Environmental Document for Proposed Basin Plan Amendment Proposal – CDM Smith

SAWPA staff requested a proposal from CDM Smith to prepare a CEQA SED and economic analysis for the Basin Plan Amendment based on their past experience in preparing a similar CEQA SED and economic analysis for the BMP Task Force for the last Basin Plan Amendment. Mr. Norton stated that this work was not included in the BMP Task Force FYE 2017 Budget but did confirm that sufficient task force contingency funding was available to undertake this work. Discussion ensued regarding project background and objectives. The following is the proposed scope of services by CDM:

- Task 1 – Prepare Draft CEQA Documentation
- Task 2 – Prepare Final CEQA Documentation
- Task 3 – Prepare Draft Economic Analysis

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- Task 4 – Prepare Final Economic Analysis
 - Task 5 – Project Coordination

Schedule

CDM proposes to submit the draft SED document and draft economic analysis to SAWPA for stakeholder review within four weeks of receiving a notice to proceed and completion of the face-to-face meeting to confirm CEQA and economic analysis requirements. A final SED document and a final economic analysis document will be prepared within two weeks of the receipt of final comments on the drafts. The Project is expected to be a two month process.

Budget

CDM proposes to conduct their scope of services on a time and materials basis with a not to exceed fee of \$29,527.

MOVED, to retain the services of CDM for the purpose of preparing a California Environmental Quality Act Substitute Environmental Document and Economic Analysis for the Basin Plan Amendment.

Result: **Adopted (Unanimously)**
Motion/Second: Nelson/Lynn

Regional Board Triennial Review List and TDS Management Response Policy Update – Risk Sciences

Tim Moore provided a background report on the development of the TDS Management Response Policy, formally known as the Drought Policy.

Discussion ensued regarding Moore's list of potential permitting strategies as follows as an alternative to changes that would require a new Basin Plan Amendment:

- a. Update or delete "increment-of-use" effluent limitations
 - Moore recommended this be deleted as it is not needed and it directly interferes with conservation efforts. If kept, it must be updated so that it reflects the true use now.
- b. Long-term rolling averages for TDS effluent limitations (esp. for MUN-exempt waters)
 - These averages would make the need for variance moot. Moore asked the Task Force to ponder on how to get EPA to accept the fact that the longer-term rolling averages for TDS is intended to protect the groundwater.
- c. Tiered effluent limits for TDS (normal and drought conditions)
 - This option does not require a Basin Plan Amendment.
- d. Compliance credits for TDS contributed advanced waste treatment
 - This will require a study of impacts.
- e. Recognize offset credits from dedicated stormwater recharge projects
- f. Intake credits for TDS contributed by grandfathered water softeners
- g. Pre-allocate available assimilative capacity for drought-induced exceedances
 - This option does not require a Basin Plan Amendment.
- h. Clarify application of anti-backsliding requirements for TDS
 - This option does not fix the problem, but will prevent possible future issues; additional technical support studies are needed.

The Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC) is interested in assisting in this effort as long as it benefits the entire Southern California. Mark Norton will add this topic to the next SCSC meeting agenda scheduled for Thursday, September 8, 2016.

Greg Woodside, Orange County Water District (OCWD), informed the Task Force that whichever option is selected, if the results produce lower water quality for Orange County he will need to notify OCWD's Board of Directors, which may consequently remove OCWD from participating.

Moore expressed his concerns regarding future interpretations of short term solutions; thus highly recommending that the Task Force update the TDS and Nitrate Management Plan in the upcoming Basin Plan Amendment (2020) to memorialize the reasons for certain changes.

Cindy Li said that POTW permits were written to meet the TDS effluent limits are specifically set for groundwater protections. Moore said he could investigate this further and confirm that the short term solutions would not violate the Clean Water Act. These alternatives would be a faster option.

The Task Force was asked to analyze the list and make suggestions as to whether anything is missing or if there are other alternatives within the next six days.

Scheduled Future Meeting

The next Basin Monitoring Program Task Force meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

11:46 p.m.