

**Tijuana River Watershed Management Area  
Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2017 8:30 am to 10:00 am  
County Operations, 5510 Overland Avenue, 4th Floor Room 472**

**Attendees:**

| <b>Organization</b>             | <b>Names</b>            |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| City of Imperial Beach (IB)     | Wbaldo Arellano         |
| City of San Diego (SD)          | Brianna Menke           |
|                                 | Heather Krish           |
|                                 | Julia Chase             |
| County of San Diego (County)    | Rouya Rasoulzadeh (WPP) |
|                                 | Christine Tolchin (DPR) |
|                                 | Melanie Tylke (DPR)     |
|                                 | Stephanie Gaines (WPP)  |
| Amec Foster Wheeler (Amec)      | Matt Rich               |
|                                 | Brenda Stevens          |
| D-MAX Engineering, Inc. (D-MAX) | John Quenzer            |
| Dudek (Dudek)                   | Bryn Evans              |

Notes: WPP – Watershed Protection Program, DPR – Department of Parks and Recreation

1. **Call to order:** 8:30 am
2. **Roll Call**

All participants introduced themselves.

3. **Time for public to speak on items not on the agenda**

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

4. **Approve minutes from previous meeting**

SD motioned to approve the minutes from the August 2017 meeting. IB seconded. Meeting minutes were approved without further edits or revisions.

- **Action item:** D-MAX will post meeting minutes on the Project Clean Water website.

5. **Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team update**

- The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) has indicated that they are moving forward with the development of total daily maximum load(s) (TMDLs) in the Tijuana River Watershed. In addition to bacteria and trash, the Water Board is reportedly considering including heavy metals and toxins in the TMDL.
- The Water Board is conducting bacteria sampling in the watershed to assess cross border discharges. They have also requested a list of sites where Copermittees are collecting bacteria data to avoid duplicative efforts.
- From the Minute 320 meeting – The H&H study is on hold until additional funding from the Army Corps of Engineers is approved. The data exchange between the US and Mexico was scheduled for August 31; the US agencies provided available data, but Mexico has not provided its data.
- The frequency of Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (TRVRT) meetings will be reduced from monthly to quarterly.

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- The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) submitted a draft monitoring plan. Mexico plans to begin the monitoring program imminently. The monitoring plan submitted by the IBWC comprises 12 sites in Mexico to be monitored twice per month. This exceeds requested monitoring efforts. In the US, four sites will be monitored monthly. The analytical suite comprises standard water quality parameters including hydrocarbons, pH, bacteria, etc. The Water Board, in addition to local agencies, reviewed the IBWC monitoring plan. In general the comments recommended a formal quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) program (i.e., SWAMP compatible data, data quality objectives, management questions; data management protocols, and reporting requirements). The plan includes an improved notification system. When flows are released the Mexican IBWC will be notified. They will then contact the US IBWC, which will contact San Diego Copermittees.
- The County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has land in the watershed that could be used for BMP implementation. DPR is evaluating whether Smuggler's Gulch should be considered in the design of the planned sediment basin. SD is also drafting a letter that would add SD lands to be considered in the design to optimize effectiveness.
- The potential lawsuit against IBWC initiated actions on the US and Mexican side of the border:
  - Congressmen Darrel Issa (Vista) and Juan Vargas (San Diego) proposed the Tijuana River Valley Comprehensive Protection and Rehabilitation Act of 2017 ([H.R. 3795](#)) to address the issue of pollution associated with binational flows. The proposed Act would involve federal, local and international agencies to facilitate the construction of wastewater processing facilities on both sides of the border with the goal of preventing future sewage spills. It would also include a monitoring and notification program if spills did occur.
  - Senate Bill 507 ([SB-507](#)) passed, but needs the governor's signature. The federal government purchased property from the County in the amount of \$2.1 million to construct the Border Wall. Funds from the purchase were to be spent by the County on real estate opportunities. However, the County has not identified additional properties that require the full amount. This bill re-appropriates up to \$500,000 of the total to go towards studies toward the protection of natural lands to be conducted by DPR.
  - The Minute 320 sediment work group discussed the proposed channelization project. The Mexican government plans to install concrete lining in 20 sections of earthen channel for stabilization. This has the potential to reduce sediment erosion, but could also increase runoff volumes or velocities, causing erosion downstream. They also plan to construct a number of sediment basins at locations to be determined. There is a budget of approximately 37 million pesos to be spent on infrastructure improvements anticipated to occur in the next year.

**6. FY17 WQIP Annual Report**

The group discussed the FY2017 WQIP Annual report development. Due to recent watershed activities and elevated focus on binational flows, the group discussed the

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relevancy of these actions to the WQIP implementation and MS4 program. It is required to report on the WQIP goals, progress toward goals, and strategy implementation. The sewage spills and binational efforts are not directly a part of this program. Due to the impact on the watershed, the RAs decided to include a summary of efforts implemented through the TRVRT and other related watershed group efforts that they participate in. However, no IBWC data or IBWC actions will be included since they are not an agency regulated by the Regional MS4 Permit.

The group discussed how to address the informal comments received from the Water Board. Broadly the comments requested:

- A more public friendly executive summary
- Report organization present outcomes before progress toward goals and strategy implementation
- Present monitoring data. Visuals are preferred.

Comments received from the Water Board will be discussed at the regional ad-hoc meeting in the afternoon of September 19. The Tijuana River WMA RAs would like to be consistent with other WMAs and will wait for direction from that group to determine how to address the comments received from the Water Board. However, in general, the group would like to see the executive summary will be more public friendly. Additionally, monitoring data and progress towards goals are presented in last year's Annual Report and will be presented again in the Annual Report due to be submitted in January 2018.

A preliminary assessment of 2016-2017 monitoring data was presented by the Consultant Team. For the 2016-2017 monitoring season, the sediment load exceeded the FY 2018 Interim Goal; however, when averaged with WQIP Year 1 (2015-2016) results, the WMA average load is below the Interim Goal. The increase in load is likely a result of greater rainfall this season. The WQIP states that the RAs are not responsible for events over the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile. Therefore, data for those events are not required to be included in progress toward load calculations. The RAs would like to see the loads with actual rainfall included in addition to the loads with rainfall above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile excluded for comparison.

- **Action item:** Amec to include loads calculated from actual rainfall in addition to the loads with rainfall above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile excluded in the First Draft report due October 11, 2017. An update will be provided at the next WQIP group meeting.

**7. Watershed Special Study Planning for FY18**

The group discussed the Draft SOW developed by the Consultant Team for a public friendly document providing an overview of watershed water quality and protection efforts. This would provide an opportunity to discuss many of the management actions that are done above and beyond the requirements of the MS4 Program. The group discussed alternative formats that may be beneficial to explore, including an interactive digital strategy map, or website content.

- **Action item:** Amec to distribute electronic copy of Draft SOW. RAs to comment on Draft SOW prior to next meeting.

**8. Other items (time permitting, no action will be taken)**

Update on action items from previous Watershed Group meeting

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(Note that the status provided below is as of the date of the meeting)

- **Re: Approve minutes from previous meeting**

D-MAX will post meeting minutes on the Project Clean Water website.  *Completed*

- **Re: Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team update**

The Consultant team will distribute the Tijuana River Valley/Goat Canyon Flood Hazard Maps to the group.  *Not completed. Consultant team will distribute maps with meeting minutes.*

- **Re: Watershed Special Study Planning for FY18**

Consultant team to develop a scope and cost estimate for development of overview of watershed document.  *Completed. Draft SOW discussed at the September 19, 2017 meeting.*

- **Re: Jurisdictional updates**

Amec to attend Bight meeting and provide an update to the group at next meeting. . *Not Completed. Ran out of time during September meeting. Bight update will be added to future agenda.*

The next meeting will be held on October 17, 2017 from 8:30am to 10:00 am at County Operations, 5510 Overland Avenue, 4th Floor Room 472.