

SAN DIEGO RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREA
WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN WORKGROUP

MEETING SUMMARY

COUNTY OPERATIONS CENTER
5510 OVERLAND AVE., ROOM B-472, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017 10:00-12:00 PM

MEETING ATTENDEES

NAMES	ORGANIZATION	VOTING MEMBER
Jim Harry	City of San Diego	Yes
Joe Kuhn (Telephone)	City of La Mesa	Yes
John Phillips	City of El Cajon	Yes
Ruth de la Rosa	County of San Diego	Yes
Joanna Wisniewska	County of San Diego	No
Roya Yazdanifard (Telephone)	Caltrans	No
John Quenzer	D-Max Engineering Inc.	No
Sheri Dister	Weston Solutions	No
Olin Applegate	Larry Walker Associates	No
Jane Ledford	JL StormWater	No
Lilly Sabet	San Diego State University	No

AGENDA ITEM 3: OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (LIMIT TO 3 MINUTES)

No items were discussed.

AGENDA ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARIES – VOTING ITEM

The vote to approve the SDR meeting summary from October 25, 2017 was tabled until the next meeting to allow for additional review time.

AGENDA ITEM 5: SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY PHASE II PROCESS OVERVIEW

Lilly Sabet with San Diego State University (SDSU) Environmental Health and Safety Group provided an update to the Workgroup. SDSU is currently regulated by the Phase II Small MS4 Permit, and they are anticipating being assigned additional TMDL requirements in the near future. Therefore, Lilly and Jane are reaching out to understand current stormwater monitoring carried out by the Workgroup. SDSU discharges to an outfall in the Adobe Falls watershed area and is interested in possibly coordinating monitoring efforts with the Workgroup, specifically the City of San Diego. Jane with JL StormWater

notified the workgroup that SDSU is in the process of updating their stormwater monitoring program and also provided an overview of SDSU's monitoring requirements.

SDSU was instructed by the Regional Water Board to coordinate with the City of San Diego regarding pending Bacteria TMDL requirements, and are currently revising relevant sections of their Stormwater Management Plan, as well as attempting to isolate possible bacteria contributors. Lilly would like to ride along during San Diego River (SDR) Watershed Bacteria TMDL monitoring to better understand where additional SDSU monitoring could be implemented. Ruth with the County of San Diego recommended that SDSU check the SDR Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP), which contains the Bacteria TMDL Monitoring Plan. Joanna can coordinate the ride along for the monitoring.

A discussion ensued regarding bacteria source tracking, as well as regulatory aspects of implementing the Bacteria TMDL. Ruth provided background information on the Workgroup meetings and extended an invitation for SDSU to attend in the future.

AGENDA ITEM 6: FISCAL YEAR 2018-19 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ruth distributed the 2018-19 Preliminary Budget and provided an overview of the Tasks. The budget includes a not-to-exceed limit based on the Regional MOU of \$800,161.

- Task 1 Workgroup Meeting Support - \$15,000, amount will not change
- Task 2 Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)
- Task 2.A FY 2017-18 WQIP Annual Report – budget pending
- Task 2.B WQIP Support - included in the event that a Consultation Panel meeting is needed, budget pending
- Task 3 Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting – budget pending for all tasks
- Task 3.A Water Quality Monitoring
- Task 3.B Bacteria TMDL Follow-up Investigations, new item to address exceedances. This is difficult to budget for because varying levels of investigation could be necessary. Ruth solicited suggestions on this item. Joe with the City of La Mesa commented that further discussion is warranted due to the complex nature of the task, as well as uncertainty regarding copermitee's potential level of responsibility. Joanna provided examples of investigations (i.e. searching for human sources, DNA analysis). Ruth will provide more information on this item in the next few weeks.
- Task 3.C Bight '18 Implementation, the Regional Group is developing a plan this fiscal year that each Watershed Management Area (WMA) will have to implement.
- Task 3.D Bacteria TMDL Reporting, consistent with the past few years.
- Task 4 Special Studies, nothing specific included at this point.

Ruth notes that the budget should be approved no later than January.

AGENDA ITEM 7: WATER QUALITY MONITORING UPDATE

Joanna provided the following water quality monitoring updates:

- The TMDL monitoring results for the month of October include exceedances of all bacteria species at all freshwater locations, and no exceedances at the Beach Site (**Table 1**).
- Monitoring site SDR-FC1 (Forester Creek at Lower Forester Creek) has elevated levels of *Enterococcus* and *E. coli*. This is the site that was investigated and found to have a crow roost contributing to the high bacteria levels. John Phillips inquired if additional monitoring upstream would be warranted. Joanna responded that the current upstream site (SDR-FC2) exhibits bacteria levels that are orders of magnitude lower than the problem site.

Sheri inquired if there is a responsibility for the cities to manage the crow population contributing to the bacteria exceedances. A discussion ensued regarding the level of attention the crow issue warrants, and possible steps the Regional Water Board may take to mandate the Copermittees control the crow problem. Ruth mentioned that the Special Study targeted towards the Forester Creek crow population would be included in the Annual Report.

Joanna updated the group on the four special studies that will be included as attachments to the Annual Report. One of the studies is a continuous flow monitoring study conducted by the County. The study includes five outfalls monitored from May to September during 2016 and 2017. Hydrograph data from the two years were compared. Preliminary analysis indicates that the flow increased from 2016 to 2017, which could be due to multiple factors such as increased precipitation and/or rescinded drought restrictions.

Joanna notified the group that the outfalls addressed by the County’s Existing Development Group (that conducted public outreach in the neighborhood) exhibited a decrease in flow, which is a positive development. Sheri added that Weston did a preliminary examination of average flow before outreach and average flow after outreach; and found that verbal outreach, as opposed to leaving a door hanger, appeared to generate more of a decrease in flow.

Table 1. Bacterial Exceedances at San Diego River Sampling Locations

Site Type	Site ID	10/25/2017
Freshwater Creek Sites	SDR-FC1*	<i>Enterococcus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , Fecal Coliform
	SDR-FC2*	<i>Enterococcus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , Fecal Coliform
	SDR-CDE*	<i>Enterococcus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , Fecal Coliform
	SDR-MLS*	<i>Enterococcus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , Fecal Coliform
Beach Site	FM-010**	None

* Freshwater sample results for *Enterococcus* and fecal coliform are compared to MS4 Permit receiving water limitations for creeks, which are consistent with Basin Plan single sample maximum REC-1 water quality objectives for freshwater designated beach.

** Marine sample results compared to MS4 Permit receiving water limitations for beaches, which are based upon California Ocean Plan water quality objectives.

AGENDA ITEM 8: WQIP ANNUAL REPORT

Sheri provided the following WQIP Annual Report updates:

SDR WMA WQIP

Workgroup Meeting Summary

- Weston has received comments from the County and the City of San Diego. The comments provide suggestions for minor improvements.
- Items planned to be incorporated into the second draft were presented:
 - IDDE Results
 - County and City Highlights
 - Progress to Goals – County Comparison to Baselines
 - County Strategy Tables
 - Planned changes to Monitoring Locations or Frequencies
 - Four Special Study Summaries
 - Phase 1 Forester Creek, bacteria quantity
 - Phase 2 Forester Creek, human marker testing
 - Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) Microbial Source Tracking study, wet weather
 - Dry weather Microbial Source Tracking study, San Diego River
 - Major Findings and Recommendations
 - Executive Summary
- An overview of the new Executive Summary layout was presented. The format is graphic intense and made to look like a newsletter as opposed to a technical report. Sheri solicited comments and input on the layout and content of the Executive Summary from workgroup members.
 - Jim with the City of San Diego suggested that the Executive Summary clearly distinguish between water quality outcomes, performance measures, and strategy implementation. A discussion ensued regarding the classification of outcomes versus results, as well as the level of explanation that should be included.
 - John Quenzer made recommendations on how to present progress towards interim goals and final goals for both the Permit Term and the TMDL.

The draft of the report will be sent out on November 20th, with comments due December 6th.

AGENDA ITEM 9: JURISDICTIONAL UPDATE

Jim updated the Workgroup on a letter from the Regional Board received by the City of San Diego. The City is currently carrying out an alternative TMDL process for nutrients in Famosa Slough. The letter states that as long as the City carries out certain requirements, which include reducing irrigation and scraping algae, they will be in compliance. The City will provide an update to the WQIP for next year's annual report (2019), and will try to convene a Consultation Panel meeting in July of 2018.

Ruth noted that if any of the Copermittees have WQIP updates, it would be appropriate to present them at the same time.

AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER ITEMS

No other items were discussed.

AGENDA ITEM 11: NEXT RECURRING WORKGROUP MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13th, 2017 from 10 – 12 pm. Agenda items should be sent to Ruth and Olin by Wednesday, December 6th.