

Clean Beaches Task Force (CBTF) Meeting Minutes
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
February 14, 2012
9:30 AM – 3 PM

Members Present:

Dean Peterson, San Mateo Co. CCDEH
Brandon Steets, Geosyntec Consultants
Mark McPherson, San Diego Co. DEH
Richard Lichtenfels, San Luis Obispo Co.
Guangyu Wang, SMBRC
Mark Gold, UCLA
Jenny Jay, UCLA
Amanda Griesbach, Heal the Bay
Ali Boehm, Stanford
Charles McGee, Retired OCHCA
Monica Mazur, Retired OCHCA, SCCWRP
Steve Weisberg, SCCWRP
Patricia Holden, UCSB
John Dorsey, Loyola Marymount Univ
Jim Rasmus, Black & Veatch*
Steve Leiker, retired, Monterey City*
John Ricker, Santa Cruz Co. Env Health*

Members Absent:

Mark Carr, UCSC
Sarah Allen, National Park Service
George Robertson, Orange Co. Sanit. Dist.
Jack Gregg, California Coastal Commission
Mary Small, California Coastal Conservancy
Peter Raimondi, UCSC
Chris Crompton, Orange Co.

Non-Members Present:

Leslie Laudon, SWRCB – DFA
Pat Leary, SWRCB – DFA
Spencer Joplin, SWRCB – DFA
Angie Sturm, SWRCB – DFA
Michael Gjerde, SWRCB – DWQ, Ocean Unit
Leslie Ferguson, San Francisco Bay RWQCB*
Wanda Cross, Santa Ana RWQCB*

*attended by conference call

Agenda:

Attached

Review History/Roles and Responsibilities:

Leslie Laudon of the Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI) Unit staff described the history of the CBI program and the Clean Beach Task Force. Funding for bond projects stopped December of 2008 since the last Clean Beaches Task Force (CBTF) meeting in August 2008. Some CBI projects were restarted with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and other projects slowly restarted. .

CBI staff gave an overview of remaining Clean Beaches Grant Funds: \$27.4 million for implementation projects under Proposition 84, \$10.3 million for implementation projects under Proposition 40, \$11.6 million for monitoring/research or implementation projects under Proposition 50, and \$5.6 million for monitoring/research or implementation projects under Proposition 13.

CBI staff discussed CBTF roles and responsibilities. The Task Force currently has twenty five members, 17 with CBI experience and 8 with ASBS experience. Membership will need to be renewed by June 2012, including reappointing Santa Monica Bay members. The Task Force discussed the process for decision making and will strive for consensus, but if a vote is needed, only those members present will vote to decide an issue. CBI staff will distribute a member list and contact information as requested in the meeting. (Attached)

Status of Past CBI Projects:

Spencer Joplin discussed an overview of past CBI projects. A list of projects and their status was distributed (attached), indicating which projects had final reports in the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) and which projects had been shifted to ARRA funding. CBI staff will send directions on how to access reports in FAAST as requested by the Task Force (Attached).

Mark Gold suggested a subcommittee of the CBTF be established to work with CBI staff to evaluate success of past CBI projects and help inform selection of new projects. This could include determining the effectiveness of each project and determining if the combination of projects has improved overall water quality. Volunteers for this subcommittee included Michael Gjerde, Guangyu Wang, Steve Weisberg, Mark Gold, Brandon Steets, Amanda Griesbach, Monica Mazur, and Dean Peterson. CBI staff will schedule a meeting of the subcommittee.

Draft CBI Guidelines, Upcoming Funding Solicitation:

CBI staff discussed CBI guidelines and the upcoming funding solicitation. CBI staff is currently revising the CBI Guidelines adopted in 2008, and expect to have the new guidelines approved by the end of April or May of this year. The draft Guidelines will be sent out to the CBTF for comment prior to being posted for public review. Resolutions to extend the term of the CBTF and to approve the CBI Guidelines were proposed to be heard by the State Water Board by early May (the actual date is now estimated to be by early June). The Solicitation is planned to begin after approval in May (or June) 2012 and the solicitation will be continuous.

Pat Leary discussed the proposed project approval process. CBI staff is proposing to streamline the process so that the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance can issue funding awards. Applicants will be required to submit a concept proposal for review by the Task Force. CBI staff anticipates Task Force review starting in September 2012. Applicants that had started proposals when the prior solicitation was suspended will be given the opportunity to update their proposals. Once a detailed application, including the appropriate CEQA document, has been approved, CBI staff will prepare a preliminary funding commitment and post it on the internet for public comment. The Deputy Director will issue the funding award.

CBI staff discussed both implementation project and research project priorities and requested input on possible changes.

Implementation Priorities: The Task Force did not significantly change the priorities for implementation projects. Implementation project priorities include capital improvement projects that reduce bacterial contamination at priority beaches and ASBS subject to dry weather runoff adjacent to a priority beach (see priority beach discussion below).

Monitoring/Research Priorities: Eligible project types under Props 13 and 50 include monitoring and research projects and were explained by CBI staff. Past research priorities included predictive models, bacterial transport mechanisms (including regrowth), BMP effectiveness evaluations, source tracking tools, new rapid indicators, and studies of enhanced water circulation. Members suggested research to better understand the influence of wet weather on dry weather contamination, illness due to chronic exposure (i.e. frequent swimmers, surfers, etc.) and determining the health risk in wet weather. CBI staff will also request input on the research priorities from the Beach Water Quality Workgroup.

Priority Beaches: CBI staff presented information regarding updating the priority beaches for the Solicitation. Beaches have previously been listed as a priority when it had at least one C, D or F grade over the last three years on Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card for the dry weather (AB411) season. A list of the 2008 priority beaches was discussed to determine if any should be removed from the list. Additional beaches were also proposed for addition based on the latest grades from Heal the Bay. The list also included a few beaches that did not have failing grades for the AB411 season, but that had C, D or F grades for dry weather outside of the AB411 time period. These grades will also be used to identify priority beaches. The Task Force discussed whether beaches with uncompleted or current projects should receive funding for additional projects until the outcome of current projects was known. Colorado Lagoon, Avalon, Cabrillo, and Will Rogers beaches were mentioned as examples of beaches with projects still in progress. Beaches requested to stay on the list include Del Mar, Imperial, Ocean Beach at Dog Beach, and San Elijo Beach in San Diego County; Stillwater Cove and Pacific Grove Beaches in Monterey County; Leadbetter Beach in Santa Barbara County; and Muir Beach in Marin County. Escondido State Beach had irregular hits and was not as high of a priority. Goleta Beach was requested to be added to the list.

Following the CBTF meeting, CBI staff updated the beaches list to include all appropriate grades for priority beaches. Staff found that the following beaches did not have any C, D, or F annual grades for AB411 or Dry periods: Muir Beach (all three locations), Del Mar Beach (two locations), Imperial Beach (4 locations), Ocean Beach at Dog Beach, or San Elijo Beach. Based on this assessment, these beaches were not added to the priority beaches list at this time.

Based on this discussion and CBI staff follow-up, a final draft list of priority beaches is attached to the minutes. CBI staff proposes that the priority beach list may be modified periodically if needed after the Guidelines are approved, and any changes would be posted on the internet.

Proposition 84 Source ID Pilot Program (SIPP):

Steve Weisberg presented an overview of the Proposition 84 Source ID Pilot Program. SCCWRP received a grant to provide guidance on how to most efficiently identify sources of bacterial contamination at beaches. Project goals include more and better Prop 84 proposals, an AB538 Source ID manual, and lab training. To achieve these goals, the project team is in the process of selecting source ID tools (method evaluation study), prioritizing watersheds for source ID, developing an approach, implementing studies, and transferring protocols to labs. Overall, the project will be a phased approach. Gathering historical information on existing monitoring data and potential sources including infrastructure is the first phase, followed by characterizing the watershed, then testing a source specific hypothesis, and lastly performing more extensive tests if necessary. CBI staff said that municipalities should have more system maps and information than was available in 2008. Four beaches were previously selected by a subgroup of the CBTF for further study using the developing protocol, including Arroyo Burro beach in Santa Barbara, Cowell beach in Santa Cruz, Doheny beach in Dana Point, and Topanga beach in Los Angeles.

Ali Boehm presented the status of the methods evaluation study. The goal of the study is to evaluate various fecal source tracking laboratory methods to determine what works best and is most transferable to other labs. The study tested samples at twenty eight labs and tested for sources including human, sewage, septage, dog, cow, gull, pig, sewage/gull, human/dog, etc., using many different laboratory methods. Some results were better at detecting a target was present than others. They will be writing and publishing standard operating procedures and will be training labs in less than a year in these methods. The Task Force supported this work effort.

Trish Holden presented information on the microbial source tracking study underway at the Arroyo Burro beach (aka Hendry's Beach) in Santa Barbara. She described the main sources to be from sewage leaking in dry flow, restoration projects, the showground, and the homeless population. The member consensus was that the Arroyo Burro project was on target and acceptable.

Ali Boehm presented an update on the microbial tracking study underway at Cowell Beach, Santa Cruz. The beach is high in wrack and there are high levels of FIB. The study indicated there was preliminary evidence that wrack contributes enterococci to water at high tide. There were several comments and questions from the Task Force members regarding the Cowell Beach study. Specifically, there were a number of concerns and suggestions regarding the focus of the study on wrack removal.

CBI staff questioned why the nearby storm drain had not been addressed as a potential source. No infrastructure maps had been evaluated when the project was started. A meeting with the City of Santa Cruz had been scheduled for February 27, to review infrastructure maps and determine if the scope of the study needs to be adjusted.

CBI staff and Task Force members want to be informed when meetings are scheduled for any of the SIPP projects. Task Force members should be given the opportunity to participate by teleconference.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda:

The agenda included presentations by John Griffith and Jenny Jay; however, these two presentations were taken off the meeting agenda due to time constraints.

Wrap Up and Schedule Next Meeting:

The next Clean Beach Task Force meeting will be held before the end of March and will be a two-hour webinar for John Griffith and Jenny Jay to present studies for the Prop. 84 Source ID Pilot Program. CBI staff has set the webinar for April 5, 2012.

Attachments:

- Agenda
- CBTF Member contacts
- CBI Project Status
- FAAST directions to access final reports
- Draft Priority Beaches list