



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

**December 12, 2017 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

### Meeting Summary

**Attendees:**

**Voting TAC (and/or Alternate) members present:**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
	Amy Phillips	Stormwater, Phase II	El Dorado County
	Brian Laursen	Stormwater, Phase I	Larry Walker Associates
phone	Dawit Tadesse	Regulatory - State	State Water Resources Control Board
	Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse	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 Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB)
	Karen Ashby	Stormwater, Phase II	Larry Walker Associates
	Michael Johnson	Agriculture	MLJ-LLC
phone	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)
	Tony Pirondini	POTW	City of Vacaville
	Vyomini Upadhyay	POTW	Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San)

### Others present:

- Matthew Heberger, San Francisco Estuary Institute-Aquatic Science Center (SFEI-ASC)
- Patrick Morris, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB)
- Selina Cole, CV RWQCB
- Cameron Irvine, CH2M
- Sam Safi, Regional San
- Jim Orlando, USGS
- Dave Lawson, Western Plant Health Association
- Stephen Louie, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

### On phone:

- Dylan Stern, Delta Stewardship Council
- Yumiko Henneberry, Delta Science Program
- Rosemary Hartman, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

## 1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda

Participants approved the agenda, with the addition of the following item:

- Discussion: Decision Grid for Ranking Monitoring Proposals

## 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary

Participants approved the summary of the September 21, 2017 TAC meeting with the edits shown in the agenda packet. The committee reviewed the upcoming meeting calendar and tentatively set June 12, 2018 as the second TAC meeting of 2018.

### Upcoming Scheduled Meetings

- SC: January 23, 2018 at Regional Board Office
- TAC Meeting: March 15, 2018, 10 am – 4 pm, at Regional San
- TAC Meeting: June 12, 2018, 10 am – 4 pm, at location TBD

### Action Items:

- Matt Heberger (ASC): Set June 12, 2018 meeting location and announce to TAC.

## 3. Steering Committee Update

Stephen McCord presented a summary of the outcomes of the October 24, 2017 Joint Steering Committee-TAC Meeting. Updates on some discussion items from the Joint Meeting relevant to the TAC:

- Data Assessment Framework Workshop: Greg Gearheart will have OIMA staff draft a white paper. The ad hoc workgroup will hold a conference call in mid-January and the item will be included in the January 23, 2018 Steering Committee agenda, with a workshop tentatively planned for February.

- **Conflict of Interest Policy:** For a clear and transparent process all stakeholders should be included in technical discussions and recommendations, with minority opinions noted. Going forward there should only be rare occasions where any participants are excluded from TAC discussions.
- **Roles of Steering Committee, TAC and ASC:** The dual roles (and values) of ASC as program manager and science lead, and the separation of the technical and policy functions of the two committees were re-emphasized.
- **Monitoring Priorities for FY 18/19:** The Pesticides Subcommittee should meet in the first half of January to draft monitoring/design options and a tentative schedule, to be presented to the Steering Committee on January 23, 2018. The planning budget for FY18/19 includes \$250,000 in Delta RMP funds allocated by the Steering Committee Guidance, plus \$415,720 in SWAMP funds which can only be used for toxicity testing by the Aquatic Health Program Laboratory at UC Davis.
- **Joint SC-TAC Meeting:** There was general agreement that the discussion on budget and priorities should be held earlier in the day, rather than toward the end of the meeting, to ensure better participation.

#### Action Items:

- Matt Heberger (ASC): Schedule a Pesticides Subcommittee meeting in the first half of January.

## 4. Technical Subcommittee Updates

Short updates were provided on recent monitoring activities.

Stephen McCord gave an update on **mercury** monitoring. The FY17/18 monitoring is underway. The lead scientists and the Mercury Subcommittee made minor adjustments to the design: increased the number of monitoring sites (from 6 to 8) and added 1-2 winter sampling events at all 8 sites. These changes followed conversations between project scientists at SFEI and the Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory (MPSL) and staff of the CVRWQCB and the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and will help to inform the update of the Delta Methylmercury TMDL in 2020.

Brian Laurenson gave an update on **pathogen** monitoring. The Pathogens Subcommittee met and is in the process of drafting a basic data report for delivery to the TAC. The group is still awaiting data from two water agencies. The report will be on the next TAC agenda for review.

Janis Cooke (CVRWQCB) gave an update on **nutrients** monitoring.

- The Nutrients Subcommittee met in September and December 2017. High-frequency monitoring is on track for spring, summer and fall of next year, after an aborted attempt in fall 2017. The next subcommittee meeting will be January 18, 2018.

- Sensor Intercalibration Study participants held two meetings, and are drafting a Phase 2 Plan.
- The Data Visualization workgroup first met on December 11, 2017 and will meet again in January 2018.

The committee discussed the DRAFT memo: “Proposed Changes to Delta RMP Assessment Questions for Nutrients.” The committee agreed that questions 2 and 2A should be kept together and moved from “Status & Trends” to “Sources, Pathways, Loadings & Processes.”

#### Action Items:

- Matt Heberger: Edit the proposed changes to Delta RMP Assessment Questions for Nutrients memo as described above.

## 5. Decision: Current Use Pesticides Data Report

Matt Heberger presented two versions of the revised Current Use Pesticides Data Report. These will be considered by the Steering Committee for final approval and publication. **Version 1.7** contains a small amount of “interpretive” information to contextualize the data, comparing observed concentrations of pesticides to aquatic life benchmarks, and looking at spatial patterns and trends over time. **Version 1.8** removes that interpretive information and simply presents the data in tables and discusses methods and QA/QC.

There was general agreement among the participants present that version 1.8 was acceptable with the exception of a single paragraph. The report’s authors had inserted a paragraph describing the toxicity testing low electrical conductivity quality control issue, which toxicologists in the group deemed to be inaccurate. The group agreed that this paragraph should be revised. The group also agreed that comparisons to various benchmarks/thresholds can happen via the online visualization tools and the year 2 interpretive report.

#### Action Items:

- Matt Heberger & Michael Johnson: Revise the paragraph as described above.

## 6. Discussion: Decision Grid for Ranking Monitoring Proposals

This item was added to the agenda.

Brian Laurensen gave an update on the draft Decision Grid. The group identified three issues with the decision grid process:

- Clarification needed in the wording of the pre-proposal and how it fits into the overall process.
- Too process-intensive, creating unnecessary work.

- Technical validation was not detailed enough.

#### Action Items:

- Matt Heberger & Brian Laurenson: Present updated grid and pre-proposals for pesticides monitoring to the SC at a future meeting.
- Matt Heberger & Brian Laurenson: Review results of the online proposal review in the March 15, 2018 TAC meeting.

## 7. Update: Science Advisor Selection Process

The committee agreed to keep nominations open until the end of the year and made the following recommendations on selection criteria:

- Experience with landscape-scale environmental monitoring designs
- Experience as external reviewer
- Experience working with multi-stakeholder groups
- Expertise in environmental statistics, pesticides monitoring, or toxicity (mercury not needed)
- Objectivity / no major conflicts of interest (i.e., not be under contract to any RMP members)
- Familiarity with estuaries/bay systems in general (if not the Delta)

#### Action Items:

- Matt Heberger: (1) Screen CVs based on the above criteria and bring results back to the March 15, 2018 TAC Meeting; (2) draft the job description, including \$2K/year stipend, one in-person meeting (with expenses paid), review reports, and provide guidance on monitoring designs.

## 8. Discussion: Reporting Levels and Method Detection Limits

Jim Orlando and Matt Heberger presented an overview of Reporting Levels and Method Detection Limits in environmental monitoring, and specifically, how these concepts and terms are applied by the USGS Pesticide Fate Research Group in reporting pesticide results for Delta RMP monitoring. After discussion the committee agreed that a distillation of the discussion should be included in the Reporting Section of the QAPP.

#### Action Items:

- Matt Heberger: Summarize the committee's understanding of the use of Reporting Limits and Method Detection Limits for inclusion in the Reporting Section of the QAPP.

## 9. Decision: Nutrient Synthesis Reports

Matt Heberger (ASC) presented the final drafts of the Task 1 and Task 2 Nutrient Synthesis Reports. After discussion, the committee agreed to recommend to the SC to approve and publish the reports with the inclusion of the minor edits suggested by Stephen McCord.

### Action Items:

- Stephen McCord: Email suggested edits to Task 1 report to TAC, to be accepted for the final report barring any concerns raised by TAC members.
- Phil Trowbridge: Revise the reports based on Stephen McCord's edits and include them in the January 23, 2018 SC agenda package for approval.

## 10. Information: Status of Deliverables and Action Items

Action Items are as stated in the summary above. Committee feedback on the status of deliverables:

- Include outline of Pulse of the Delta on the March 15, 2018 TAC agenda.
- Utilize the various Delta newsletters for distribution of the Pesticides Interpretive Report RFP.