

Meeting Notes
San Diego Regional Monitoring Workgroup
County of San Diego – 3rd Floor Conference Room
9325 Hazard Way, San Diego
Tuesday, February 21, 2006
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

1. Introductions

(1) Draft permit scheduled to be released by the end of February. RWQCB will send to Copermittees contacts via e-mail and postal service. Phil indicated that the monitoring program reflects what we proposed plus a few additional items. There will be a 45-day public comment period, a Workshop and a Public Hearing.

(2) Bacteria Reference Study- Please help with collecting bacteria samples- these results will be used as background loads in the Bacteria TMDLs- this will help reduce the weather bacteria loads. We reviewed 20 possible bacteria background site locations, but only came up with two—due to the 2003 fires and high elevation of many potential sites. County will take lead on Stone Creek in Santa Margarita Watershed. City of San Diego will pay for laboratory analyses for Boden Canyon Creek, but need help to conduct sampling weekly and daily for 3 days after 3 or 4 storm events.

2. Wet Weather, Ambient, Bay & Lagoon and Bioassessment Monitoring Update & Issues (Weston Solutions)

Wet weather: all stations sampled at least twice this season. Three samples (therefore, done for this season) were successfully collected from San Luis Rey, Chollas, Agua Hedionda, Sweetwater and Tijuana stations.

3. Coastal Storm Drain Monitoring Workgroup Update (Karen Helyer & Paul Hartman) - next meeting in early March

4. Dry Weather Monitoring Workgroup Update (Group) – next meeting on March 15th. This group will be requested to focus database efforts on data transfer protocols. A larger and broader-based effort is anticipated for database management as described in the next item.

5. Database Management Issues (Group)

Ruth Kolb is heading up the Common Grounds Grant Database efforts (with SDSU & others) for San Diego Bay. Some Copermittees will be requested to test their web-based product. The County of San Diego will submit a Prop 50 Grant to broaden this effort to the entire region. Additionally, Copermittees would like to consider having a Database Management Workgroup.

6. TMDL Issues (Group)

- (1) Support the RWQCB Workshop for an amendment to Basin Plan to allow the use of a background reference watershed approach for bacteria. (March 13th at 9:30 am at SDRWQCB)
- (2) Public comment period closed on Feb. 8th for Bacteria TMDL for Beaches and inland streams. CEQA may need to be updated, if so, will delay adoption.
- (3) Draft 13267 Order for Lagoons (bacteria and other constituents): delayed – anticipate overall schedule slipping a year.
- (4) San Diego Bay- bacteria – nothing new to report
- (5) Dissolved metals in Chollas Creek- City of San Diego is waiting for a hearing date with the State Board.
- (6) Draft 2006 303d list- public comment period closed on January 31, 2006. This may be considered for adoption by State Board in spring or summer of 2006.

7. SMC Update (Jo Ann Weber)

The Southern California Monitoring Coalition is an organization of southern California municipal dischargers and the RWQCBs. The following projects were considered for potential funding. In our 2006/2007 budget, \$25,000 was allocated to support this effort. Attached is the September 2005 SMC meeting notes. Meetings are quarterly. Project may take up to one year to develop. There are about 20 participants and the SMC has been successful at leveraging funds from grants, CASQA and State agencies. Although the process may be slow, it allows a broad-base of support for the projects and results in projects that we alone could not conduct.

Table 1. Summary of potential SMC projects for the 2006/07 FY.

Project	Cost	SMC Member Votes
Peak Flow/Hydromodification	\$75-200K	4
CalSWIM/web-based water quality application for the public	\$300K	0
Toxicity Standardization – species used and endpoints differ for municipal permits	\$20-120K	3.5
Reference Watershed Bacteria Study – measure background levels of bacteria in 95% undeveloped watersheds	\$100-200K	2

Hydromodification is an emerging issue in municipal stormwater permits. City of Santa Clara and City of Alameda have preliminary hydromodification plans.

Low-impact development- BMPs project- We had agreed to fund this (\$7,800) last year- SMC applied for grants and CASQA will likely take the lead- anticipate that this will be launched over the next year.

8. Presentation of 2004-2005 Regional Monitoring Results (Weston)

This presentation will be posted on www.projectcleanwater.org.

9. Any Other Issues –

- CASQA- March 10th meeting in Ontario, CA on Implementing TMDLs
- 10. Next meeting- The following meetings are 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the County of San Diego, 3rd floor conference room, 9325 Hazard Way, San Diego:
 - Tuesday, March 21
 - Tuesday, April 18
 - Tuesday, May 16

For updated agenda and meeting minutes visit www.projectcleanwater.org

Attendees:

John Phillips, City of El Cajon
Kathy Weldon, Encinitas
Mo Lahsaie, City of Oceanside
Karen Helyer, Port of San Diego
Elaine Lukey, City of Carlsbad
Robert Zaino, City of Santee
Helen Perry, City of Santee
Roger Lahr, Calscience Labs
Chris Stransky, Nautilus Environmental
Christian Herencia, Brown & Caldwell
John Quenzer, D-Max for National City
Cora Long, City of Lemon Grove
Khosro Aminpour, City of Chula Vista
Jay Shrake, Mactec
Lisa Kay, Weston
Paul Davy, County Ag
Ruth Kolb, City of San Diego
Jo Ann Weber, County of San Diego

Minutes of the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition of Southern California

September 13, 2005

Attendees:

Chris Crompton	County of Orange
Bill Depoto	Los Angeles County Dept of Public Works
Megan Fisher	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Mike Flake	Caltrans
Tom Leary	City of Long Beach
Scott McGowan	Caltrans
Ken Schiff	Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
Eric Stein	Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
Mark Smythe	Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Darla Wise	Ventura County Watershed Protection Division
Xavier Swammikannu	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jason Uhley	Riverside County Flood Control District
Naresh Varma	San Bernardino County Flood Control District
Joann Weber	San Diego County Dept. Environmental Health
Matt Yeager	San Bernardino County Flood Control District
Clayton Yoshida	City of Los Angeles, Regulatory Affairs Dept

Chris Crompton began the meeting at 9:40 AM with roundtable introductions. The objectives of the day included: 1) 2004-2005 Annual Report review; 2) Agreements; 3) Existing Projects; 4) Potential new projects; 5) other items; and 6) Next meeting.

Ken Schiff had distributed the draft Annual Report the week prior to the meeting. The report was well-accepted by the member agencies.

- Comments due to Ken by Sep 23 for report finalization.

There were three agreements for discussion. The first was the laboratory intercalibration (No. D05-022). The goal of this agreement was to continue periodic intercalibration studies and development of common contractual language for the member agency contract laboratories. Chris distributed a minimally revised agreement based on the small number of largely minor comments received from the last meeting. There were no other comments from the SMC on the agreement language. The action item for this agreement was:

- Chris will send out the agreement for signature within the next two weeks.

The second agreement was the Effectiveness of Site Development BMPs. Matt Yeager had written a U.S. EPA 104(b) proposal that did not get funded. However, conceptual

support from CASQA had been obtained, including their ability to lead the study. In addition, a developer who was employing low impact development technology was interested in team with the SMC on this study. Finally, the Water Environment Research Federation had expressed some interest in collaboration with the SMC on this study. The action items for this project were:

- Chris and Xavier to visit U.S. EPA Region IX to solicit more support for the next round of 104(b)3 funding;
- Matt will wait on finalization of key project partners before writing the project scope of work.

The third agreement was for the renewal of the original SMC agreement (No. D99-072). The existing agreement expires in 2006 and all members agreed to amend the agreement for another five years. Chris described two options for renewing the agreement; 1) a strikeout amendment, or 2) a restatement (i.e. new) agreement. The SMC preferred the restatement agreement since it was a cleaner document that was not encumbered by the previous scope of work and would allow for the addition of new members. Besides Caltrans and the City of Los Angeles, the State Water Resources Control Board was suggested as new members. Finally, Chris described the presentation he was to make at the CASQA Annual Conference in October. The action items from the discussion included:

- Chris will prepare a draft presentation to distribute through the listserver;
- Chris and Ken will draft a letter of invitation to the City of Los Angeles;
- Chris will begin to prepare the draft restatement agreement.

The agenda item on existing projects covered two studies. The first was the bioassessment project. Ken began the discussion reminding members of the purpose of the study, which is funded by our project partners at the SWRCB and LACSD. Progress to date included the completion of field and laboratory training workshops and enhanced activities of the southern California contingent of the California Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Laboratory network (CAMLnet). In addition, the first of the IB I assessment projects began that focuses on field comparability and analytical capability in low gradient streams. The SMC Bioassessment Technical Working Group has approved a workplan, QA Plan, and held their field training. Sampling was due to begin next week. The Bioassessment Technical Working Group had scheduled out their next year's worth of activities including field and information management protocols, another IBI evaluation study (in nonperennial streams), and development of a regional watershed monitoring program.

The second item on existing project was the hydromodification workshop, co-sponsored by USC SeaGrant, and being held at the CASQA Annual meeting in October. It will consist of a one day open presentation format with experts from around the country presenting their latest research. Then, the experts and selected regulated and regulatory managers will meet in the evening to discuss the next steps to address hydromodification research needs.

The next agenda item was future projects. This was the annual prioritization of upcoming studies based on budgeting desires of SMC member agencies. There were four potential projects for discussion. The first was a bacteria reference watershed study presented by Eric Stein. Eric described this study as an extension of the natural loading study presented at our previous meeting. In the latest iteration, there has been increased interest in the Malibu and Santa Ana watersheds. Although a specific design meeting was scheduled for the following week, the project would include daily to weekly sampling at a number of targeted reference sites to assess water quality exceedences in completely undeveloped catchments. This would serve to help develop water quality objectives and/or TMDL numeric targets in some RWQCBs.

The second project was the hydromodification study. While a bit premature because the hydromodification workshop had not been held yet, there appeared to be at least three types of studies that could be explored based on our previous work: 1) sentinel sites; 2) numeric modeling; and 3) new sites with different watershed characteristics and varying levels and connectedness of impervious areas.

The third project was the Cal SWIM presented by Stanley Grant and Crista Lopes. The goal was to create a map-based, web accessible data system. The project can potentially be used to ask and answer management questions including predictions of changes in water quality using computer-based models. Orange County is funding initial development of the data system. The system could be grown to cover other areas of southern California. The project would consist of several elements including: 1) creation of a database; 2) watershed model; and 3) web query tool. Additional resources would be needed for database support, which Dr. Grant could be provided by the UCI Library.

The fourth study was standardizing toxicity in stormwater discharges. Ken Schiff showed an inventory of existing methods among SMC agencies that demonstrated only moderate comparability among laboratories in species, endpoints and toxicity identification evaluation (TIE) triggers. The goal of this study would be to create a regional protocol for toxicity testing, an intercalibrations, and refinement of existing TIE methods for stormwater. This project could be integrated into the existing laboratory intercalibration project.

Following Executive Committee discussion, the group voted on the preferred projects for next fiscal year (Table 1)

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Peak Flow	\$75-200K	4
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Toxicity Standardization	\$20-120K	3.5
Reference Watershed Bacteria	\$100-200K	2

The action items for this item included:

- Each investigator should prepare a written scope of work for the next meeting;

The next meeting was scheduled for December 6, 9:30 - 12:00 at SCCWRP. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.