

California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment San Diego Advisory Committee Meeting 4 Notes

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Attendees

Advisory Committee Members in attendance:

- Arash Afghahi, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- José Bravo, Just Transition Alliance
- Mitchell (Mitch) McKay, Citizens for Coastal Conservancy
- Amy Smith, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Matt Lucero, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- 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, Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Heidi Brow, Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Kelcey Stricker, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians
- Lisa Cumper, Jamul Indian Village
- Cristina Torres, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Jill Sherman-Warne, Native American Environmental Protection Coalition (NAEPC)
- Sherri Norris, California Indian Environmental Alliance's (CIEA)
- Ray Hiemstra, Orange County Coastkeeper
- Matt O'Malley, San Diego Coast Keeper
- Wesley (Wes) Smith, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
- Kirsten Winter, US Forest Service (USFS)
- Jay Davis, California Water Quality Monitoring Council Safe to Eat Workgroup & San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI)
- Autumn Bonnema, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML)

Realignment Team in attendance:

- Chad Loflen, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (R9)
- Cynthia Gorham, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (R9)
- Ali Dunn, Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)
- Anna Holder, SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Lead

- Gabriella Moran, SWAMP
- Mike Antos, Stantec

Realignment Team not in attendance:

- David Gibson, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (R9)

Welcome and grounding

- Members of the Realignment Team welcomed all to the fourth 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 reflections on the work we accomplished together last year and/or what they most want to see accomplished during the meeting.
- Reflections of topics and accomplishments included:
 - The importance of continuing to be mindful and sensitive to Tribal cultural resources as we do this work
 - Interest in the documentation and monitoring of the locations, species, and pollutants of concern for Advisory Committee Members, which were documented in the 2022 Monitoring and Analysis Workplan
- 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.
 - Make a plan for meeting in-person in 2022
 - Build on the momentum and discussions from past meetings and continue discussions around Tribal and community communication interests, needs, and priorities.

Advisory Committee & Realignment Refresher

The Realignment Team presented a review of Realignment Objectives, where we are in the process & where we are going, in the San Diego Region and Statewide.

- We are in the middle of the Realignment process (year 2 of 3) and will be focusing future conversations on: communication and engagement needs (this year; year 2), and identifying next steps and how we can continue partnerships outside of this process (next year; year 3).
- Year 1 accomplishments include:
 - Three Productive Committee Meetings: [Meeting 1 Notes - Jun 25, 2021](#), [Meeting 2 Notes - Sep 1, 2021](#), [Meeting 3 Notes - Nov 17, 2021](#)
 - Completed Committee Survey: Data & Info Results (Meeting 1 Slides) & Communication Results (Today's Slides)
 - Developed a [2022 Monitoring and Analysis Workplan](#)
 - Developed a [Summary of Long-term Committee Recommendations](#), which will be updated annually during the Debrief Process
- Year 2 goals include:
 - Three Productive Committee Meetings: Meeting 4 - May 12, 2021 (Today) & Meeting 5 - Sep - Nov, TBD
 - Identify communication and engagement needs, develop recommendations
 - Update Long-term Committee Recommendations
 - Conduct monitoring according to the 2022 Monitoring and Analysis Workplan (May - Oct, 2022)
 - Implement [Statewide Tribal Engagement Plan](#) (Mar - Nov 2022; to inform long-term Realignment Planning)

Advisory Committee Survey Results - Communication Uses and Needs

The Realignment Team presented the results of the Advisory Committee Survey (completed in Jul - Sep 2021) that were focused on Communication uses and needs, while noting that these results are not intended to make decisions, but rather to frame and launch conversations.

The top two communication products of interest indicated by the survey were:

- Interactive maps and visualizations
- Signage and postings at water bodies

The top two engagement methods of interest indicated by the survey were:

- State-hosted workshops or informational Events
- Press releases or conferences

Discussion and Prioritization of Communication Needs

- Advisory Committee Members noted that the survey results generally align with what they were expecting, and that signage and postings at water bodies (ideally in multiple languages) is a top priority, and that signage is needed in more locations. Interactive maps and visualizations in multiple languages were also noted as being important to Advisory Committee Members.

- The Realignment Team noted that although many products were under development prior to the formation of this Advisory Committee, the feedback and recommendations provided by this Advisory Committee will inform and guide product updates and the development of future products. Moreover, engagement methods that are currently underway have been significantly influenced and informed by feedback and recommendations provided by this Advisory Committee.
- Discussion of the need to develop a holistic communication and outreach plan that describes: (1) all of the available and relevant resources and how they are linked together (e.g. link or QR code on a sign that links to additional online resources), (2) how to access resources, and (3) how others (e.g. community groups and tribes) might utilize a library of resources (e.g. educational fact sheets, visualizations, media kit) in their work (e.g. embed resources in organizational or Tribal websites, products).
 - Advisory Committee Members also noted that outreach and engagement specific to Tribal spaces and needs will require added sensitivity, partnership with Tribal governments, and incorporation of Tribal processes, approvals, and timelines into outreach plans and processes.
- Discussion of the importance of intentional and impactful engagement, and that utilizing multiple methods will be necessary to engage with the different communities and tribes.
- *Decision & Action Items:*
 - The Realignment Team is to [draft a Communication and Outreach Plan](#). This document should also include or potentially be replaced by the holistic communication and outreach action plan.

Planning for Advisory Committee Meeting 5 (Sep-Nov, 2022 - TBD)

- Advisory Committee Members briefly discussed: general time frames for when the next meeting should be held, and recommended sometime between Sep and Oct.
- Advisory Committee Members brainstormed potential locations where the meeting might be held, including:
 - [The Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center](#)
 - César Chávez Community Center
 - San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Conference Room
 - California Department of Fish and Wildlife South Coast Region Conference Room
- Advisory Committee Members brainstormed potential site visit locations, including:
 - Barrio Logan on San Diego Bay
 - The Tijuana Estuary in Imperial Beach
 - A pier or water treatment plant
- Advisory Committee members recommended holding a half day meeting in the morning and an optional half day of site visits in the afternoon.

- *Decision & Action Items:*
 - The Realignment Team is to circle back with Advisory Committee Members with a way to collect meeting time and location preferences for the next meeting in late 2022.
 - Advisory Committee Members are to respond to requests regarding coordinating for 2022 meeting locations and logistics.

Meeting Reflections

- Advisory Committee Members briefly discussed their reflections of the meeting; the consensus was that feelings were mixed - 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.

Next Steps & Review Action Items

Realignment Team Action Items:

- Initiate the 2022 compensation process for Advisory Committee Members
- Write up meeting 4 notes, share with Advisory Committee for review and feedback
- Post finalized notes on the [Realignment Page](#)
- Send scheduling poll for Meeting 5; send calendar invitation & agenda
- Draft Communication and Engagement Recommendations Document / Outreach Plan; send to Advisory Committee for review and feedback
- Report progress to [Safe to Eat Workgroup](#) (Jul 27) and [Water Quality Monitoring Council](#) (Aug 25)
- Begin coordinating Meeting 5 locations and logistics
- Coordinate monitoring efforts (May - Oct, 2022)
- Continue to implement [Statewide Tribal Engagement Plan](#) (Mar - Nov 2022; to inform long-term Realignment Planning)
- Dedicate time to individual phone-calls to Advisory Committee Members to touch base on interests, needs, and future participation and engagement in the Realignment Process.

Advisory Committee Member Action Items:

- Review meeting 4 notes, provide feedback/corrections
- Complete Meeting 5 scheduling poll
- Review [draft Communication and Outreach Plan](#), provide feedback
- Respond to requests regarding coordinating for meeting 5 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