



## **Delta Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting**

**December 13, 2016**

**10:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Building  
10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA**

### **Summary**

#### **Attendees:**

*TAC (and/or Alternate) members present<sup>1</sup>:*

Stephanie Fong, Water Supply (State and Federal Contractors Water Agency)

Brian Laursen, Stormwater – Phase I (Larry Walker Associates)

Stephen McCord, TAC co-Chair (McCord Environmental, Inc.)

Mike Johnson, Agriculture (MLJ LLC)

Tim Mussen, POTWs (Regional San)

Tony Pirondini, POTWs (City of Vacaville)

Hope Taylor, Stormwater – Phase I (Larry Walker Associates)

Janis Cooke, Regulatory – State (Central Valley Water Board)

Lisa Thompson, POTWs (Regional San)

Tessa Fojut, Regulatory – State (Central Valley Water Board)

Melissa Turner, Agriculture (MLJ LLC)

Amy Phillips, Stormwater – Phase II (El Dorado County)

Erwin Van Nieuwenhuysse, Coordinated Monitoring (Reclamation)

#### *By phone:*

Debra Denton, Regulatory – Federal (U.S. EPA Region 9)

Karen Ashby, Stormwater – Phase II (Larry Walker Associates)

Rich Breuer (State Water Board), Regulatory – State

#### *Others present:*

Patrick Morris, Central Valley Regional Water Board

Thomas Jabusch, SFEI-ASC

Selina Cole, Central Valley Regional Water Board

---

<sup>1</sup> Name, Representing Category (Affiliation)



Rachel Kubiak, Western Plant Health Association  
 Jim Orlando, USGS  
 Phil Trowbridge, SFEI-ASC  
 Cam Irvine, CH2M  
 Linda Dorn, Regional San, co-Chair of Steering Committee

*On the phone*

Armand Ruby, Armand Ruby Consulting  
 Marie Stillway, UC Davis AHPL  
 Rachel Pisor, DWR  
 Myra Fields, Sacramento County Water Agency  
 Lori Webber, State Water Board  
 Eric Stein, SCCWRP

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | <p><b>Introductions and Agenda</b><br/>                 TAC members reviewed and agreed on the agenda and desired outcomes</p>  |
| 2. | <p><b>Decision: Approve TAC Meeting Summary for 9/20/16 and confirm/set future TAC meeting dates</b><br/>                 The TAC summary was approved with minor edits to address comments provided by Debra Denton.</p> <p>The following TAC and Subcommittee Meetings were confirmed or scheduled:<br/>                 TAC: 3/14/17 (10am – 4pm), 6/13/17 (10am – 4pm)<br/>                 Nutrient Subcommittee: 1/18/17 (PM- in person), 2/28/17 (AM - call)<br/>                 Pesticides Subcommittee: 1/25/17 (PM -call), 2/28/17 (PM - call)</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u><br/>                 - Accept meeting summary for 9/20/16 as amended</p> <p><u>Action Items:</u><br/>                 - Revise 9/20/16 meeting summary (Thomas Jabusch, by January 18)</p> |
| 3. | <p><b>Information: Steering Committee Update</b><br/>                 TAC co-Chair summarized the outcomes of the October 18 joint SC-TAC meeting. The SC decided that the TAC co-Chairs no longer need to produce the TAC Highlights, instead monitoring updates as regular TAC meeting agenda items can be noted in the meeting summary. The SC also provided planning budgets for framing</p>  |



|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
|                  | <p>the 2017-2018 work plan. Budget uncertainties relate primarily to potential additional funding from Prop. 1 proposal, SEP funds, and CECs interests. The budget for pesticides was reduced to about \$250K, implying that a detailed prioritization process can be delayed while the focus is on pyrethroids.</p> <p>Major regulatory drivers for monitoring were identified: the Nutrient Research Plan, Pyrethroids TMDL, and MeHg TMDL. ASC presented a matrix showing how these drivers intersect with the Delta RMP assessment questions. There were no major comments on the matrix. Some key points made in the discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Concerns over the impact of potential design changes on Ag coalition monitoring. For example, the RMP may no longer provide data for ILRP compliance points. There will be follow-up discussion between Regional Board staff and Ag coalition representatives on this potential issue.</li> <li>● The external review panel recommended tighter linkages of Delta RMP activities to management drivers, especially for pesticides and nutrients. The subcommittees will be charged with tightening the links for areas of overlap as shown on the matrix.</li> <li>● For pesticide monitoring, a shift towards pyrethroids may require a significant re-design. Participants discussed the need for coordination with related monitoring by the CA Department of Pesticide Registration (DPR), the State Water Board’s Storm Water Program, and MS4s.</li> <li>● The general idea is for the Delta RMP to provide useful, <u>regional</u> data to inform the management drivers.</li> </ul> <p><u>Action Items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On the matrix of management drivers and assessment questions, use underline or text color to indicate the questions currently being addressed by the Delta RMP (Phil Trowbridge, by January 18)</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>4.</b></p> | <p><b>Information: Technical Subcommittee Updates</b></p> <p><i>Mercury:</i> The second quarterly mercury water sampling event was successfully completed in November. Results (not yet available) will be presented only 1x/year, to make data management more efficient. The next water sampling events are</p>   |



tentatively scheduled for February and late April/early May 2017. Approval of the Prop. 1 proposal for additional mercury monitoring has not yet been determined.

*Pesticides:* Marie Stillway from UC Davis-AHPL and Jim Orlando from USGS summarized provisional toxicity and chemical results from the September, October, and November sampling events. In September, 3 sites showed reproductive effects for ceriodaphnia. In October, no toxicity effects were observed. In November, algal toxicity at Ulatis Creek exceeded the Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE) trigger value. A TIE was initiated but not completed, because the toxicity signal was lost during initial treatments. Fathead minnow survival was reduced to 77% at one site.

The statewide Stream Pollution Trends (SPoT) program is re-evaluating some of its locations for annual sediment sampling, including four Delta sites. The program is looking for input by the Delta RMP and by other programs and agencies by late February/early March.

*Nutrients:* The Nutrient Subcommittee met on November 8 to discuss draft responses to the nutrient-related questions and comments from the external panel review of the Delta RMP design, and to refine the scope of the FY16/17 data synthesis tasks. Three additional meetings are planned between now and April. Two of these upcoming meetings are already scheduled and will address the long-term design and the FY17/18 workplan for nutrients. A third meeting will be planned to review draft synthesis work. This meeting may also include a presentation by researchers with the USEPA Office of Research of Development about trend analysis by Weighted Regressions on Time, Discharge and Season (WRTDS). Results of the analyses will inform how to proceed with Task 3 of the FY16/17 nutrient synthesis work (Advanced Statistical Analyses). The USGS high-frequency monitoring reports were reviewed by the TAC and approved by the SC with no major revisions. The report is now in editorial review and formatting for publication in early 2017.

The SC co-Chairs and DWR program managers will have a planning meeting to discuss the “piggybacking” idea brought forward at the Delta RMP Nutrient



|           |   |
|-----------|---|
|           | <p>Monitoring Planning Workshop, i.e. how water quality sampling by the DWR Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) could be augmented through additional sites, events, or analytes to address questions of mutual interest.</p> <p><u>Action Items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schedule and prepare materials/maps for a discussion about changes in SPoT sampling stations and coordination of Delta RMP with SPoT, STORMS, and MS4 monitoring for the 1/25 Pesticide Subcommittee meeting (Thomas Jabusch and Regional Board staff, by January 18)</li> <li>- Add “Technical Subcommittee Updates” as a standing item on the TAC agenda and prepare a running table showing the samples that have been collected and those that are scheduled (Thomas Jabusch, by March 6)</li> </ul>  |
| <p>5.</p> | <p><b>Decision: Responses to the Initial External Review Report</b></p> <p>The main purpose of the agenda item was to obtain feedback on the draft responses to the initial external review report. The response is expected to provide the external review panel with the information needed to provide more tailored advice to help improve the program. The group worked through five technical response documents (one overall plus four constituent-specific) and noted responses that needed revisions. Feedback from TAC members included factual corrections, suggestions for improving the messaging, and clarifying edits. A revised version of the response documents will be shared with the Planning Subcommittee by December 23. The plan is to finalize the whole response letter at the next SC meeting on January 26.</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forward the technical responses with the Planning Subcommittee after making revisions and adding a cover page.</li> </ul> <p><u>Action Items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide reference for Test of Statistical Significance and edits on response to TIE question (Debra Denton, by December 16) - <i>done</i></li> <li>- Add an introductory paragraph and reformat the pathogen responses (Brian Laurenson/Hope Taylor, by December 22)</li> </ul> |



|    |  |
|----|--|
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft a cover letter that a) will summarize the main themes and concepts of the responses, b) expresses a commitment to making changes and addressing the issues that have been identified, and c) explains what type of input is being sought for improving the program (Phil Trowbridge, by December 23)</li> <li>- Send the revised draft response letter to the Planning Subcommittee and cc the TAC (Phil Trowbridge, by December 23)</li> </ul>   |
| 6. | <p><b>Decision: Review new ideas for projects to propose for SEP funding</b></p> <p>Eric Stein (SCCWRP) presented a project proposal titled “Assessment of Wetland and Stream Extent in the California Delta”. Participants recognized the value of the study; however, there was also general consensus that the nexus to the Delta RMP management questions was insufficient to incorporate it into the overall monitoring design. Since there would be cost associated with administering the project and there are unfunded components of the current monitoring design, the project was not recommended as an SEP under the Delta RMP umbrella.</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The wetland assessment project should not be proposed as a SEP under the Delta RMP umbrella.</li> <li>- Moving forward, SEP project proposals brought to the Delta RMP should highlight linkages to the Delta RMP management questions, assessment questions, and recommended monitoring design.</li> </ul> |
| 7. | <p><b>Information: Discuss process for re-confirming TAC members and co-chairs</b></p> <p>The group discussed a memo describing the updated process for re-confirming TAC members and co-chairs. Phil Trowbridge clarified that there are no set membership terms. TAC membership is fluid and decisions about the duration of their terms are up to the TAC members themselves, their SC counterpart and the participant groups that they represent.</p> <p>There was also discussion about the TAC co-Chairs, which are currently appointed by the SC which differs from the process outlined in the Charter. Most, but not all, statements in the discussion were in support of keeping the appointed TAC co-Chairs to provide additional support for process oversight, messaging between the various committees, and meeting facilitation.</p>  |



|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
|                  | <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue with the current co-Chairs, appointed (and partially funded) by the SC, for another 1-2 years</li> </ul> <p><u>Action Items:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare a table for the Finance Subcommittee showing the different roles and responsibilities of ASC and the TAC co-Chairs (Phil Trowbridge, by January 4)</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>8.</b></p> | <p><b>Information: Status of Deliverables and Action Items</b></p> <p>ASC staff provided a brief update about the status of RMP deliverables (essentially all have been completed or are on track) and reviewed the action items from the meeting.</p>   |
| <p><b>9.</b></p> | <p><b>Updates and wrap-up</b></p> <p>Lisa Thompson provided a short update on workshop highlights from the Science Enterprise Workshop. Stephen McCord noted an effort led by DWR and US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service to renovate a building in Rio Vista to serve as a Delta Monitoring and Research Station. Stephen McCord adjourned the meeting on time.</p>  |

**Parking Lot**

- Identify opportunities for Delta field experience by TAC members
- Pesticides benchmarks