

Water Quality Improvement Plan Consultation Panel Meeting #2 - Summary San Diego River Watershed

August 20, 2014

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

County of San Diego

5500 Overland Ave, Rm 120

San Diego, CA 92123

- 1) Opening remarks by meeting facilitator, Lewis Michaelson with Katz and Associates, and introductions of everyone in attendance (see attendance list on last page) including Consultation Panel members:
 - Christina Arias – Regional Board
 - Jim Peugh, San Diego Audubon Society – Environmental Representative
 - Brendan Hastie, RICK Engineering – Development Representative
 - Nancy Gardiner, Haley and Aldrich – Industrial / Environmental Association
- 2) Agenda and workshop ground rules provided by Lewis Michaelson
 - Overview of Water Quality Improvement Plans
 - Collect public input on:
 - Goals for highest priority water quality condition
 - Strategies to meet goals
 - Demonstrate Strategies will meet goals
 - Public input
- 3) San Diego River Watershed Overview provided by Nancy Stalnaker, County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program
 - Watershed description
 - General planning effort discussion, agencies participating
- 4) Presentation of Provision B.2 efforts provided by Nancy Stalnaker
 - Priority Water Quality Conditions:
 - Bacteria
 - Nutrients
 - Eutrophication
 - TDS
 - IBI
 - Bacteria as Highest Priority Water Quality Condition
 - Bacteria is difficult to address
 - BMPs that target Bacteria also address multiple pollutants
- 5) Introduction and discussion of Provision B.3 effort provided by Nancy Stalnaker
- 6) Initial approach for goals and numeric goal options provided by Jo Ann Weber from the County of San Diego

- No discharge; or meet concentration limits; or meet load reductions; or implement accepted WQIP
- Bacteria TMDL requirements dictate final goals, desire input from CP on interim goals
- Goals must demonstrate reasonable progress, achievement within permit cycle, adaptively manage
- Examples of dry weather goals:
 - reduce flow of outfalls with flows
 - map sanitary sewer infiltration
 - develop residential compliance programs
- Examples of wet weather goals:
 - education programs for septic system maintenance
 - address homeless encampments
 - implement structural BMPs (process: plan, design, engineer, site, permit)

Initial Questions and Input from Consultation Panel on Goals:

- Initial permit term interim goals are more flexible, recognizing that there will be three years for implementation after WQIP is submitted
- Regarding the Microbial Source Tracking (MST) study, how were outfalls chosen and what percentage of the watershed does that represent?
 - Outfalls with persistent dry weather flows
 - Percentage of watershed is not known, but the MST Study just covers Unincorporated County of San Diego MS4 outfalls
- Regarding the Catchment Prioritization Index (CPI) Maps, what do they mean?
 - Maps provide initial screening to prioritize structural BMP implementation
- Where regional BMPs exist, does that obviate the need for distributed BMPs?
 - No, the downstream regional BMPs may be less than ideal, in that they do not treat the entire water quality volume for storms and distributed BMPs lessen the load on regional BMPs
- Wet weather goal may be difficult to achieve and dry weather goals are more likely achievable
- Noted that voluntary participation goals in residential based programs are likely too optimistic, need to combine with incentives
- Perhaps aggressiveness of goals depends upon the scale of the target, for example, it may be easier to address larger percentages of flows from smaller watersheds areas
- Dry weather flows are smaller and more predictable, therefore easier to manage
- If it takes approximately 7 years to construct large regional facilities due to permitting constraints, interim goals should be adjusted accordingly
 - Noted that smaller projects would likely be implemented sooner
 - Potential for pilot project implementation

7) Lewis Michaelson engaged the Consultation Panel for input on goals

Summary of Consultation Panel Input on Goals:

- Implementation of source control strategy as goal
- Use monitoring data to inform goal development and target areas
- Track beach and fishing closures as metric

- Desire to address areas of existing developing, assuming that new development will mitigate as required
- For dry weather, track number of outfalls with nuisance flows and potential bacteria regrowth
- Prioritize identification of outfalls with highest bacteria concentrations
- Removal of anthropogenic sources and development of natural source exclusion pathway
- Goals should be based on monitoring results that indicate the need for structural project implementation
- Program development to address bacteria for implementation by next permit as a goal
- Implementation of Permit Attachment E (TMDL requirements) as goal
- Identify retrofit opportunities as goal
- Determine areas of MS4 to target for enhanced maintenance

8) Introduction of strategies provided by Jo Ann Weber, County of San Diego

- Non-structural: jurisdictional/programmatic
 - Illegal Discharges
 - Development and Redevelopment Planning
 - Construction Site Management
 - Commercial, Industrial, Municipal, and Residential Management
 - Optional Strategies, Coordinated Strategies
- Example of Goal and associate Strategies:
 - Flow reduction – education regarding illicit discharge abatement, improve inspection programs, residential runoff reduction program, incentivize water conservation (turf replacement, smart irrigation)

9) Lewis Michaelson engaged the Consultation Panel for input on goals

Initial Questions and Input from Consultation Panel on Strategies:

- BMPs should address multiple pollutants
- For the Bacteria TMDL, what kind of reopener is anticipated for 2016?
 - Broad based reopener
- Incentive programs have been successful while increased enforcement may not be received well
- Why focus on construction if bacteria is the target?
 - Construction pollutant is typically sediment

Summary of Consultation Panel input on Strategies:

- Employ more effective education and outreach campaigns
- Focus on and incentivize retrofits for redevelopment, which could include regional redevelopment retrofits
- Incentivize better landscaping practices, remove barriers (i.e. HOA restrictions on xeriscape) for existing development
- Temporary irrigation enforcement programs
 - Parties will have support of State
 - Prioritize voluntary reductions but have increased enforcement in the toolbox of strategies
- Increased MS4 jurisdictional enforcement
- Focus on illegal dischargers and elimination of persistent dry weather flows

- Increased MS4 maintenance
- Target MS4 conveyances that are known to breed bacteria
- Naturalize hardscape channels
- Implement source control
 - Pet waste
 - Fertilizer management
 - Sanitary overflows and leaks
- Work with other organizations to address homelessness (HHSA, Alpha Project, San Diego River Park Foundation)
 - Remove arundo and Brazilian pepper trees
- Increase inspection of structural BMPs required for development and verify that required standards are met

10) Discussion of demonstration of strategies meeting final goals provided by Ken Susilo, Geosyntec

- Wet weather structural strategies: demonstrate TMDL compliance
- Strategy selection based on BMP effectiveness, multiple benefit potential, sustainable/implementable/cost effective
- Quantification of Strategy benefits
 - Non-structural: literature, best professional judgment, program effectiveness assessments
 - Structural: Modeled using International BMPs Database and approved hydrology models
- Catchment Prioritization Map was discussed
- Map of Distributed (Green) and Regional BMPs that were evaluated was discussed
- Bar Chart showing timeline of non-structural and structural strategy implementation and associated load reductions meeting targets shown
 - Bar charts indicate the benefit/load reduction that can be achieved for BMPs/strategies implemented
 - Non-structural BMPs are anticipated to be brought online earlier during the WQIP implementation schedule, therefore the benefit increases only minimally after implementation

11) Jo Ann Weber indicated the proposed schedule of permit cycles and associated interim and final dry and wet weather goals

- Should implement a structural project (could be a pilot project) between 2023 and 2028

12) Lewis Michaelson opened the meeting up to public input on goals: no comments from the public

13) Nancy Stalnaker indicated the overall WQIP Timeline and Next Steps

- B.3 Chapter (including goals and strategies) anticipated submittal to the Regional Water Quality Control Board: December 19, 2014.

14) Closing statement provided by Nancy Stalnaker with County of San Diego Watershed Protection

- Additional CP meeting to be held in September.
- Comments due by September 3rd
- Website and contact info
nancy.stalnaker@sdcounty.ca.gov
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www.projectcleanwater.org

Attendee List:

Roya Yazdanifard, Caltrans	Joe Kuhn, City of La Mesa
Nancy Gardiner, Haley and Aldrich	Bryn Evans, Dudek
Jayne Janda-Timba, RICK Engineering	Malik Tamini, City of Lemon Grove
Jo Ann Weber, County of San Diego	John Quenzer, D-Max
Christian Braun, Geosyntec	Christina Arias, Regional Board
Gladys Gonzalez, County of San Diego	Ken Susilo, Geosyntec
Brendan Hastie, RICK Engineering	Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego
Jaime Campos, City of El Cajon	Lewis Michaelson, Katz and Associates
Michael Bermeler, County of San Diego	Clem Brown, City of San Diego
Jim Peugh, San Diego Audubon Society	Ruth Dela Rosa, County of San Diego
Kyle Darton, County of San Diego	Trevor Alsop, Geosyntec
Jose Arrigan, County of San Diego	Marisa Soriano, City of Chula Vista