



project clean water

# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Technical Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

02/27/03

### 1. Meeting Attendees, Introductions

The February 27, 2003 Science and Technology Technical Advisory Committee meeting was attended by the following individuals:

Dick Bobertz (San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority)  
Muna Cuthbert (City of Chula Vista)  
Rick Fox (City of San Diego, Water)  
Paul Gebert (San Diego County Water Authority)  
Dave Gibson (San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board)  
Li-Ming He (County of San Diego)  
Karla Heydinger (Hines Nursery)  
Bill Isham (MEC Analytical)  
Chattral Koether (County of San Diego)  
Cynthia Mallett (Mission Resource Conservation District)  
Isabel Kay (UCSD Natural Reserve System)  
Sheri McPherson (County of San Diego)  
Kelly Moewe (Port of San Diego)  
Mary Anne Pentis (Save the Wetlands)  
Freida Reid (Scripps Institute of Oceanography)  
Carrie Salenko (Port of San Diego)  
Hiram Sarabia (San Diego Baykeeper)  
Jimmy Smith (San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board)  
Victor Smothers (USDA)  
Alan Thum (San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy)  
Jo Ann Weber (County of San Diego)  
Garret Williams (City of San Diego)  
Nancy Winiarz (Port of San Diego)  
Jaqueline Winterer (Friends of San Dieguito River Valley)

### 2. Progress on Workgroups and Clean Water Summit

Sheri McPherson gave an overall update on the progress of the TAC and provided a status report of directions the TAC has taken over the last year.

#### I. Data Sharing and Information Workgroup

This workgroup has been discussing data-related issues that surfaced during the preparation of the JURMP Annual Reports and WURMPs. The JURMP related issues included updating the source inventories, developing/updating MS4 data layers, and clearly defining data needs to acquire specific information from other departments. The

WURMP related issues focused on the limited data that was incorporated into the water quality assessment and prioritization for many of the WURMPs. The workgroup also addressed the development of the GIS coverage for Environmentally Sensitive Areas. The methodology used to develop this coverage will be posted to the Workgroup's webpage on [www.projectcleanwater.org](http://www.projectcleanwater.org).

Upcoming tasks and topics for the workgroup will include assisting in the development of an inventory of data sources by watershed. The workgroup will propose a project in detail at the March Copermittee Meeting. The workgroup also has discussed developing a survey to assess how each Copermittee manages data for individual elements of their stormwater program. The next Workgroup Meeting will be April 7 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at SANDAG. For more information please contact Amy King (619) 338-2862 or [amy.king@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:amy.king@sdcounty.ca.gov).

## II. **Monitoring Workgroup**

Garret Williams gave an update of the Coastal Storm Drain Subcommittee. The Coastal Storm Drain Subcommittee is currently working toward completing the annual report section for the monitoring component of the Urban Runoff Management Plan Annual Report. Included in these efforts were the design and use of standardized sample collection datasheet and data integration. The Subcommittee has also worked on preparing an Adaptive Monitoring Strategy that was submitted, to the RWQCB for comment on February 21. Several Workgroup representatives will meet with RWQCB staff on March 13 to discuss revisions to the proposed program. The workgroup will meet on March 18 to discuss final revisions based on the comments provided by the Regional Board. The goal of the Coastal Storm Drain Monitoring Workgroup is to begin implementing the adaptive program on April 1, 2003.

These work products can be found on the Project Clean Water Website ([http://www.projectcleanwater.org/html/work\\_products.html](http://www.projectcleanwater.org/html/work_products.html)).

## III. **Basin Planning Issues Workgroup**

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board is currently underway with the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan. A public comment period for additional issues to be considered for the Triennial Review began on January 31, 2003. On Monday March 3, 2003 the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board will host a public workshop on the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan. The Basin Planning Issues Workgroup has met four times to date to explore the process for the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan and to understand how the stakeholders can be active participants in this process. One of the primary goals this workgroup identified was to become better informed and familiar with all the intricacies of the Basin Plan review process. To facilitate this, the workgroup has invited the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) staff to the table. The RWQCB has presented on *The Triennial Review Process*, and *Basin Plan Amendment Process and Site-specific Objectives*. Other guest speakers for the group have been Larry McKenny with the County of Orange talking on the efforts for collaboration occurring in the Santa Ana Region (Region 8) and Larry Walker of Larry Walker and Associates talking about various efforts he has been involved in across the state. Mr. Walker noted that while the intent of the Triennial Review is to re-visit water quality standards based on new scientific information, in reality, triennial reviews have largely consisted of Regional Board "wish lists" about the Basin Plan issues that they would like to see addressed. This is largely due to limited resources.

The Basin Planning Issues Workgroup will be meeting March 4, 2003 at the Mills Building from 1:30 to 3:30 PM to discuss the outcome of the RWQCB workshop on the Basin Plan Triennial Review and to discuss comments to be submitted by the group. The workgroup will meet again on March 11, 2003 at the City of San Diego Biosolids Facility from 1:00 to 3:00 PM to finalize the comment submittal and the list of stakeholders for the comments, to discuss further some comments on the ranking criteria the Regional Board has proposed, and where do we go from here.

#### **IV. Clean Water Summit 2003**

Don't forget the Clean Water Summit on June 20, 2003. We have been very successful in lining up speakers for the Science and Technology TAC track for the Clean Water Summit. This should be a great event! The following are the speakers and topics we will be hosting:

- **Mission Bay Microbial Source Tracking** – Lisa Kay, MEC Analytical
- **Bight 03** – Ken Schiff, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP)
- **South Bay Coastal Ocean Observing System** – Eric Terrill, Marine Physical Laboratory, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD
- **BMP Sizing and Evaluation in Rose and Tecolote Creeks** – Dennis Bowling, Rick Engineering Company

### **3. Presentation on Bioassessment in San Diego County by Dave Gibson, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board**

Dave Gibson presented on the use of bioassessment of stream macroinvertebrate communities as a tool for assessing impacts on water quality and the development of the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) for the San Diego Region. Dave began the presentation by giving some background on Bioassessment and its uses. Dave emphasized that bioassessments focus on organisms that reflect multiple stressors and integrate the effects of changing water quality conditions over time and are sensitive to multiple aspects of water and habitat quality. Furthermore, bioassessment can accurately discriminate between natural and human caused changes in water or habitat quality and provides an expression of the ecological health of a river or stream. The IBI will be a major component of future biocriteria and used as regulatory tool for the Regional Board in:

- Clean Water Act Section 305(b) Water Quality Assessments;
- Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired water bodies;
- Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification of dredge and fill projects;
- Waste Discharge Requirements for Non-Chapter 15 facilities;
- NPDES Municipal Storm Water Permits;
- Development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs);
- Assessments of non-point source (NPS) pollution and the cumulative impact of NPS pollutants on inland surface waters;
- Assessments of the effectiveness of NPS management measures;
- Benchmarks or endpoints for mitigation or restoration efforts;
- The Watershed Management Initiative and State of the Watershed Reports; and
- Development of biological criteria for inland surface waters.

Bioassessment in San Diego began in 1991 with the Santa Margarita Watershed Assessment. In 1997, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board contracted with the California Department of Fish and Game to help them incorporate bioassessment into their ambient monitoring program and develop a preliminary Index of Biological Integrity (IBI). Under this contract bioassessments were conducted from the fall of 1998 to the spring

of 2001. Currently, the various Copermittees in the region are being required to conduct bioassessment as a component of their NPDES permits or WDR permits.

The preliminary IBI for San Diego is a start in interpreting aquatic macroinvertebrate data in San Diego County. This IBI needs to be developed and refined further with the goal of improving IBI precision to be a fully developed tool with the end goal to be the development of Biological Criteria. Dave has posted several of his presentations, the California Department of Fish and Game reports and several helpful links on the Regional Board website: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/programs/bioassessment.html>

#### **4. Announcements**

- **Clean Water Summit** scheduled for **June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003**.
  
- **Basin Planning Issues Workgroup** meeting scheduled for:
  - **March 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3:30 PM**, at the Mills Building 1255 Imperial Ave room 321, San Diego, and
  - **March 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 PM** at the City of San Diego Metro Biosolids Facility.

#### **5. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Science and Technology TAC will be Thursday **April 24, 2003 from 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.** at the County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway Room 302/303, San Diego, CA 92101-2480. This will be a special meeting consisting of a 2-hour Water Quality Standards Course that will provide participants an overview of the technical and regulatory foundation by which water quality programs are established and administered under the Federal Clean Water Act and California Water Code. Space is limited, to reserve your spot please contact: **Sheri McPherson** (619) 338-2076, [sheri.mcpherson@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:sheri.mcpherson@sdcounty.ca.gov) by close of business on April 18<sup>th</sup>.