

MEETING MINUTES

Tijuana River Watershed Management Area Responsible Agency Monthly Coordination Meeting Minutes

County of San Diego Operations Center

5510 Overland Ave – 4th Floor Medium Conference Room B-471, San Diego, CA 92123

June 21, 2016

8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Tijuana River WQIP group requests that if you need assistance or auxiliary aids to participate at these meetings, please contact Chris Helmer at (619) 628-1370, as far in advance of the meeting as possible.

I. Administration

a. Call to order and roll call

Chris Helmer - City of Imperial Beach
Karina Dank – City of San Diego
Tracy Cline - County of San Diego
Brianna Menke - City of San Diego
Mark Williams - AECOM
Julie Yurkovic - AECOM
Bryn Evans - Dudek
Matt Rich - AMEC Foster Wheeler

b. Time for public to speak on times not on the agenda (Members of the public will be provided 3 minutes to speak on items not on the agenda)

i. No members of the public were present.

c. Adoption of minutes from previous meeting

i. Minutes were submitted last week and will be posted soon.

d. Update on regional work products

i. The County is taking lead and putting together several projects to obtain proposed Proposition 1 funding. Chris and Tracy believe that the upcoming projects more than qualify; they will likely have no problem getting the funding. The proposed budget that Chris is working on will not include the City's or County's cost share for the trash study.

II. Reporting

a. Update on WQIP Annual Report framework development – expected soon.

b. Monitoring data compilation – the report is ready and is being finalized for submittal with the special study report. The monitoring report will include and overview, plots of all the parameters monitored (with spatial considerations), and an assessment of the differences noted between the geographical locations. Given the small amount of data collected to date, there were no significant results upon which to base pollutant trends. Total suspended solids (TSS) measurements were quite low. These baseline data will be useful for identifying future trends.

Lessons learned from the monitoring program:

- It is challenging to safely monitor in the middle of the street.
- The manhole locations presented challenges; they are quite deep. Monitoring equipment installation required confined space entry, which elevated safety concerns and was more expensive than what was perceived at the proposal stage. Movement of stations by the City of San Diego and County of San Diego required additional reconnaissance and more effort than initially proposed. AECOM donated a substantial amount of time to the effort to ensure its success.
- Compositing with a single composite sample is recommended once drainage area response is understood.
- The second storm monitored was small; it would have been advantageous to have a similar magnitude storm for comparison.
- The access road to the discharge point south of the Border Patrol station is challenging and dangerous when the road is wet and the conditions are extremely slippery.
- The team should start thinking about next year's monitoring strategies since TSS concentrations found at this year's monitoring locations were not substantial and there may be other locations (e.g., special study report findings) that would prove to be better locations for TSS monitoring.
- There may be challenges identifying 'appropriate' targets for monitoring due to permit requirements for monitoring locations. However, the new permit language allows more flexibility with these choices and it should be possible to choose representative locations.
- Gathering TSS loads from specific land uses identified in the special sediment study may be prudent rather than monitoring drainage areas with several land uses.
- If TSS is found not to be a problem pollutant through monitoring, perhaps the WQIP should shift its focus on trash or another special study.
- Given this is a baseline year, the monitoring program should be given at least a few more years for data collection to inform decision-making. Once sufficient data is collected, we should look at the monitoring locations, land uses, and results and plan accordingly.
- Open spaces will be difficult to control since there are multiple non-point sediment sources.

III. Special TRV WMA Sediment Study Preparation

a. Early comments on Special Sediment Study report

- There is a strong signal from residential land use, but we need confirmatory data.
- Degraded roads, unstable rural areas, and new construction areas (many residential in unincorporated lands) were found to be notable sources of sediment.
- Future work should investigate the effects of fire damage on TSS loading (e.g., the recent fire near Portero). Fire damage will affect soil stability conditions for 3 to 5 years; these conditions should be noted in future studies.
- Fire footprints and the BMPs used to stabilize them for sediment control should be tracked.
- Supporting data will be available once the County conducts their assessment after CalFire's assessment has occurred.

- It was suggested that due to time constraints on the existing contract ending June 30, that the team not submit comments as accept the submittal as a Phase I final product unless there are major concerns, in which case comments would need to be provided June 5 at the latest.

IV. Other

- a. WQIP data submittal is in CEDEN format, but there are several errors identified by the data checker, most of which are due to label inconsistencies.
 - i. Standardizing codes for acceptable CEDEN reporting is expected to take a substantial effort to reformat, particularly when there is no support from the CEDEN staff. Given the lack of support within CEDEN, this submittal would likely occur the next fiscal year. Accordingly, the data will be submitted with the project archives on a portable hard drive.
- b. Budget discussion and potential dropbox (or other) location for storing the WQIP documents will be discussed next month.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.