

Delta RMP Steering Committee Meeting

January 14, 2014

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Building

Sunset Maple Room

10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA 95827

Draft Summary

Attendees:

Voting Steering Committee (and/or Alternate) members present¹:

Kenneth Landau, Regulatory – State (Central Valley Water Board)

Mike Wackman, Agriculture (San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition)

Casey Wichert, POTWs (City of Brentwood)

Dave Tamayo, Stormwater, Phase I Communities (Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership)

Tim Vendlinski, Regulatory – Federal (USEPA)

Linda Dorn, POTWs (SRCSD)

Stephanie Fong, Alternate–Water Supply (SFCWA)

Erich Delmas, POTWs (City of Tracy)

By phone:

Stephanie Reyna-Hiestand, Stormwater, Phase II Communities (City of Tracy)

Others present:

Brock Bernstein, Facilitator

Thomas Jabusch, SFEI-ASC

Brian Laurenson, LWA/Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership

Meghan Sullivan, Central Valley Water Board

¹ Name, Representation (Affiliation)

- Joe Domagalski, USGS
- Patrick Morris, Central Valley Water Board
- Jay Davis, SFEI-ASC
- Dalia Fadl, City of Sacramento
- Vyomini Upadhyay, SRCSD
- Stephen Clark, Pacific EcoRisk
- Jason Lofton, SRCSD
- Rachel Kubiak, Western Plant Health Association
- Tessa Fojut, Central Valley Water Board
- Tom Grovhoug, LWA
- Tony Pirondini, City of Vacaville
- Karen Ashby, LWA/Stockton
- Claus Suverkropp, LWA/SVWQC/SJDWQC
- Tony Hale, SFEI-ASC
- Stephen McCord, MEI
- On phone:*
- Mike Mosley (Reclamation)
- Debbie Webster, CVCWA

1.	Introductions A quorum was established.
2.	Announcements from Committee Members Jay Davis announced that Jim Kelly, former General Manager of the Contra Costa Sanitation District, has assumed the role of Interim Executive Director at SFEI-ASC.
3.	Approve Agenda and Summary Agenda and Dec 2 summary were approved.
4.	Decision: Assessment Questions Prior to the meeting, Linda Dorn had distributed a revised version of the

	<p>assessment questions that had been edited collaboratively by participating permittees. Discussion participants agreed that the edited version of the assessment questions provided a number of improvements, including a better structure that shows more clearly how the assessment questions relate to the broader management questions of the Delta RMP SC. The discussion focused on editing and finalizing the revised assessment questions. Brock Bernstein reminded the group that there are other existing monitoring and research efforts that the Delta RMP could benefit from and amend and thus the final list of questions needn't be all-encompassing and comprehensive.</p> <p>A vibrant discussion of the toxicity questions arrived at the common denominator that the use of toxicity testing would be beneficial for narrowing down a list of potential chemicals that may cause water quality impacts. However, there were disagreements over the range of potential chemicals that should be considered. Tim Vendlinski suggested that the SC could make decisions in real-time about a reasonable scope for follow-up analyses as the assessment proceeds and initial results are being reported. Linda Dorn noted a preamble to be written by Dave Tamayo would be helpful to focus the assessment questions. She reiterated that she would not want to lose the possibility of impacts from other contaminant classes in the language while focusing it more specifically on pesticides. She also emphasized the need for cost estimates for monitoring plans to address the assessment questions, with estimates for Status & Trends questions as the highest priority.</p> <p><u>Outcomes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The assessment questions will be edited and finalized based on the edits and guidance provided during the discussion. - The primary focus of the toxicity assessment questions will be on pesticides. The initial screening mechanism will be to identify those current use pesticides that are most likely causing problems. The SC will be deciding on specific tests and an assessment approach based on the prioritized list. The TAC will then be tasked with developing a monitoring and study plan.
<p>5.</p>	<p>Decision: Outline of TAC Charter</p> <p>The roles and responsibilities of the TAC as described in the Delta RMP Committee Roles document were reviewed, discussed, and edited. The revised guiding principles and committee roles were approved pending the inclusion of the discussed edits.</p>

6.	<p>Decision: Charge to TAC</p> <p>The charge to the TAC was approved with minor revisions. One point of discussion was the proposed inclusion of a funding plan in the work plan. It was clarified that what is needed is a budget plan and a discussion of opportunities for finding funding. Ken Landau suggested that the timing of funding should also be discussed. Linda Dorn suggested that the budget should include an estimate for a quality assurance project plan (QAPP), data management, etc. Stephanie Fong noted that from a state board perspective, the monitoring plan needs some language that data goes into CEDEN. Discussion participants agreed that the budget plan should include an estimate for how much money to set aside for reporting and analysis as well as a ballpark amount for data management. Jay Davis suggested that staff could provide an estimate based on SFEI's cost, as a starting point. The cost estimate could then be compared to other options, if some of the partners were to use other their own or additional capacities (e.g. Central Valley RDC), and evaluate potential cost savings. Brock Bernstein advised the TAC co-chairs to talk to other monitoring groups and exploit their work when developing the Delta RMP monitoring design.</p>
7.	<p>Updates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>TAC co-chair funding:</i> Dave Tamayo announced that his Board approved funding of a \$15,000 contract for Stephen McCord. Ken Landau added that he has crafted some language to acknowledge this support as a contribution to the RMP. 2. <i>Regional background characterization:</i> Linda Dorn provided an update on continuing efforts by POTWs and Regional Board staff in identifying a proposed network of stations that would meet ambient characterization needs for regulatory purposes. Discussions are continuing between Board staff and permittees in an effort to work out remaining "kinks". The main challenge is that permit implications are different for each discharger.
8.	<p>Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Delta Regional Data Center Proposal:</i> Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon from the Delta Conservancy informed the SC that her agency has partnered with ASC and submitted a proposal to the USEPA National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN). The requested amount is \$300,000 with \$50,000 in matching funds. The proposal supports CEDEN and has three parts: 1) collecting data, 2) QAQC, and 3) public meetings. The proposal would not result in a new Data Center. Funding would not be enough to sustain a Data Center and the

	<p>focus would be on existing data that are not currently captured by CEDEN and providing a roadmap for data coordination in the Delta. The main objective of the proposal would be to assemble existing data, which would focus the project to work with existing RDCs and data providers in the Delta, in order to move Delta data into CEDEN. Tony Hale added that the project would be applying the same RDC services that are available in other regions to underserved Delta data providers. The prioritization of datasets would be based on careful consideration of the significance of historic data sources related to work effort involved.</p> <p>2. <i>Estuary Portal</i>: Stephanie Fong provided an overview of the Estuary Portal pages on the California Water Quality Web Portal. The website is based on the OpenNRM development framework, which allows common use and sharing of online tools and data among users. She noted that this capability is very important to the California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup (CEMW), since it allows the comparison of data lines within a graph and tracking of deviations in the underlying data, thus flattening the discussion over data and their uses. Meeting participants pointed to the need for coordination between the Delta RMP and the CEMW. Stephanie pointed out that Meghan Sullivan currently represents the Delta RMP in the group. She also emphasized that the CEMW is open to all stakeholders, calling out SRCSD and the Bay Institute as examples. Meghan commented that once the RMP would get started, it would be on the Steering Committee to coordinate with the CEMW.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Next meeting The next meeting will be on March 4, 2014 (9am-12pm) at the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Action items:</p> <p>7.1. Staff, with input from the TAC, will further clean up the language of the assessment questions (e.g. trying to clarify language for some MeHg questions for someone to understand without history of MeHg TMDL), clarify remaining ambiguities, and redistribute the questions (due: Feb 18).</p> <p>7.2. Dave Tamayo and Stephanie Fong to draft a preamble to the toxicity assessment questions explaining the use of toxicity testing as a tool rather than a constituent (due: Jan 22).</p> <p>7.3. Dave Tamayo to draft additional nutrient health bullets (due: Jan 22).</p>

	<p>7.4. Shakoora Azimi-Gaylon to send proposal language to Delta RMP SC (due: Feb 18).</p>
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