

SAN DIEGO RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREA

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING SUMMARY

**COUNTY OPERATIONS CENTER
5510 OVERLAND AVE., ROOM 451, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017 1:00-3:00**

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE)

- Christina Arias, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Brendan Hastie, Development Community Representative
- Jim Peugh, Environmental Community Representative (ABSENT)
- Nancy Gardiner, Industrial/Environmental Association Community At-Large Representative (ABSENT)
 - Bob Scott attended as a stand in; however, written comments will be submitted through Nancy Gardiner.

MEETING ATTENDEES (*VOTING MEMBERS)

- Jim Harry, City of San Diego*
- Joe Kuhn, City of La Mesa*
- John Phillips, City of El Cajon*
- Cecilia Tipton, City of Santee*
- Ruth de la Rosa, County of San Diego*
- Roya Yazdanifard, Caltrans
- Jo Ann Weber, County of San Diego
- Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego
- Joanna Wisniewska, County of San Diego
- Jamie Milani, County of San Diego
- John Quenzer, D-Max
- Lewis Michaelson, Katz and Associates
- Sheri Dister, Weston Solutions
- Antonia Estevez-Olea, Larry Walker Associates

The San Diego River (SDR) Watershed Management Area (WMA) is proposing two modifications to the [SDR WMA Water Quality Improvement Plan](#) (WQIP)¹. The first update is a revision to the “priority water quality condition (PWQC) and highest priority water quality condition (HPWQC)” prioritization process (prioritization process) and will be proposed after the MS4 Permit is renewed. The second update and reason for this Consultation Committee is a modification to the bacteria numeric goals for the City of Santee. The revision will be proposed in the 2018 SDR WQIP Annual Report. Provision F.2.c(b) of the San Diego MS4 regional permit² (Permit) requires Participating Agencies (PAs) to consult with their respective WQIP Consultation Committee (Committee) on any proposed updates to the WQIP for public input. The purpose of the Committee is to offer input, insight, and/or suggestions on the proposed updates, but consensus is not required, as the Committee is not a decision-making body.

Lewis Michaelson from Katz & Associates facilitated the meeting. He has assisted in the facilitation involved with development of seven WQIPs in the region. He introduced the Committee and informed the group that Jim Peugh was unable to attend the Committee meeting due to a time conflict with the California Coastal Commission meeting. Ruth de la Rosa provided Jim Peugh with all the pertinent meeting materials (i.e., agenda, and memorandum) and will be sent the presentation slides shortly after the meeting. Ruth recommend he submit written input or comments by May 24, 2017. Lewis will assist Jim Peugh with any concerns.

Bob Scott from Haley & Aldrich attended the meeting on behalf of Nancy Gardiner. He was the project manager for the development of the Tijuana River WMA WQIP. Lewis told the group that he is certain that the Charter does not allow Committee members to appoint their substitutes. He stressed that Nancy is responsible for submitting written comments. Bob will assist Nancy to facilitate her commenting period.

Written comments on the proposed updates are requested by May 24, 2017. The commenting period allows the Committee to consult with internal staff to provide feedback that is representative of their organizations.

During introductions, some Copermittees took the opportunity to report on achievements accomplished during the past WQIP implementation period. Jo Ann Weber welcomed the Committee to the meeting and provided an update on recent accomplishments in the SDR WMA. The County of San Diego received an \$8M grant to help fund a complete a green street

¹ [Final SDR WQIP Appendices](#)

² Order No. R9-2013-0001, as amended by orders Nos. R9-2015-0001 and R9-2015-0100.
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/2015-1118_AmendedOrder_R9-2013-0001_COMPLETE.pdf

project on Woodside Avenue in the community of Lakeside. The City of La Mesa completed stream restorations at Alvarado Creek. Christina Arias asked Joe Kuhn if the project was signed off (i.e., completed). Joe said that the project is expected to be signed off within the next three to four months. The City will perform ongoing assessments as required.

1:15-1:30 P.M. PRIORITY WATER QUALITY CONDITION PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

The SDR WMA revised the prioritization process during the preparation of the Regional Monitoring and Assessment Report (RMAR) for use in the re-evaluation of the priority water quality conditions (PWQCs). The proposed process addresses the Permit criteria, borrows from other accepted WQIPs (i.e., consistent with approved processes), does not require scoring, identifies priorities for Investigative Orders and Resolutions in addition to TMDLs, and offers flexibility for incorporation of new data sources. Overall, the proposed process does not remove any existing priorities.

For a pollutant to be elevated to a PWQC all of the criteria from Step 2 must be met, and for a priority to become a HPWQC all the questions from Step 3 must be met (see handouts).

The RMAR re-evaluation results were presented. The majority of PWQCs are unchanged using the new process, and bacteria remains a HPWQC for Pacific Ocean Shoreline at San Diego River Outlet, Lower San Diego River, and Forester Creek. New conditions that elevated to PWQCs include trash in wet weather in the Lower San Diego River, and some PWQCs (nitrogen and phosphorus) previously only identified for dry weather, were identified for wet weather in RMAR assessment.

1:30-1:50 P.M. CONSULTATION COMMITTEE INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROPOSED PRIORITY WATER QUALITY CONDITION PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

Brendan Hastie asked if other WMAs are updating their WQIP prioritization process. Jo Ann Weber from the County of San Diego stated that all WMAs had to re-evaluate their priorities as part of the RMAR and some WMAs chose to revise their prioritization process (e.g., San Luis Rey WMA). However, this update to the WQIP will not be proposed until after the MS4 Permit is reissued so that other updates resulting from the Permit reissuance process can also be incorporated. Christina asked why a Committee meeting is needed for SDR WMA if the update can wait until the MS4 Permit is renewed. Ruth stated that the primary reason for the meeting was to discuss the proposed updates to the numeric goals for the City of Santee.

The group reviewed and questioned the intent of criteria's 2 and 7 in step 3; ultimately Christina asked for specific examples of how each would be used, and recommended that unnecessary questions be removed, if they didn't add value. Santee explained that keeping the

questions allows the public to see all of the factors considered in the prioritization process, leading to more transparency.

Christina is pleased to see that additional priorities are going to be addressed in the WQIP. However, she noted that the new priorities seem to be a result of new Investigated Orders (e.g., trash) or Resolutions and not from water quality data. She would like to see conditions rise to PWCQs that are data driven. The County replied that trash data collected by the San Diego River Conservancy was used in the assessment. Overall, new data collected was used for the re-evaluation process. Attachment 8G of the RMAR for Priority Re-evaluation Assessment Summary, which was provided in a Memorandum to the committee prior to the meeting, lists the data used for the re-evaluation.

Brendan Hastie asked if improvements were observed from the Forester Creek Restoration Project. Cecilia from the City of Santee stated that improvements have been observed for trash, but not for bacteria. The City of El Cajon agreed with observations. It is unknown if the project was ineffective for bacteria or if there are other sources of bacteria that are causing the elevated levels of bacteria. For example, sewer lines run along the project area. Currently, the City of Santee is working with the wastewater district to conduct further investigations. .

1:50-2:10 P.M. WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN GOALS & SCHEDULES – CITY OF SANTEE

The City of Santee (Santee) is proposing to update the bacteria numeric goals. John Quenzer from D-Max explained that Santee was the only PA that developed load reduction goals for bacteria, while the other PAs developed performance-based goals. Since the evaluation of load reduction goals requires several years of implementation and monitoring to demonstrate progress, Santee is proposing to modify current goals to performance based goals (e.g., implementing Low Impact Development projects that capture and treat runoff from urbanized areas). Additionally, in the WQIP Santee only identified one pathway to comply with Bacteria TMDL requirements. Language was revised to include other compliance pathways in addition to the load reduction compliance pathways. The City will have more options to choose a pathway to comply with TMDL, consistent with the MS4 Permit.

2:10-2:30 P.M. CONSULTATION COMMITTEE INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROPOSED WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GOALS & SCHEDULES FOR THE CITY OF SANTEE

Christina recognizes that it is difficult to assess controls. She stressed that numeric goals were set to be aggressive to drive Copermittees to improve water quality. She understands that complying with these numeric goals may be difficult, but as long as the water quality is improving PAs should be okay.

Christina stated that the Regional Water Board expects PAs to continuously work on improving the water quality of the watershed. To satisfy this expectation, Christina urged PAs to be proactive and start planning for new projects as current projects are nearing completion. As an example, Christina asked the City of La Mesa (La Mesa) if they are set to start on the next project once the Alvarado Creek stream restoration project is completed. Joe Kuhn informed Christina that La Mesa needs to conduct a feasibility assessment on the Alvarado Trunk Sewer Main Replacement Project (the proposed project will replace 0.75 miles of sewer lines by April 4, 2020) before moving forward. At the time Christina asked this question, she was under the impression that La Mesa had no additional projects planned, so she wanted to make it clear that the expectation of the regional board is that PAs must implement projects until the overall water quality of the watershed is improved (i.e., jurisdictional numeric goals are met). Christina recommended that La Mesa add a new project in the next WQIP update. Brendan Hastie noted that the expectation of lining up projects might discourage PAs from completing the projects identified in the WQIP ahead of schedule, as PAs will be expected to work on new projects if the projects are completed sooner. Additionally, PAs feel that this expectation may cause cities to implement ineffective projects, as cities are not given enough time to evaluate the effectiveness of their projects.

Christina asked if the Regional Water Board sent a confirmation approving the change of the interim TMDL Compliance Date (Footnote A to Table 5). Ruth does not have any records, but the compliance date is in the accepted WQIP. The City of Santee corrected the footnote to be consistent with other PAs. The City of San Diego has a different TMDL Compliance Date.

2:30-2:50 P.M. PUBLIC INPUT & RECOMMENDATIONS

No members of the public were present.

2:50-3:00 P.M. WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS

The proposed prioritization process was used in the RMAR assessments and will be included in an updated WQIP after Permit renewal. Santee's proposed goals will be updated in the 2016-2017 WQIP Annual Report. Written comments are requested by May 24, 2017 to Ruth de la Rosa at ruth.delarosa@sdcounty.ca.gov.