



# California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment San Diego Advisory Committee Meeting 5 Notes

Thursday, October 4, 2022

## Attendees

Advisory Committee Members in attendance:

- Lisa Cumper, Jamul Indian Village
- Kelcey Stricker, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians
- Cristina Torres, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Ray Hiemstra, Orange County Coastkeeper
- Jay Davis, California Water Quality Monitoring Council Safe to Eat Workgroup & San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI)
- Matt Lucero, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Amy Smith, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Wesley (Wes) Smith, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
- Peter Vroom, California Water Quality Monitoring Council & City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department

Advisory Committee members not in attendance:

- The Honorable Frederick (Bo) Mazzetti, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians & Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA)
- Shasta Gaughen (or Heidi Brow), Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Sherri Norris, California Indian Environmental Alliance's (CIEA)
- Jill Sherman-Warne, Native American Environmental Protection Coalition (NAEPC)
- José Bravo, Just Transition Alliance
- Mitchell (Mitch) McKay, Citizens for Coastal Conservancy
- Matt O'Malley, San Diego Coast Keeper
- Kirsten Winter, US Forest Service (USFS)
- Autumn Bonnema, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML)

Realignment Team in attendance:

- Chad Loflen, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (R9)
- Melissa Corona, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (R9)
- Anna Holder, SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Lead
- Badhia Yunes Katz, SWAMP CivicSpark Fellow
- Mike Antos, Stantec

## Welcome and Grounding

- Members of the Realignment Team welcomed all to the fifth San Diego Advisory Committee Meeting.
- Advisory Committee Members reviewed meeting ground rules: be respectful to one another, be constructive, be engaged, and be respectful of each other's time. No additions or revisions were requested by Advisory Committee Members.
- Acknowledgement that very few Advisory Committee Members representing Tribes and community-based organizations were able to attend the meeting and to (1) record the meeting so it can be shared with those who could not attend the meeting, and (2) keep low attendance in mind as we discuss topics during the meeting.

## Advisory Committee Member Introductions

- Advisory Committee Members and the Realignment Team introduced themselves and shared what they most want to see accomplished during the meeting.
- Discussion of desired outcomes and accomplishments for the meeting included Advisory Committee Members' desires to:
  - Get an update on the timelines and status of monitoring plans and priorities that were identified in the 2022 Monitoring and Analysis Workplan.
  - Get an update on the development of the Communication and Outreach Plan and next steps

## Realignment Monitoring and Results Summary

The Realignment Team presented a review of the monitoring that was able to take place in 2022, according to the priorities set in the [Monitoring and Analysis Workplan](#), led a discussion about analysis priorities and described next steps.

- Monitoring updates included:
  - Sampling and collection of fish at all priority locations (coast, reservoirs, rivers) except Dana Point Harbor Jetty has been completed.
  - Sampling and collection of shellfish may begin in the coming months, pending the priorities set by the Advisory Committee during today's meeting.
  - Sampling crews have collected more fish samples than we have funding to analyze. The Realignment Team requested guidance on which species should be analyzed at each site.
- Advisory Committee Members provided feedback on which species they would like to be prioritized for analysis at each site. There was general agreement that shellfish samples should still be collected and analyzed, and noted that analyzing as many species as possible (fish *and* shellfish) would be ideal.
- Advisory Committee Members acknowledged that not all Advisory Committee Members representing Tribes and community-based organizations were able to attend the

meeting, and requested the Realignment Team send a survey out to the entire Committee so everyone could provide feedback.

- *Decision & Action Items:*
  - Analysis should include shellfish samples, followed by fish samples.
  - The Realignment Team is to send out a survey so that all Committee Members can provide feedback on their analysis recommendations.
  - Advisory Committee members are to complete the survey by October 24 so the Realignment Team can proceed with monitoring and analysis in November.

## **Fish Consumption Advisory Development Process**

Wesley Smith (OEHHA) presented an overview of the process used to develop OEHHA Fish Consumption Advisories.

- Presentation included an overview of the multi-step process OEHHA takes to develop [fish advisories](#), and was followed by a discussion about assumptions made to develop consistent statewide advisories (e.g. fish are consumed as skin-off, cooked filets).
- Advisory Committee Members commented that understanding the assumptions made, and advice on how to prepare fish so consumption is more safe is helpful - but noted that food and culture are bound and cooking advice may not be followed. Developing advice that more accurately reflects Tribal and community consumption, and effectively communicating with those communities about advice and risk is critical moving forward.

## **Communication and Outreach Plan Check-in**

The Realignment Team presented a review of the draft Communication and Outreach Plan and led a discussion to confirm the purpose, desired outcomes, and next steps.

- Communication and Outreach Plan updates included:
  - An overview of the [Meeting 4](#) discussion and decisions
  - Review of current Plan purpose, objectives, and scope
- Advisory Committee Members provided feedback and clarification on the objectives they would like the Plan to cover:
  - Make messaging, communication, and engagement around fish advisories more clear, accessible, and understandable.
  - Make SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program data and information more accessible, and understandable. Specific recommendations included centering interactive dashboards (or similar tools) on the website, which make interpreting data and information easy for non-technical audiences.
  - Make messaging, communication, and engagement around how tribes and communities can participate, engage, and partner in SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program activities and processes more clear, accessible, and understandable.

- *Decision & Action Items:*
  - The Realignment Team will revise the Communication and Engagement Outreach Plan to include the objectives identified during the meeting and send an updated version to the Advisory Committee for review and feedback.

### **Planning for Advisory Committee Meeting 6 (Mar-Jun, 2023 - TBD)**

- Advisory Committee Members briefly discussed: general time frames for when the next meeting should be held, and recommended sometime between March and June 2023.
- Lisa C. and Melissa C. noted that they would be willing to help with logistics and organizing the next meeting.
- *Decision & Action Items:*
  - The Realignment Team is to send out a survey so that all Committee Members can indicate if there are any day/time blocks that should NOT be included in the Meeting 6 availability poll.
  - The Realignment Team is to send out a scheduling poll for Meeting 6 and coordinate the agenda, location, and logistics.
  - Advisory Committee Members are to respond to requests regarding coordinating for Meeting 6 locations and logistics.

### **Meeting Reflections & 2022 Process Debrief**

- Advisory Committee Members briefly discussed their reflections of the meeting, including:
  - Many attendees appreciated having a space where tribes and community representatives could provide perspectives and feedback on Program activities, and ask questions.
  - Overall, meeting attendees were generally glad that those who were able to attend were fully engaged in the conversation, but disappointed that not everyone was able to attend and that representation was low.
  - Many attendees noted that they were glad monitoring has occurred, that data are coming in, and that momentum and progress continues in between meetings.
  - Most attendees expressed interest in meeting in person in 2023.

### **Next Steps & Review Action Items**

Realignment Team Action Items:

- Initiate the compensation process for Advisory Committee Members
- Write up meeting 5 notes, share with Advisory Committee for review and feedback
- Post finalized notes on the [Realignment Page](#)
- Send scheduling poll for Meeting 6; coordinate agenda, location, and logistics
- Revise/update Communication and Engagement Outreach Plan; send to Advisory Committee for review and feedback

- Continue to analyze & interpret monitoring results
- Continue to implement [Statewide Tribal Engagement Plan](#) (to inform long-term Realignment Planning)

Advisory Committee Member Action Items:

- Review meeting 5 notes, provide feedback/corrections
- Complete Meeting 6 scheduling poll
- Review draft Communication and Outreach Plan, provide feedback
- Respond to requests regarding coordinating for Meeting 6 locations and logistics.
- Spread the word about [Statewide Tribal Engagement Plan](#), and encourage tribes who may want to connect with us to complete the [Engagement Interest Form](#) to set up a meeting and begin conversations