Program Planning Subcommittee
WQIP Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Meeting Summary – Final

May 6, 2020

Chairperson – Stephanie Gaines

MEETING ATTENDANCE		
City of Carlsbad **Tim Murphy**	City of La Mesa	City of Solana Beach **Kelly Ogawa**
City of Chula Vista	City of Lemon Grove	City of Vista
City of Coronado	City of National City **Carla Hutchinson**	County of San Diego **Brianna Martin**
City of Del Mar **Kelly Ogawa**	City of Oceanside **Justin Gamble**	**Ruth de la Rosa** **Jo Ann Weber**
City of El Cajon **John Phillips**	City of Poway	**Stephanie Gaines** **Chelsea McGimpsey**
City of Encinitas	City of San Diego **Brianna Menke, Andrew Funk**	**Joanna Wisniewska**
City of Escondido **Alicia Appel, Juan Magdaraog**	City of San Marcos **Reed Thornberry**	Port of San Diego **Stephanie Bauer**
City of Imperial Beach **Wbaldo Arellano**	City of Santee **Cecilia Tipton**	San Diego Airport Authority
County of Orange **Cindy Rivers**	Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District **Matt Yeager, Rebekah Guill, Darcy Kuenzi**	
Wood **Katherine Sharp, Matt Rich**	Dudek **Bryn Evans**	Weston Solutions **Sheri Dister, Michelle Mattson**
D-Max Engineering **John Quenzer, Teresa Lyndon**	Larry Walker Associates (LWA) **Paul Hartman, Elizabeth Yin**	Secretary (Michael Baker International) **Hilary Ellis**

6   Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

Opportunity for Members of Public to Speak
8   No members of the public were in attendance.

April Meeting Summary
10   Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) reviewed the changes in the April meeting summary provided
11   by email. Since approval of the meeting summary was not on the posted agenda for this meeting, there
12   will be no vote at this time. Copermittees had no additional comments on the meeting summary.
13   Approval of the meeting summary will be on the agenda for vote at the next meeting.

Uncontrollable Sources: Agricultural Land and Homeless Encampments
15   Paul Hartman (LWA) reviewed the work products developed for the Subcommittee in response to these
16   letters. LWA has reviewed the WQIPs and compiled menus of strategies being used in the region to
17   address pollutant sources of agricultural land and homeless encampments.

18   Potential strategies from the WQIPs to address agricultural sources were grouped into five categories,
19   and Paul Hartman (LWA) shared examples from the categories.

20   1. Outreach and education (e.g., educational workshops, targeted outreach materials)
21   2. Source assessments (e.g., mapping agricultural facilities in the watershed management area,
22   performing risk assessments on which facilities have likelihood of discharge and to which
23   receiving water(s))
24   3. BMP requirements and/or implementation (e.g., BMPs to address application, storage, and
25   disposal of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; implementing sustainable landscape programs)
26   4. Collaboration (e.g., partnerships with Master Gardeners Programs, rebates for water efficient
27   products)
28   5. Illicit Connections/Illegal Discharges (e.g., focused training for field staff; assessing illicit
29   discharge incidents to identify clusters for effective targeted outreach)

30   Not all WQIPs have the same strategies; those who are not using some strategies may use these menus
31   to modify strategies or create new ones.

32   Paul Hartman (LWA) was also asked to inquire with colleagues at LWA about work done in Ventura
33   County for agricultural sources. He provided Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) with the workbook
34   of agriculture-related BMPs created by Darren Haver as part of the University of California Cooperative
35   Extension, Orange County. Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) will email Copermittees the
36   workbook.

37   Potential strategies from the WQIPs to address homeless encampments were also grouped into five
38   categories, and Paul Hartman (LWA) shared examples from the categories.

39   1. BMP requirements and/or implementation (e.g., use structural BMPs to prevent unauthorized
40   access to the MS4; installing grates over ends of pipes or large openings)
41   2. Collaboration (e.g., partnering with social services for sanitation and trash management;
42   working with homeless outreach teams)
43   3. Illicit Connections/Illegal Discharges (e.g., focused training for field staff on what to look for and
44   how to respond to homeless encampments)
45   4. Trash (e.g., sponsoring or conducting cleanup of homeless encampment sites; developing
46   response procedures for homeless issue complaints that prevent or reduce trash entering
47   waterways)
48   5. Enforcement (e.g., referring issues/complaints to the Sheriff; implementing escalating
49   enforcement procedures)

50   Once the spreadsheet is through QA/QC, it will be shared with all Copermittees. The Copermittees may
51   use the information in their responses to the Regional Board.

303(d) Summary Tables

53   LWA was tasked with summarizing the new 303(d) listings in the San Diego Region. They provided the
54   summary in a spreadsheet format. There is a table for the 2010 303(d) listings and a table for the
55   2014/2016 303(d) listings. The tables show where impairments are occurring across the region, by

56 watershed. Color coding on the tables helps visual understanding of the data. The Copermittees
57 discussed how information in these tables could be used, including identifying common pollutants that
58 may warrant a regional approach. If WQIPs have not yet been updated, they will need to review their
59 prioritization process and incorporate any changes in the 303(d) listings. Also, as some of these are
60 being addressed regionally or statewide through policies, the WQIPs should include discussion of
61 involvement in those processes as potential rationale for selection of actions and timing of actions taken
62 by Copermittees.

63 Stephanie Bauer (Port of San Diego) asked about delisting. A few Copermittees have submitted
64 documentation for delisting of segments; others are gathering data to support a delisting request. No
65 Copermittee reported any successful delisting requests. The County of San Diego will follow up on the
66 status of any segments they previously submitted for delisting.

67 Comparison of WQIP Annual Report Letters – Spreadsheet Tool
68 LWA was asked to review the body of the Regional Board's WQIP Annual Report Letters to identify
69 commonalities across watersheds that may be addressed regionally. Paul Hartman (LWA) provided a
70 high-level overview of the resulting spreadsheet and summarized the commonalities they found:

71 • Numeric goals: The Regional Board letters ask for updates on how calculations are being done to
72   show progress toward numeric goals. In a couple instances, the letters call out the constant
73   challenge of connecting strategy implementation to metrics and numeric goals.
74 • Documentation: The Regional Board wants more detailed verification than a simple yes or no as
75   to if Copermittees are implementing strategies as planned.
76 • Over-irrigation audits: The Regional Board wants documentation of implementation and revised
77   load reduction estimates.
78 • Non-structural BMPs/programs: The Regional Board wants documentation of implementation
79   and load reduction studies or evidence for each BMP as part of the reasonable assurance
80   demonstration (RAD).
81 • Structural BMPs: The Regional Board wants documentation of appropriate maintenance and
82   evidence or documentation of achievable load reductions.

83 Regarding the RAD, Paul Hartman (LWA) commented it may be more acceptable to the Regional Board if
84 there is consistency across the region.

85 For common challenges across the watersheds with bacteria TMDL comments, the issues go back to
86 goals and reasonable assurance. Possible compliance pathways include:

87 • Pathways based on water quality: receiving water limitations, flow reduction
88 • Pathways based on WQIP implementation: linked to receiving water limits or flow reduction and
89   demonstrating progress

90 WMAs framing their goals around the pathway based on water quality have not been getting many
91 questions from the Regional Board. Based on Permit language, the Regional Board is looking for BMP
92 implementation connected to reasonable assurance with support. Paul Hartman (LWA) commented the

93 WQIPs show Copermittees have been good about leaving several options available to show compliance
94 through different pathways, allowing different pathways geographically within the same watershed.

95 Paul Hartman (LWA) showed the spreadsheet tool that includes all their findings from the tasks done for
96 this subcommittee. He walked through the many tabs in the spreadsheet tool. LWA will provide the
97 completed spreadsheet tool to the County of San Diego by close of business on Tuesday, May 11.

98 Matt Yeager (Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District) asked the Subcommittee if
99 the scope of this work effort indicated agreement with the Regional Board that agricultural properties
100 and homeless encampments are controllable sources for the Copermittees. Stephanie Gaines (County of
101 San Diego) and Paul Hartman (LWA) explained the first step for this subcommittee was determining
102 through WQIPs if all watersheds already identify them, or others, as controllable or uncontrollable
103 sources. They did not find unanimous treatment of defining controllable or uncontrollable sources in the
104 region's WQIPs. Matt Yeager (Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District) suggested
105 WQIPs could include strategies for addressing sources even if they are not controllable sources; the goal
106 may be to educate people as best can be done without claiming the sources are controllable by the
107 Copermittees. The Subcommittee generally agreed to have LWA develop brief language in response to
108 the Regional Board's letters to indicate responding to the Regional Board's letters does not equate to
109 agreement with their determination of controllable sources.

Other Discussion

111 Brianna Menke (City of San Diego) raised the issue of potentially requesting regulatory relief from the
112 Regional Board for annual reporting requirements. In light of the COVID-19 response, the Regional
113 Board communicated to the Copermittees compliance with the MS4 Permit is an essential activity and,
114 unless Copermittees request regulatory relief, the Regional Board expects full implementation of all
115 activities. The City of San Diego is starting to explore the option of requesting regulatory relief since it
116 costs approximately $100,000 per annual report, per watershed, for the City. This significantly affects
117 the City's budget. Brianna Menke (City of San Diego) asked if other Copermittees might be interested in
118 discussing this with Regional Board staff. Several Copermittees voiced support for continued, detailed
119 discussion on the issue. When Copermittees approach the Regional Board with a request for regulatory
120 relief, the general consensus was the request should include details of what the reduced reporting
121 would entail and could point to the recommendations included in the previously submitted Report of
122 Waste Discharge. Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) will ensure this discussion item is on the
123 agenda for the next Program Planning Subcommittee meeting. The request should be done soon, as
124 consultants will be starting in the next few months to develop the annual reports.

125 Paul Hartman (LWA) reminded the Copermittees the Regional Monitoring Ad Hoc Subcommittee has no
126 future meetings planned. This Subcommittee had deferred a few items to the Regional Monitoring Ad
127 Hoc Subcommittee. With no future meetings planned at this point, Paul Hartman (LWA) asked if those
128 issues should be brought back into this Subcommittee. Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) stated
129 these questions will be discussed at the next Program Planning Subcommittee meeting; the work being
130 done by the Regional Monitoring Ad Hoc Subcommittee will not be dropped.

131   Next Meeting

132   The next WQIP Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for June 3 by WebEx.

133   Action Items and Next Steps

	Action Item	Responsible Party(ies)	Due Date
1	Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) to email Copermittees the Ventura County agriculture workbook received from Paul Hartman (LWA) as a potential resource.	Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego)	6/3/2020
2	County of San Diego to follow up on status of any segments they previously submitted for delisting from the 303(d) list.	County of San Diego	6/3/2020
3	Paul Hartman (LWA) to provide updated spreadsheet to Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) by close of business on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, as well as updated slide deck.	Paul Hartman (LWA)	5/12/2020
4	Paul Hartman (LWA) to provide draft language for Copermittees that clarifies responsiveness to the Regional Board's specifically mentioned pollutant sources does not constitute agreement with the Regional Board's determination the sources are controllable or uncontrollable.	Paul Hartman (LWA)	6/3/2020
5	Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) to ensure the agenda for the next PPS meeting includes discussion on asking the Regional Board for regulatory relief now and for future years given pandemic issues and budget constraints.	Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego)	5/14/2020
6	Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) to ensure the agenda for the next PPS meeting includes discussion on moving forward with the Regional Monitoring Ad Hoc Subcommittee.	Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego)	5/14/2020

134   Meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM.