

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

September 21, 2017 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Regional San

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Voting TAC (and/or Alternate) members present:

	Name	Representing	Affiliation
	Amy Phillips	Stormwater, Phase II	El Dorado County
	Brian Laurenson	Stormwater, Phase I	Larry Walker Associates
	Erwin Van Nieuwenhuysse	Coordinated Monitoring	US Bureau of Reclamation
	Hope McCaslin Taylor	Stormwater, Phase I (Alternate)	Larry Walker Associates
	Janis Cooke	Regulatory – State (Alternate)	Central Valley Regional Water Board
	Melissa Turner	Agriculture	MLJ-LLC
	Michael Johnson	Agriculture	MLJ-LLC
	Rich Breuer	Regulatory - State	State Water Resources Control Board
	Stephanie Fong	Water Supply	State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)
	Stephen McCord	Co-chair	MEI
	Tim Mussen	POTW	Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San)
By phone	Tony Pirondini	POTW	City of Vacaville
	Vyomini Upadhyay	Agriculture (Alternate)	Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San)

Others present:

Matthew Heberger, San Francisco Estuary Institute-Aquatic Science Center (SFEI-ASC)

Phil Trowbridge, SFEI-ASC

Patrick Morris, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CV RWQCB)

Selina Cole, CV RWQCB

Cameron Irvine, CH2M

Linda Dorn, Regional San, Steering Committee co-chair

Samsor Safi, Regional San

Jim Orlando, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Matt De Parsia, USGS

Renee Pinel, Western Plant Health Association

Stephen Louie, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Yumiko Henneberry, Delta Science Program

1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda

Participants approved the agenda.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary

Participants approved the summary of the June 13, 2017, TAC meeting. The TAC reviewed the upcoming meeting calendar and tentatively set March 15th as the first TAC meeting of 2018.

Upcoming Scheduled Meetings

- Joint TAC/SC meeting: Oct 24, 2017, at Park Tower Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 980 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814
- TAC Meeting: Dec 12, 2017, 10 am – 4 pm, at Regional San
- SC: January 23, 2018 at Regional Board Office
- TAC Meeting: March 15, 2018, 10 am – 4 pm, at Regional San.

Action Items:

- Set 3/15/18 meeting location and announce to TAC (Matt Heberger, by 10/15/2017).

3. Steering Committee Update

Matt Heberger presented a summary of the outcomes of the July 28, 2017 Steering Committee (SC) meeting. Some of the recommendations from the Steering Committee:

- The finance subcommittee requested agenda packages be distributed earlier. ASC will distribute the packages for SC and TAC meetings 7 working days prior to meetings, rather than the previous 5 business days.
- The SC directed ASC to cancel the Year 2 Pesticides Data Report, and re-allocated the funds toward the Year 1-2 Pesticides Interpretive Report. As an alternative to the data report, Greg Gearhardt committed to developing an online interactive visualization tool, with a demo to be presented at the October 24th joint meeting.
- The SC decided that the writing of the Pesticides Interpretive Report should be put out for bid. ASC will manage the RFP process, and will be assembling a workgroup to manage the process.

4. Technical Subcommittee Updates

Short updates were provided on recent monitoring activities.

Stephen McCord gave an update on **mercury** monitoring. Annual fish sampling was done in August at 6 sites. The subcommittee will meet to develop a schedule for the quarterly sediment sampling, and water sampling on 8 different dates.

Brian Laurensen gave an update on **pathogens**. Field data collection ended in March 2017. Subcommittee members are still collecting data from drinking water agencies. A basic data

Version Date: 10/2/17

report summarizing outcomes is in development, and scheduled for completion by the end of 2017.

Janis Cooke, of the Central Valley Board, gave an update on **nutrients** monitoring.

- The subcommittee met on 8/30/17.
- USGS has begun the high frequency monitoring. The crew had trouble with the new real-time onboard ammonia sensor, and cancelled the planned third day. The subcommittee recommended that while the equipment is being repaired, that we delay the monitoring until spring 2018 with a second sampling event in fall 2018. However, useful information was collected on Days 1 and 2, and the subcommittee requested that these data from be presented at the December 12 TAC meeting.
- Sensor Intercalibration Study will hold their first meeting September 28.

Action Items:

- Add a presentation on USGS high frequency monitoring to 12/12/17 TAC Agenda (Matt Heberger, by 11/15/2017).
- Include a last updated time stamp on monitoring table data in future reports (Matt Heberger, by 11/15/2017).

5. Decision: Recommendation on Year 1 Pesticides Data Report

Matt Heberger presented the most recent version of the Year 1 Data Report, highlighting the changes made since the last version. Some of the feedback from the TAC:

- Fix formatting errors on two graphs.
- Critical changes to previous version had been incorporated.
- Ensure all co-authors have received and approved the latest version.

Action Items:

- Revise the report incorporating TAC comments and email final draft to TAC members for approval (Matt Heberger, by 10/15/2017)

6. Discussion: Decision Grid for Ranking Monitoring Proposals

Brian Laurenson presented the revised Proposal Review Process and Decision Grid. The grid had been revised incorporating feedback received at the 7/28 Steering Committee Meeting.

Some of the feedback from the TAC discussion:

- Change “key monitoring questions” to “key management questions.”
- Use the phrase “concept proposal” in place of “pre-proposal” throughout the document.
- In Step 2 of the process add “RMP Subcommittee” to submitters.
- Use a ranking score of 1-5. Do not weight the different criteria.
- Conduct a trial run for pesticides and present results on the process at the 10/24 joint meeting.
- Anyone who wishes to participate in the small group should email Brian Laurenson to get notifications (brianl@lwa.com).

Action Items:

- Decision Grid Small Group: Revise the grid per discussion and conduct trial run and provide feedback on the process at the 10/24 joint meeting (Brian Laurensen, by 10/13/2017).

7. Recruiting Science Advisors

The TAC discussed the best way to utilize the \$10,000 honoraria for independent science advisors specified in the FY17/18 Workplan. Suggestions from the TAC:

- Greatest need is for a statistician.
- Three other areas of support identified: Environmental Statistics/Large Scale Monitoring Programs, Monitoring Design/Interpretation of Data, and Ecosystem Level Effects
- Start a nomination file with names/affiliations/areas of expertise.

Action Items:

- Design an online form for collecting potential science advisors (Matt Heberger, by 10/15/2017)

Update: TAC and SC members submit names for consideration using this link: [Science Advisor Nomination Form \(https://goo.gl/forms/QJK7FNh7BPspLzHR2\)](https://goo.gl/forms/QJK7FNh7BPspLzHR2).

8. Information: Nutrient Synthesis Reports

Phil Trowbridge (ASC) presented the draft Nutrient Synthesis Reports, previously presented to the Nutrient Subcommittee. The reports are in the process of being revised incorporating comments received from the subcommittee, which will meet again next week to review the reports. The reports will be presented to the TAC at the December 12th meeting, at which time the authors will request that the TAC recommend to the SC to approve the reports. A minor wording change was suggested on the Nutrients Synthesis Report.

Action Item:

- Send comments or suggested edits to the draft reports to ASC (TAC members, by 10/5/2017).

9. Planning for the Pulse of the Delta

Matt Heberger (ASC) solicited input from the TAC on potential audiences and themes for the *Pulse of the Delta* publication. Some suggestions from the TAC:

- Combine themes of A & B, e.g., "Delta RMP focused accomplishments; Delta RMP and others fill critical data gaps to inform management needs."
- Consider something more dynamic/online vs. a print publication, or a combination of the two platforms.
- Add "potential partners" to secondary audience group.

10. Planning for the October 24, 2017 Joint TAC-SC Meeting

The TAC generated the following potential discussion items for the October 24 joint meeting agenda. The first three listed here were identified as the highest priority.

1. **Decision matrix applied to pesticides monitoring proposals.**
2. **Planning budget for FY18/19 – set priorities by highlighting management and assessment questions to be addressed in each of the focus areas (pesticides, nutrients, mercury).**
3. **Year 1-2 Interpretive Report RFP and Scope + Conflict of Interest Policy**
4. Revisions to the Delta RMP Charter.
5. Funding for Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) monitoring, to be led by Josie Tellers.
6. Visualization of Delta RMP pesticide data with Tableau software, to be led by Greg Gearhardt.
7. RMP improvements addressing the External Review.
8. Improving Monitoring Integration with other programs.
9. Planning the Pulse of the Delta.
10. Year 1 Pesticides Report Approval.
11. Recruiting Science Advisors
12. Multi-Year Planning
13. Data Management Plan

11. Information

The TAC reviewed the status of action items and deliverables.

12. Updates

Future agenda items to consider:

- Pesticides monitoring design decision matrix
- Portal demos (Bay Delta Live, San Joaquin, Sacramento, My Water Quality/Estuary)
- Presentation on Passive Samplers
- Presentation on DWR's Regional Salinity Modeling project
- Field work experience / monitoring site visits