

## Delta RMP Steering Committee Meeting

April 30, 2013

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 present<sup>1</sup>:*

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

Gregg Erickson, Coordinated Monitoring (IEP/CDFW)

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

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

Tim Vendlinski, Regulatory – Federal (U.S. EPA)

Erich Delmas, Alternate-POTWs (City of Tracy)

Casey Wichert, Alternate-POTWs (City of Brentwood)

Linda Dorn, POTWs (SRCSD)

*On phone:*

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

Stephanie Fong, Alternate-Water Supply (SFCWA)

Val Connor, Water Supply (SFCWA)

*Others present:*

Brock Bernstein, Facilitator

Thomas Jabusch, ASC



Vyomini Pandya, SRCSD

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<sup>1</sup> Name, Representation (Affiliation)

- Stephen McCord, MEI
- Brian Laurenson, LWA
- Rainer Hoenicke, DSP
- Meghan Sullivan, Central Valley Regional Water Board
- Stephen Clark, Pacific Ecorisk
- Bruce Houdesheldt, SVWQC
- Karen Ashby, LWA
- Rachel Kubiak, Western Plant Health
- Tom Grovhoug, LWA
- Timothy Mussen, SRCSD
- Patrick Morris, Central Valley Regional Water Board
- On phone:*
- Debbie Webster, CVCWA
- Brian Exberger, Veolia Water – City of Rio Vista

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p>Brock Bernstein reviewed the agenda and expected outcomes. Linda Dorn requested to add to the information update a clarification about Regional Board outreach activities in the Delta.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Approval of agenda and minutes</b></p> <p>The agenda and April 30, 2013, meeting minutes were approved.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Information update</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Delta RMP outreach (Meghan Sullivan):</u> A) The Central Valley Regional Board will be one of the agencies participating in Delta water quality outreach meetings planned by the Delta Conservancy on May 14 in Stockton and May 16 in Courtland. The Regional Board will be manning a table to discuss monitoring with local residents. At this point, Ken Landau is planning to represent the Regional Board at these outreach meetings. B) A Delta RMP update is on the agenda for the May 7 State Water Board meeting. The meeting starts at 9:30 and the Delta RMP update will be the last agenda item, but has no specific time slot at this time. Ken Landau, Dave Tamayo, Mike Wackman, and Linda Dorn have</li> </ol>

	<p>confirmed to present different perspectives of the Delta RMP SC. Rainer Hoenicke will present the perspective of the Delta Science Program.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Overview of Delta RMP development pathway</b>                  For discussion purposes, Brock Bernstein presented a flow chart illustrating his current understanding of the envisioned development pathway for the Delta RMP. SC generally agreed with the ideas presented in the diagram, but would have comments to incorporate, if it would be used as a product rather than as a discussion piece. At this point, it only served as a conversation piece for the meeting. A discussion ensued on the definition of “monitoring” in the context of permit changes. Ken Landau clarified that the definition of monitoring in this context includes not only open water receiving water monitoring, but also things like discharge/effluent monitoring, field-screening (for stormwater), or visual inspection. Dave Tamayo noted that a broader, more inclusive term i.e. that also includes compliance activities would be advantageous, to provide flexibility to permit writers.</p> <p>                  RMP pathway.pdf</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Action: Management questions</b>  <u>Outcome:</u> Editorial changes were approved. In addition, it was decided to move the questions related to effectiveness tracking to the bottom of the table.</p> <p>                  final core management question</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Action: Guiding principles</b>                  Delta RMP staff presented guiding principles for review and approval. SC members advised to edit such that the guiding principles link to the management questions, a strategic plan for the Delta RMP (see flow chart for Delta RMP pathway), and the Delta Plan.  <u>Outcome:</u> staff will edit the guiding principles based on comments and send out a revised version for approval</p>
<p>7</p>	

<p><b>Action: Initial Assessment Targets</b></p> <p>The discussion was framed to address two topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reconfirm the broad categories of constituents the SC had agree to investigate as potential initial assessment targets, and</li> <li>2. Provide feedback on a template for white papers on each of these categories, to be developed under the guidance of the TAC Chair</li> </ol> <p>1. <u>Initial assessment targets</u>: the March 27 meeting pointed to four potential initial assessment targets to further investigate: pathogens, methylmercury, nutrients, and pesticides. As an additional option, Regional Board staff proposed to consider regional characterization studies, which are needed for the reasonable potential analysis in discharge permitting. Tim Vendlinski asked whether it hadn't already been decided to focus the investigation on pesticides and toxicity. It was clarified that although there was some consensus at the previous meeting that pesticides are a logical starting point, several represented groups felt that they needed more information to make such decisions. It was further clarified that at this point, the term "pesticides" corresponds to its legal definition<sup>2</sup>. Dave Tamayo suggested narrowing down the topic to certain pesticides that should be discussed by one or several white papers. It was also clarified that pesticides and toxicity are to be separated as issues considered for investigation. Val Connor indicated that the USGS has just completed a study of the presence of current-use pesticides in the Delta and Suisun Bay.</p> <p><u>Outcome</u>: six issues are being investigated as initial assessment targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nutrients</li> <li>2. Pesticides (incl. herbicides, fungicides)</li> <li>3. Toxicity</li> <li>4. Methylmercury</li> <li>5. Ambient background characterization for priority pollutants</li> <li>6. Pathogens</li> </ol> <p>2. <u>Feedback on template for white papers</u>: Thomas Jabusch presented a template for consideration for the white papers/factsheets that are going to be developed for the potential initial assessment targets.</p> <p><u>Outcome</u>: The Steering Committee suggested reorganizing the template to match the Delta RMP's management questions and to summarize available information and data gaps relative to each. Using the new template, the scope of some topics may need to be modified; for example, the TAC would have to narrow down the topic "pesticides" to a list of groups (e.g., based on listings, use patterns, chemical behavior) that are of concern and that may need to be reviewed separately. Once</p>
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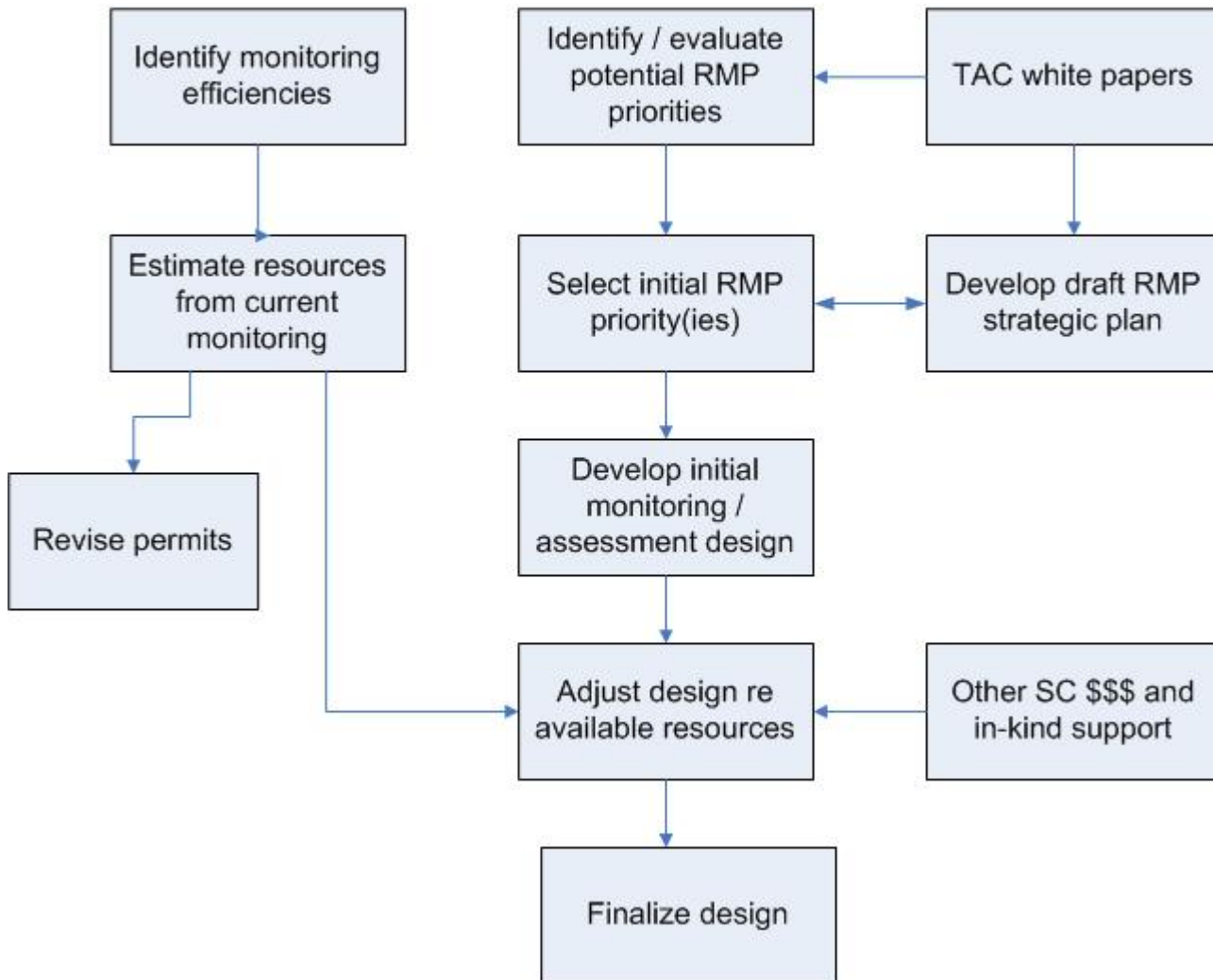
<sup>2</sup>i.e., "any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, attracting or mitigating any insects, rodents, nematodes, fungi, weeds or other forms of plant or animal life and/or bacteria and viruses (except bacteria or viruses on or in living man or other animals) which is determined to be a pest."

	completed, the reviews will be presented to the SC.
8.	<p><b>Selection of TAC chair</b></p> <p>Two candidates for TAC chair (Stephen McCord and Mike Johnson) had been nominated and their short bios/statement of qualification and statements of interests had been distributed in advance of the meeting for consideration by the Steering Committee. At the meeting, Joe Domagalski (USGS) also indicated his intent to be considered as a TAC chair candidate. The two TAC Chair candidates present (Stephen McCord and Joe Domagalski) were asked to leave the room for the duration of the TAC Chair selection discussion. Brock Bernstein suggested to the SC to consider the idea of having two co-chairs. Mike Wackman expressed strong concerns over the process, because Joe Domagalski's information had not been circulated in advance, whereas the two other candidates had been nominated and their information submitted by the April 17<sup>th</sup> due date. The Steering Committee came to an agreement to choose two co-chairs among the three candidates at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> The Steering Committee will select two TAC co-chairs on June 4<sup>th</sup> among three candidates (Joe Domagalski, Stephen McCord, Mike Johnson)</p>
9.	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Central Valley Regional Board (9:00 to 12:00).</p>
10.	<p><b>+/<math>\Delta</math><sup>3</sup> on today's meeting</b></p> <p>No formal plus/delta was done, but several suggestions were provided during or after the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Post all meeting materials on the website in advance</li> <li>- Update all materials on the Delta RMP website (e.g. management questions, mission statement) as they are being updated</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> A +/ $\Delta$  allows a team, group, or committee quickly to gather feedback from its participants on what it has been doing well and what it could do better. The name, intentionally more positive than Plus/Minus would be, uses delta, the Greek letter that symbolizes change in mathematics, to highlight the group's opportunities for improving how it does its work. The process can take as few as five minutes, i.e. going around the table asking, "What was good/went well in this meeting?" "What can we improve?"

<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Action items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10.1. Staff to distribute management questions for final review (due: May 15).</li> <li>10.2. Staff to edit draft guiding principles based on comments and redistribute for approval (due: May 15)</li> <li>10.3. Staff to reorganize and edit draft template for white papers (due: May 15)</li> <li>10.4. SC final comments to Meghan Sullivan on management questions, guiding principles, and white paper template (due: May 22)</li> </ul>

# Delta RMP Development Pathway



## Delta RMP Core Management Questions

Type	Management Questions
Status and Trends	<p>Is there a problem or are there signs of a problem?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is water quality currently, or trending towards, adversely affecting beneficial uses of the Delta?</li> <li>b. Are contaminants (e.g., pesticides, nutrients) impairing beneficial uses in subregions of the Delta?</li> <li>c. Are trends similar or different across different subregions of the Delta?</li> </ol>
Sources, Pathways, Loadings, and Processes	<p>Which contaminant sources and processes are most important to understand and quantify?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Which sources, pathways, loadings, and processes (e.g., transformations, bioaccumulation) contribute most to impacts?</li> <li>b. What are the relative contributions of each source (e.g., municipal wastewater, atmospheric deposition)?</li> <li>c. What are the relative contributions of internal sources (e.g., benthic flux) and sinks to the Delta contaminant budgets?</li> </ol>
Forecasting Water Quality Under Different Management Scenarios	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How do ambient water quality conditions respond to different management scenarios</li> <li>b. What contaminant loads can the Delta assimilate without impairment of beneficial uses?</li> <li>c. What is the likelihood that the Delta will be water quality-impaired in the future?</li> </ol>
Effectiveness Tracking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Are water quality conditions improving as a result of management actions such that beneficial uses will be met?</li> <li>b. Are loadings changing as a result of management actions?</li> </ol>