



**SGVCOG Joint Water Policy Committee/TAC Meeting
Approved Minutes**

Date: January 12, 2020
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Zoom/YouTube teleconference meeting

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:02 A.M.
2. Roll Call

Water Policy Committee Members Present

J. Stark; Claremont
G. Boyer; Glendora
G. Crudgington; Monrovia
M. Clark; Rosemead
D. Mahmud; South Pasadena

Water Policy Committee Members Absent

LA County District #1
Sierra Madre

Water TAC Members Present

D. Dolphin; Alhambra
S. Costandi, S. Gallant; Covina
A. Sweet; Glendora
F. Villaluna; LA County Public Works
A. Tachiki; Monrovia
J. Carver; Pomona
J. Carlson; Sierra Madre
E. Reyes; SGVMWD
T. Love; USGVMWD

Water TAC Members Absent

Arcadia
Bradbury
Duarte
South Pasadena

Ex Officio Members Present

K. Gardner, L. Augino; SG Basin Watermaster
S. Green; LA County Sanitation Districts

Ex Officio Members Absent

Guests

A. Syed; MWD
N. Razavian; MWD
J. Sheehy; Napolitano's Office
B. Pence; Napolitano's Office
V. Murphy; Portantino's Office
S. Armenta Lopez; Rubio's Office
M. Lyons; Holden's Office

SGVCOG Staff

S. Matthews
C. Sims

3. Public Comment

R. Tahir provided the following public comment:

- The SGVCOG should strongly consider abandoning negotiating with the regional board within the bounds of the MS4 permit’s E/WMP requirements and instead rely on state elected officials to urge the board to: (1) eliminate invalid metals TMDLs for San Gabriel Valley cities; and (2) the bacteria TMDL which is subject to the high flow suspension regulation and applies to all cities in the San Gabriel Valley.
- Negotiating with board staff will not result in an appreciable reduction in TMDL and water quality standards compliance costs. The Executive Officer, Renee Purdy, along with board member Charles Stringer, asserted that E/WMP costs are not going to be reduced, regardless of the cost impact on local governments. They argue that federal stormwater regulations do not allow the use of economics as an excuse for not complying MS4 permit requirements. This is true. However, E/WMPs are not a federally authorized MS4 permit requirement. The only mandated requirement is the stormwater management program governed by an iterative process as asserted by USEPA.
- The COG has no negotiating leverage. It can only appeal to the Board staff’s sense of fairness and sensitivity to the impact of the pandemic on municipal budgets. Staff does not care. Please note that the E/WMPs were Renee Purdy’s idea.
- Eliminating the metals TMDLs and the bacteria TMDL would reduce compliance costs next to nothing. This should not be hard to believe. The error in the group’s EWMP submittal by its previous consultant (CWE) resulted in a correction of the over-estimation of runoff (a factor of 10) that needed to be infiltrated in order to meet the lead TMDL for the San Gabriel River. This reduced the cost from \$1.4 billion to \$122 million roughly over a 20-year period. If just lead is eliminated – which it was by USEPA in addition to not being on the 303(d) list for the San Gabriel River and Reach 2 of the Rio Hondo – it follows that the \$122 million would be eliminated for the group.
- I sent a memo to Vice-Chair Mahmud regarding the I-WMPs not recognized in the tentative MS4 permit.
- Lastly, there is a serious mistake in the Upper Los Angeles River EWMP which if corrected would save South Pasadena, Pasadena, Alhambra, and La Canada-Flintridge millions in TMDL compliance costs (not just due to the invalid TMDLs). If anyone is interested, please let me know by January 18, 2021.

4. Changes to Agenda Order.
No changes to agenda order.

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. Water Committee/TAC November Meeting Minutes

There was a motion to approve the Water Committee/TAC November meeting minutes.

(M/S: J. Stark/G. Boyer)

[MOTION PASSED]

AYES:	Committee – Claremont; Glendora; Monrovia; South Pasadena TAC – Alhambra; Covina; Glendora; Monrovia; Pomona; LA County Public Works; Sierra Madre; SGVMWD; USGVMWD
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NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	Committee – Rosemead
ABSENT:	Committee –Sierra Madre; LA County District 1 TAC – Arcadia; Bradbury; Duarte; South Pasadena

PRESENTATIONS

6. Metropolitan Water District Stormwater Capture Pilot Program – Noosha Razavian, Assistant Resource Specialist II & Areeba Syed, Associate Resource Specialist, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
N. Razavian and A. Syed provided a presentation on MWD Stormwater Pilot Programs, a Recharge Pilot Program and a Direct Use Pilot Program. The Recharge Pilot Program is open to new and existing projects that capture stormwater for groundwater recharge. The Direct Use Pilot Program focuses on projects that capture and directly use stormwater on-site. There were clarification questions on the funding amounts and purposes of the programs. MWD staff emphasized that the pilot programs, with small budgets, will focus on collecting and analyzing data in order to assess costs, benefits, and scalability.

UPDATE ITEMS

7. State Water Resources Control Board Second Proposed Order on Approval of Watershed Management Programs and an Enhanced Watershed Management Program
S. Matthews provided an update on the State Board Order which was approved by the State Board on November 17, 2020. A. Tachiki emphasized concern that the Regional Board has not yet provided guidance on providing further justification and proof of rigor on utilizing the limiting pollutant approach, which will be needed prior to RAA revisions due June 2021.
8. Tentative 2020 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit
S. Matthews provided an update on the SGVCOG comment letter on the MS4 Permit which was approved at the SGVCOG Governing Board on November 19, 2020 and was submitted to the Regional Board ahead of the public comment period deadline of December 7, 2020.
9. Safe Clean Water Program
S. Matthews provided an update on the Safe Clean Water program, that the WASCs have been interviewing watershed coordinators, and that the Scoring Committee has been scoring FY21-22 Infrastructure Program projects. A. Tachiki emphasized the need to look at Year 3 scoring guidelines and to provide comment to County staff.
10. Legislative Updates
J. Sheehy provided an update on COVID-19 relief funding, the 2021 Appropriations Bill, and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Passed in December 2020, the COVID-19 relief bill includes \$638 million in water bill assistance for low-income households. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will administer the program and distribute funds to states which will in turn distribute funds to utilities. Passed in December 2020, the 2021 Appropriations Bill provides \$192.5 million for the Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Project which will fund construction through the next two years. J. Sheehy expressed confidence that the project would be fully funded in future years. WRDA would authorize \$9.9 billion in federal funds. In Southern California, 95% of funding

would focus on Army Corps rivers, dams, and harbors that operate in our region and would dramatically increase funding to the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Other provisions would address trespassing and fire abatement on Army Corps property. Committee members expressed their condolences and provided well wishes to Congresswoman Napolitano and her staff given the recent violence in Washington, D.C.

11. Litigation Update
No updates.
12. E/WMP Updates
D. Dolphin announced the ULAR group is working on the RAA due in June 2021 and released a new website. A. Tachiki announced that the Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River group is working on a Rio Hondo ecosystem project with Army Corps as part of WRDA.
13. Water TAC Chair Report
A. Tachiki recommended the TAC look at the Safe Clean Water program website, the Scoring Committee and ROC minutes and guidance that will have impacts for scoring round 3, and recommended the TAC convene to provide comprehensive comments.
14. Water Supply Update
T. Love provided a water supply update, announcing that demands for imported water in 2020 were low and we are not seeing rebound in water demands after fires due to local supply. Agricultural water use has been lower on the Colorado River in 2020 allowing other diverters to put water into storage. Metropolitan set new record for putting water in storage with a 20% State Water Project allocation. K. Gardner announced that on January 8 the key well measured 200.2 which is over the goal of 200 but less than last year's 212.
15. Water Boards Update
A. Tachiki announced that the Regional Board will be meeting in January to discuss issues around racial inequity and will begin discussing MS4 Permit in February.

CHAIR'S REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 A.M.