



## Delta RMP Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee Joint Meeting Summary

October 24, 2017  
9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Delta Stewardship Council Building  
980 9th Street, 2nd Floor, Room A  
Sacramento, CA

### Attendees:

#### Voting Steering Committee (and/or Alternate) members present<sup>1</sup>:

Participant	Representing	Affiliation	Voting Member?	In Attendance?
Wackman, Mike	Agriculture 1	San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition	Primary	Y
Houdesheldt, Bruce	Agriculture 1	Sacramento Valley WQ Coalition	Alternate	N
Cory, David	Agriculture 2	Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition	Primary	Y
Klassen, Parry	Agriculture 2	East San Joaquin WQ Coalition	Alternate	N
Erickson, Gregg	Coordinated Monitoring	Interagency Ecological Program (IEP)/Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)	Primary	N
Gehrts, Karen	Coordinated Monitoring	IEP/Department of Water Resources (DWR)	Alternate	N
Van Nieuwenhuyse, Erwin	Coordinated Monitoring	IEP/US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	Alternate	N

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Dorn, Linda	POTW 1	Regional San	Primary, Co-Chair	Y
Tellers, Josie	POTW 2	City of Davis	Primary	N
Antypas, Deedee	POTW 3	City of Stockton	Primary	By phone
Wichert, Casey	POTW	City of Brentwood	Alternate	N
Webster, Debbie	POTW	Central Valley Clean Water Association	Alternate	By Phone
Shareghi, Nader	POTW	Mountain House Community Services District (CSD)	Alternate	N
Upadhyay, Vyomini	POTW	Regional San	Alternate	Y
Safi, Samsor	POTW	Regional San	Alternate	Y
Skrel, Jenny	POTW	Ironhouse Sanitary District	Alternate	N
Pirondini, Tony	POTW	City of Vacaville	Alternate	Y
Grovhoug, Tom	POTW	Larry Walker and Associates (LWA)	Alternate	Y
Fleming, Terry	Regulatory-Federal	U.S. EPA Region 9 Water Division	Primary	Y
Cabrera-Stagno, Valentina	Regulatory-Federal	U.S. EPA Region 9 Water Division	Alternate	N
Laputz, Adam	Regulatory-State	Central Valley Regional Water Board	Primary, Co-Chair	Y
Creedon, Pamela	Regulatory-State	Central Valley Regional Water Board	Alternate	N
Gearheart, Greg	Regulatory-State	State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Information Management and Analysis (OIMA)	Primary	Y
Vacant	Regulatory-State		Alternate	
Tamayo, Dave	Stormwater, Phase I	Sacramento County	Primary	N
Fadl, Dalia	Stormwater, Phase I	City of Sacramento	Alternate	Y
Hiestand, Stephanie	Stormwater, Phase II 1	City of Tracy	Primary	By Phone
Nakagawa, Brandon	Stormwater, Phase II 1	County of San Joaquin	Alternate	N
Ferry, Brendan	Stormwater Phase II 2	El Dorado County	Primary	By Phone
Vacant	Stormwater Phase II 2		Alternate	

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Smith, Lynda	Water Supply	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Alternate	N
Fong, Stephanie	Water Supply	State and Federal Contractors Water Authority (SFWCA)	Alternate	Y
Laura Valoppi	Water Supply	SFCWA	Primary	Y
Okoro, Melanie	Resource Agencies	National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Primary	N
Stuart, Jeff	Resource Agencies	NMFS	Alternate	N

### Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members

Domagalski, Joseph	TAC Co-Chair	U.S. Geological Survey	TAC Co-Chair	N
McCord, Stephen	TAC Co-Chair	MEI	TAC Co-Chair	Y
Johnson, Michael	Agriculture	MLJ-LLC	TAC alternate	Y
Turner, Melissa	Agriculture	MLJ-LLC	TAC member	Y
Pirondini, Tony	POTW	City of Vacaville	TAC member	Y
Ashby, Karen	Stormwater	LWA	TAC member	Y
Breuer, Rich	Regulatory-State	State Water Board	TAC member	Y
Mussen, Tim	POTW	Regional San	TAC member	Y
Fong, Stephanie	Water Supply	SWFCA	TAC member	Y
Cooke, Janice	Regulatory-State	Central Valley Water Board	TAC member	Y
Duff, Kelly		Dixon Resource Conservation District	TAC member	By phone
Laurenson, Brian	Stormwater	LWA	TAC member	Y
Thompson, Lisa	POTW	Regional San	TAC member	Y

### Ex Officio, Staff, and Others

Bernstein, Brock			Moderator	Y
Morris, Patrick		Central Valley Regional Water Board	Staff	Y
Cole, Selina		Central Valley Regional Water Board	Staff	Y
Heberger, Matthew		Aquatic Science Center (ASC)	Staff	Y
Trowbridge, Phil		ASC	Staff	Y
Mumley, Thomas	Regulatory-State	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board	Presenter	Y
Orlando, Jim		U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)		Y

Louie, Stephen		CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)		Y
De Parsia, Matt		USGS		Y
Bedore, Paul		RBI consultants, representing the Port of Stockton		By phone
Henneberry, Yumiko		Delta Science Program (DSP)	Presenter	Y
Liang, Priscilla		MEI		Y

## 1. Introductions and Review Agenda

All attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was established.

## 2. Welcome to New Delta RMP Participants

After discussion, the Steering Committee voted to approve the addition of a new voting member and alternate to the Steering Committee representing dredgers. The dredgers may also name a delegate and an alternate to the TAC. Toward the end of the last fiscal year, the Port of West Sacramento and the Port of Stockton have begun contributing to the program, and other dredgers (e.g., Sacramento Yacht Club) are likely to join in the next year or two.

**Action Item:** Revise the roster in the Charter to reflect this change (Matthew Heberger, by 11/30/2017).

## 3. Decision: Approve Steering Committee Meeting Summary

The July 28, 2017 Meeting Summary was approved by consensus with one minor edit (removing a name from an action item).

The date for upcoming meetings were set or confirmed:

Winter TAC Meeting, Tuesday, December 12, 2017  
Regional San, 10060 Goethe Road, Sacramento, CA

Winter SC Meeting, Tuesday, January 23, 2018  
CV Regional Water Quality Control Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA

An update was given on the following two action items from the July 28, 2017, meeting:

- Stephanie Fong (SWFCA) noted that the SWFCA board had voted approve funding in the amount of \$100,000 for at least one more year.
- Per Matt Heberger, the discussion of in-kind projects and how they fit into the workplan and TAC/Steering Committee approval process is scheduled for the January 23, 2018, Steering Committee meeting.

### **Action Items:**

- Finalize the 7/28/17 Meeting Summary and post to the website. (Matt Heberger, by 11/30/2017)

## **4. Information: Technical Advisory Committee Update**

Stephen McCord provided a summary of the items covered in the September 21<sup>st</sup> TAC meeting. The draft meeting summary was included in the agenda package distributed to TAC and SC members.

Participants discussed the Year One Pesticides Report and offered the following feedback:

- Look to opportunities to streamline development and finalization in the report process.
- Consider using a formal response to comments process for program reports, even minor ones, as the program committees are learning to work together.

The process for nomination of Science Advisors has been initiated but only two nominations have been received so far. We hope to collect many more names for consideration. All TAC, SC, and subcommittee members are encouraged to submit names:

- Link to Science Advisor nomination form: <https://goo.gl/forms/QJK7FNh7BPspLzHR2>

### **Action Items:**

- Matt Heberger to email the Science Advisor Form to Steering Committee members, as well as a reminder to TAC members to continue to submit additional nominations by the end of the year.

## **5. Information: Delta Science Action Agenda and Delta Science Plan Update**

Yumiko Henneberry (Delta Science Program) provided an overview of the Delta Science Action Agenda and the Delta Science Plan Update.

- Dr. Henneberry highlighted two areas of interest for the Delta RMP in the Science Action Agenda:
  - Action Area 4 – Improve understanding of interactions between stressors and their communities.
  - Action Area 5 – Modernize and improve monitoring, data management, and modeling.
- The Delta Science Program is also requesting an agenda item on the January 23, 2018 SC agenda to collect input from Steering Committee members on items for inclusion, and suggestions for direction, for the Science Plan Update. SC members are also invited to participate in the public meeting on the plan in late March.

## Action Items:

- Matt Heberger will forward the Delta Science Plan questionnaire to Steering Committee members in advance of the January 23, 2018 meeting.

## 6. Discussion: Funding for Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) Projects

Thomas Mumley (San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, or “Region 2”) presented an overview of Region 2’s CEC Strategy, including the RMP’s Tiered Prioritization Framework. A key part of the program strategy is recurring review of scientific literature and a survey of other CECs monitoring programs around the world. The Bay RMP has also adopted a “Tiered Prioritization Framework”, which is based on the probability that a contaminant will have an effect on Bay wildlife and the likely magnitude of that effect. Another important aspect of the Bay RMP CECs monitoring strategy is the use of new analytical methods for “non-targeted monitoring” of thousands of compounds to identify previously unidentified contaminants in the Bay.

Committee members discussed whether it makes sense for the Delta RMP to develop a CEC monitoring program of our own, or become part of a larger existing monitoring program.

## 7. Discussion: Data Assessment Framework

Tom Grovhoug (LWA) presented an outline of a proposed Data Assessment Framework. The concept was inspired in part by a presentation by Keith Maruya of Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) at the Workshops on Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) and Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring on May 1-2, 2017. Its purpose is to help stakeholders gain an understanding *in advance* of how data will be used in policy and management.

Therefore, it is a facilitation and decision-making tool to help think through and communicate the implications of proposed monitoring designs that may come before the Delta RMP. For example, the framework will help identify where a monitoring method falls on the scale from “tried and true” to new and experimental. Also, if a compound is detected in the environment, what is its effect on plant and animal species? Does it have an effect at the molecular or cellular level, or are there also changes to behavior or mortality? And is there ultimately a significant effect on populations?

Answering these questions can help us to understand whether there is an effect on the beneficial uses of a waterway, and whether the data collected are sufficient to make that determination. Beneficial use is ultimately what matters most, as it is the key driver for water quality regulation under state and federal law. Some of the feedback from the committee:

- Greg Gearheart offered to have the State Water Board’s Office of Information Management (OIMA) host a half-day workshop to further develop the framework.

- Clarify linkages between the RMP management/assessment questions and the tiered prioritization framework.
- Some participants expressed concerns about whether this initiative is necessary or should be a high priority.
- Others expressed concern about the focus on beneficial uses, suggesting that any and all impacts of water pollution are notable and worth measuring.
- Others expressed concern about the name, and suggested it be called a design framework rather than an assessment framework, as it is more useful during the design phase of a monitoring program.
- Others noted that the framework appears to cover technical information that should be provided in the Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP), including decision points on whether you are going to do further evaluation or take management actions based on monitoring results.
- The framework was not intended to be strictly for pesticides or CECs, but for anything coming before Delta RMP as a proposal.
- Delta RMP should coordinate efforts to address CECs with the statewide process underway.

**Action Item:**

- Tom Grovhoug will work with Linda Dorn and Greg Gearheart to fund and host a half-day workshop to further develop the Assessment Framework. Members who want to participate should contact Tom Grovhoug ([TomG@LWA.com](mailto:TomG@LWA.com)).

## 8. Discussion: Draft Decision Grid Applied to Pesticides Monitoring Approach

Brian Laurenson (LWA) presented the revised Decision Grid and the results of the trial run done on pesticides monitoring proposals from Spring 2017. The goal is to use the Decision Grid to score the next round of proposals received by the RMP, and to use the documentation as a facilitation tool for TAC discussion and a communication tool for TAC recommendations to the SC. Feedback included:

- Only TAC members should take the survey.
- Results (reviewer responses) should be displayed in table format.
- Step 3 – Pre-Proposal Review is important for the TAC as an early check-in with the Steering Committee.
- TAC representatives in attendance at Steering Committee meetings should request real-time clarification on any unclear directives from the SC to the TAC.

**Action Items:**

- The revised grid and trial run results will be reviewed at the December TAC meeting.

- Decision grid results should be presented to the SC in its January 2018 meeting.

## 9. Decision: Conflict of Interest Policy

The committee discussed its previously-approved Conflict of Interest Policy, as described in the program Charter. Suggestions were offered to provide clarity to the policy and process moving forward:

- Add a specific definition, referencing the applicable statute, to the current language in the charter.
- Add clarifying language to distinguish the applicability of the policy to fiduciary decisions as opposed to recommendations from the technical advisory body.
- Develop a clear and transparent process for the development of workplans and scopes of work, with a determination on the front end as to which projects may need to go out for bid.

### **Decisions:**

- Per Matt Heberger, ASC will not be bidding on the Pesticide Interpretive Report, and they will move forward with managing the RFP process.
- No one should be excluded from any TAC discussions. TAC members should disclose any conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from funding recommendations.

### **Action Items:**

- Greg Gearheart and Adam Laputz will work on the clarifying language, consulting State Board legal counsel as needed.

## 10. Decision: Revisions to the Delta RMP Charter

This item was not covered, and will roll to the January 2018 Steering Committee Agenda.

## 11. Information: Presentation on Pesticides Data Visualization

Greg Gearheart presented an initial pesticides data visualization using the software Tableau. There was general agreement that an interactive tool such as Tableau would be a useful option to use in place of a written data report.

### **Action Items:**

- A workgroup will be formed to support Greg's staff to draft data visualization products for TAC and SC review. Team participants include: Selina Cole, Melissa Turner, Vyomini Upadhyay, Stephen McCord, and Matthew Heberger.

## 12. Discussion: Roles of the Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and the Implementing Entity

Adam Laputz asked committee members to reflect on their understanding of the Delta RMP processes in three basic areas:

- It is hoped that new tools (the Decision Grid and Assessment Framework) will help to facilitate general communication flow between the TAC and SC.
- The Aquatic Science Center is the program manager for the Delta RMP but also in many cases the science lead. The leadership at the Regional Board values having this independent science agency lead the program. Where they have the expertise (e.g., nutrients, mercury, CECs), it benefits the program to allow them and their staff scientists to lead on monitoring design and reporting. In other areas, where they lack expertise (e.g., pesticides, ecotoxicology) it is appropriate to seek outside assistance, for example through subcontracts or external science advisors.
- Beware of scope creep during meeting discussions. TAC and SC members should work together to maintain a clear separation of roles and functions (technical vs. policy) between the committees.

## 13. Discussion: Monitoring Priorities for FY 18/19 and Onwards

Prior to the discussion of FY18/19 Monitoring Priorities, Selina Cole provided an update on proposals for projects to be funded through Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs), where a discharger that has been found in violation of his permit may fund an environmental project in lieu of paying a fine. The program already has two ready-to-fund proposals in case SEP funding becomes available. (There is generally a short time window for these opportunities.) Program staff have made no changes to last year's Nutrients and Mercury project proposals other than changing the implementation dates to make them eligible for selection in FY17/18. There were no objections from the committee.

Matt Heberger presented the Projected Revenue and Reserves for FY 18/19 and asked for Steering Committee input on an initial allocation of a planning budget by focus area. These amounts are intended merely for planning by the TAC and its technical subcommittee. After discussion, the Steering Committee proposed the following guidance for FY 18/19:

### STEERING COMMITTEE GUIDANCE FOR FY18/19

**Top Tier: Approximate Numbers:**

Mercury Monitoring	\$256,000 possibly more if needed
Nutrients Projects	\$250,000 possibly less
Pesticides Monitoring	\$250,000 possibly less

**Lower Tier: To be funded partially by other sources:**

CEC Monitoring	\$250,000- <i>ish</i>
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**Additional Guidance:**

- For pesticides, TAC and Pesticide Subcommittee determine whether an effective study can be done with some portion of pesticides funding plus the \$205,600/year available only for toxicity testing from 2017 to 2020 via SWAMP contract.
- Look for efficiencies by bundling.
- Also propose SEP funding for additional mercury monitoring.
- For nutrients, focus on supporting the Nutrients Research Plan.
- For CECs, focus on supporting the CEC pilot project being led by the Regional Board.
- TAC determine which management and assessment questions can be addressed by available funds.
- Strive to address the external review comments about incorporating a statistical expert during the monitoring design.

## 14. Plan Agenda Items for Next SC Meeting

**Action Items:**

- Committee members were asked to email proposed agenda items for the January meeting to Matt Heberger.