

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

Thursday, March 15, 2018; 10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

### Draft Meeting Summary

#### Attendees:

#### TAC members, alternates, and staff present:

TAC Members	Representing	Affiliation	Position
Anderson-Abbs, Bev	Regulatory-State	State Water Board	member
Ashby, Karen	Stormwater	Larry Walker Associates (LWA)	member
Cooke, Janice	Regulatory-State	Central Valley Water Board	member
Denton, Debra		US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	member
Fong, Stephanie	Water Supply	State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)	member
Frankenbach, Rolf	Coordinated Monitoring	CA Department of Water Resources (DWR)	alternate
Irvine, Cam	POTW	Robertson-Bryan Inc.	alternate
Johnson, Michael	Agriculture	MLJ-LLC	alternate
Laurenson, Brian	Stormwater	LWA	member
McCaslin-Taylor, Hope	Stormwater	LWA	alternate
Mussen, Tim	POTW	Regional San	member
Phillips, Amy	Stormwater	El Dorado County	member
Pirondini, Tony	POTW	City of Vacaville	member
Smith, Lynda	Water Supply	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	alternate
Thompson, Lisa	POTW	Regional San	alternate
Turner, Melissa	Agriculture	MLJ-LLC	member
Upadhyay, Vyomini	POTW	Regional San	member
Van Nieuwenhuysse, Erwin	Coordinated Monitoring	IEP/US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	member

#### Ex-officio and staff

Cole, Selina	Staff, TAC alternate	Central Valley Regional Water Board
Davis, Jay	Staff	Aquatic Science Center
Heberger, Matthew	Staff	Aquatic Science Center
Heim, Wes	Contractor, monitoring partner	Moss Landing Marine Laboratory
Kapahi, Gita	Facilitator	Office of Public Participation/State Water Board
McCord, Stephen	TAC Co-Chair	MEI
Morris, Patrick	Staff	Central Valley Regional Water Board
Trowbridge, Phil	Staff	Aquatic Science Center

**Others**

Duff, Kelly		Dixon Resource Conservation District
Lawson, Dave		Western Plan Health Association
Lesmeister, Sara		CA DWR
Louie, Stephen		CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)
Orlando, Jim		U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Safi, Samsor	Steering Committee member	Regional San

**1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda**

Participants approved the agenda.

- Gita Kapahi, Director of the Office of Public Participation for the California State Water Resources Control Board, served as the facilitator for the meeting. Gita will also serve as facilitator for the next meeting of the Pesticides Subcommittee.

**2. Decision: Approve TAC Meeting Summary for December 12, 2017 meeting and confirm/set future TAC meeting dates**

Participants approved the summary of the December 12, 2017 TAC meeting. The committee reviewed the upcoming meeting calendar and tentatively set an additional half-day meeting on April 23, 2018, from 1 pm – 5 pm.

**Upcoming Scheduled Meetings**

- TAC Meeting: April 23, 2018 1 pm – 5 pm, at Regional San
- SC: May 11, 2018 at Regional Board Office
- TAC Meeting: June 12, 2018, 10 am – 4 pm, at Regional San
- TAC Meeting: September 21, 2018, 10 am – 4 pm, at Location TBD

A concern was expressed that the quote which appears below in Item 5 of the December 12, 2017 meeting summary is technically incorrect:

*Rewrite the paragraph beginning “Concerns have been raised that some of the C. dubia tests that exhibited toxicity are false positives” to better and more succinctly explain the low EC quality control issue.*

Matt Heberger will revise the December 12, 2017 TAC Summary to clarify that this wording was removed from the Current Use Pesticides Data Report. The December 12, 2017 Meeting Summary was approved with this edit.

**Action Items:**

- Matt Heberger (ASC): Set April 23, 2018 and September 21, 2018 meeting locations and announce to TAC.
- Matt will also revise the December 12, 2017 TAC Summary to clarify the edit which was made to the Current Use Pesticides Data Report.

### 3. Information: Steering Committee Update

Stephen McCord presented a summary of the outcomes of the March 2, 2018 Steering Committee Meeting.

- An upgraded web site for the TAC is under construction. This is the workspace for the TAC and Subcommittees: <https://sites.google.com/a/sfei.org/delta-rmp/>
- Gita Kapahi has been recruited to help facilitate the TAC and Subcommittees.
- Co-chair Linda Dorn has moved to a new position, and Debbie Webster was voted in as new Co-Chair for the Steering Committee.
- A preliminary discussion was held on the topic of fee increases. A more in-depth discussion will be scheduled at a later date.
- Delta Science Plan requested input from the RMP on the Delta Science Plan 2018 review and update. A SC subgroup was formed to interface with the Delta Science Plan. Any members interested in participating in that group let Matt or Stephen know.
- There was a discussion on data flow and management, with a recommendation for the TAC to consider creating a Data Management Subcommittee.
- Greg Gearheart appointed Bev Anderson-Abbs to replace Rich Breuer as TAC representative, as Rich has moved on to a new position.
- The framework for the proposed CEC Special Study by the RMP was presented. This is a study mandated by the State and Regional boards to the dischargers. The Steering Committee suggested that the group that has been developing the workplan continue as the CEC Technical Workgroup (Subcommittee).

### 4. Technical Subcommittee and Monitoring Updates

Short updates were provided on recent monitoring activities.

Stephen McCord gave an update on **mercury** monitoring. October 2017 6 sites sampled for sediment and water. January 2018 6 sites for sediment sampled, and 2 for water. February 2018 8 sites were sampled for water. Planned mercury monitoring for 2018 is same 6 sites for sediment in April and June. Water sampling will be monthly at 8 sites March – October.

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

- The high frequency cruise scheduled for October 2017 could not operate. Scheduled to operate next in May 2018. There will be 3 cruises this year, spring/summer/fall.
- Sensor Intercalibration Study is yielding benefits beyond the actual data, finding better ways to collaborate on more than just nutrient data.

### 5. Discussion: Ranking process for monitoring proposals for FY17/18

Matt Heberger demonstrated the use of the Decision Grid Survey and summarized the process for using the grid for ranking the four pending proposals (Nutrients, Mercury,

CECs & Pesticides). Committee members were also asked to review as necessary the conflict of interest policy in the Delta RMP Charter (duty to *disclose* and *recuse*).

- There was a request made to add a question on technical merit to the survey. Recommendations for additional questions to be added to the survey should be forwarded to Matt.

**Action Items:**

- Matt Heberger will revise the survey as appropriate and forward a link for completing the Decision Grid Survey for each proposal to be rated.

## **6. Discussion: Review monitoring proposals for FY 2018/19 for Nutrients and Mercury**

Phil Trowbridge presented the two Nutrients projects:

- *Merging High-Frequency Water Quality Data and Models to Gain Insights into the Factors Regulating Phytoplankton Blooms in the Delta in WY2016*
- *Making Sense of Fluorescence From Sensors Intercalibration Study for Chlorophyll*

Jay Davis and Wes Heim presented the Mercury Proposal for FY 18/19.

**Action Items:**

- Matt Heberger will forward the Decision Grid Survey link after the meeting, with a deadline for submission. Committee members should submit their responses by the deadline and be prepared to discuss at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## **7. Discussion: Review CEC monitoring proposal**

Brian Laurenson presented the background, framework and workplan elements for the proposed special study by the RMP on Contaminants of Emerging Concern. The committee expressed several concerns. Some of the committee recommendations were to expand the list of analytes and evaluate closer to the sources (POTW, urban runoff inputs) in the first years, then move downstream. Brian will submit a revised workplan by March 30, 2018 and indicated he would include comments received from the TAC and SFEI in narrative form in the revised workplan. Committee members interested in working with the CEC Subcommittee should contact Brian.

**Action Items:**

- Matt Heberger will forward the Decision Grid Survey link after the meeting, with a deadline for submission. Committee members should submit their responses by the deadline and be prepared to discuss at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## **8. Discussion: Review pesticide monitoring proposals**

Matt Heberger and Stephen McCord provided a status update on the draft **pesticide** monitoring designs. These two had been revised based on Steering Committee direction at the

March 2, 2018 meeting. The Steering Committee directed ASC at the March 2, 2018 meeting to continue working on both the Delta-Wide Random Sampling proposal and the Hybrid Option.

**Action Items:**

- Mike Johnson and Matt Heberger will develop the modified versions of the proposed designs and have them ready for review by the Pesticides Subcommittee.
- Matt Heberger will set the next Pesticide Subcommittee meeting date based on the Doodle Poll, closing March 16, 2018, and notify committee members of the meeting date.

## **9. Recruiting Science Advisors**

Committee members voted for Science Advisors and the top choices are as follows:

- **Monitoring and Design**
  - 1) Dr. Dennis Helsel, USGS and Practical Stats
  - 2) Dr. Neal Willits, UC Davis
  - 3) Dr. Thomas Grieb, TetraTech
  - 4) Steve Saiz, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- **Toxicity / Pesticides / Contaminants**
  - 1) Dr. Lisa Nowell, USGS
  - 2) Dr. Gary Cherr, UC Davis

**Action Item:**

- Reconfirm their interest and availability, and determine whether an honorarium can be paid to each; federal employees are typically not eligible to receive honoraria (Matt Heberger, by April 30, 2018).

## **10. Decision: Recommendation on Year 1 Mercury Data Report**

Jay Davis and Wes Heim presented the Year 1 Mercury Data Report. A recommendation was made to use Liberty Island (instead of Prospect Slough) for Cache Slough data. There were no objections to recommending to the Steering Committee to finalize the report for publication, contingent upon consideration of the Liberty Island data.

**Action Items:**

- Jay Davis and Wes Heim will look at revising the data per the above recommendation.

## **11. Information: Status of Deliverables and Action Items**

Action Items are as stated in the summary.