



Steering Committee Teleconference Summary April 23, 2019

In attendance:

- Adam Laputz, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Board)
- Alisha Wenzel, Central Valley Board
- Brendan Ferry, El Dorado County Stormwater Program
- Bruce Houdesheldt, Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition
- Dalia Fadl, City of Rancho Cordova Stormwater Program
- Debbie Webster, Central Valley Clean Water Association
- Kathryn Garcia, City of Stockton Regional Wastewater Control Facility
- Matthew Heberger, Aquatic Science Center
- Melissa Morris, State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Information Management and Analysis
- Meredith Howard, Central Valley Board
- Mike Wackman, San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition
- Patrick Morris, Central Valley Board
- Rebecca Franklin, Regional San
- Stephen McCord, Technical Advisory Committee co-chair
- Tessa Fojut, State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Information Management and Analysis

Potential changes in the Central Valley Board's in-kind contribution

Co-chair Adam Laputz explained possible changes in RB5's contribution to the Delta RMP, and sought the SC's approval for these changes. Since 2015, the Regional Board has made an in-kind contribution to the Delta RMP of approx. \$200K per year by directly funding aquatic toxicity testing at the UC Davis lab. This contract will expire in March 2020.

When our current contract expires, for the successor contract, the co-chairs have proposed funding the program's mercury work by the Moss Landing Marine Laboratory, a division of San Jose State University. In-kind support comes via the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring

Program (SWAMP) and is restricted to funding a state agency or university. The new contract will be for 3 years, and can be amended annually 2 times, so it could last for up to 5 years.

A committee member asked whether we are likely to need 5 years worth of mercury work? Adam and staff replied that, yes, it is likely. We have shifted the focus of mercury monitoring to mercury mobilization from wetland restoration projects. Nevertheless, the new SWAMP contracts will be divided up by focus area (e.g. chemistry, bioassessment), which should make it easier to switch from one lab to another in the future. We should communicate to Adam and Central Valley Board staff regarding any desired changes in the future.

The Steering Committee agreed, with no objections, that it would appropriate to use the next SWAMP contract to fund the mercury monitoring work.

The new contract will begin on July 1, 2020. Therefore, we should be ready to make these changes by the next fiscal year.

The second part of the discussion focused on whether to re-allocate projected leftover funds to other projects. SWAMP contract funds are “use it or lose it,” and Adam would like to see these funds go toward useful projects, hence he proposed that it would be appropriate for the Central Valley Board to re-allocate projected unspent funds (approx. \$100K) to other RB5 toxicity analysis projects.

We are leaving around \$100K “on the table” because we took a 1-year break from monitoring. Central Valley Board staff wishes to re-allocate these funds to other projects, in particular downstream of the Nov. 2018 Camp Fire, e.g. in Butte Creek and other areas downstream of Paradise. They may also consider monitoring downstream of the Aug. 2018 Carr Fire in Redding. A committee member requested a report back to the SC when the monitoring is finished.

There was a motion by Mike Wackman, seconded by Debbie Webster, **to approve of the Central Valley Board using the \$100K for non-RMP toxicity work. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.**

In a subsequent discussion, the committee agree that if an additional \$50K becomes available in the future that the Delta RMP does not use, we will revisit the issue, and consider approving the use of these funds at the Central Valley Board’s discretion.

Action Item:

- Central Valley Board Staff to give a report to the SC on the results of fire monitoring (Adam Laputz, by September 2021)

Update on Water Year 2019 Aquatic Toxicity Testing

Stakeholders had expressed concerns over the methods being used for aquatic toxicity testing. Specific concerns related to (1) the effects of low conductivity to the test organism *Ceriodaphnia dubia*, (2) whether the lab, the Technical Advisory Committee, and State Board staff have come to an agreement on how the test should be done and the data handled, and (3) the process for amending data in CEDEN if errors are discovered. Matt Heberger reported that we have

resolved the first two issues. More information can be found in the [Delta RMP Quality Assurance Project Plan v4.3](#), in section 13.2.2.

An ad hoc group of SC members have met twice to discuss the third issue of amending published data. The main concern is related to the aquatic toxicity testing data that is managed by SWAMP/OIMA. SWAMP staff have assured us that they are committed to fixing and correcting any errors in CEDEN, and that anyone is able to bring errors to their attention at any time. The best way to do so is via email to SWAMP staff.

The ad hoc workgroup's latest request was for a description of how the SWAMP QA Officer would apply QA flags to water quality records in certain circumstances. We are actively discussing this issue with State Board staff. Matt thanked everyone involved for being extremely open and collaborative. The informal workgroup will discuss over email and meet again if necessary. Matt will report back to the TAC and SC on the outcomes of these discussions.