

Program Planning Subcommittee
WQIP Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Meeting Summary

June 3, 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 Marisa Soriano	City of Lemon Grove	City of Vista
City of Coronado Jessie Powell	City of National City Carla Hutchinson	County of San Diego Brianna Martin Ruth de la Rosa Stephanie Gaines Chelsea McGimpsey Joanna Wisniewska
City of Del Mar Kelly Ogawa	City of Oceanside Justin Gamble	
City of El Cajon John Phillips	City of Poway Tracy Beach	
City of Encinitas	City of San Diego Brianna Menke	
City of Escondido Alicia Appel	City of San Marcos Reed Thornberry, Doug Dowden	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	
Wood Matt Rich, Kristina Hysler	Dudek Bryn Evans	Weston Solutions Sheri Dister, Michelle Mattson, Andrea Crumpacker
D-Max Engineering John Quenzer	Larry Walker Associates (LWA) Paul Hartman	Secretary (Michael Baker International) Hilary Ellis

1. Call to Order

Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

2. Roll Call

Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) asked meeting attendees to use the chat function on WebEx to enter their name and affiliation for roll call.

3. Opportunity for Members of the Public to Speak (1:05)

No members of the public requested to speak at the meeting.

4. Review/Accept April and May Meeting Summaries

For the April meeting summary, no one requested revisions or opposed acceptance of them. The April meeting notes were approved by general consensus.

17 For the May meeting summary, John Phillips (City of El Cajon) requested a revision to Line 72. No one
18 opposed acceptance of the revised notes. The May meeting notes, as revised, were approved by general
19 consensus.

20 **5. Uncontrollable Sources**

21 The Subcommittee had asked LWA to draft language that could be useful in Water Quality Improvement
22 Plans to indicate implementation of strategies and responsiveness to various sources in the watersheds
23 does not mean the Copermittees are entirely responsible for those sources. The draft language was
24 emailed to the Copermittees last night. The draft language, consistent with previous recommendations
25 and discussions in the Subcommittee, does not use the specific terms of controllable or uncontrollable.
26 Copermittees are expected to tailor the language to their particular situations or preferences and use as
27 appropriate for their Water Quality Improvement Plans.

28 The Subcommittee discussed some revisions to the draft language. Stephanie Gaines (County of San
29 Diego) will send the Copermittees the latest draft language that includes the comments discussed at this
30 meeting. Copermittees are asked to provide redline comments on the language by June 12. Discussion
31 will continue at the June Program Planning Subcommittee meeting.

32 **6. Regional Reduced WQIP Annual Reporting Request**

33 As previously discussed in this subcommittee, several Copermittees are interested in requesting reduced
34 Water Quality Improvement Plan Annual Reporting from the Regional Board for this year and possibly
35 future years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of San Diego and County of San Diego
36 independently and together have worked on this. They reviewed the TMAR to determine if it would be a
37 viable option to propose to the Regional Board. It includes significant receiving water monitoring and
38 hydromodification monitoring; therefore, proposing the TMAR at this time would not be advantageous
39 to the Copermittees as the regression analysis currently being completed may affect the proposed
40 monitoring schedule. They also reviewed what had been proposed as reporting changes in the Report of
41 Waste Discharge (ROWD). In the ROWD, it was proposed Years 1, 3, and 5 of a permit cycle would have
42 reduced annual reporting. That reduced annual reporting would include the Code of Federal Regulations
43 (CFR) requirements and any required TMDL monitoring and anything related to the implementation of
44 B(3)(c) provisions. It was proposed Years 2 and 4 of a permit cycle would be a more robust assessment
45 of data collected. Year 4 would be a large ROWD with a trend analysis based on the five-year cycle.

46 As Copermittees will begin engaging their consultants to compose the annual reports in the next two
47 months, this is a time-sensitive request. The County of San Diego has sent a request to Laurie Walsh
48 (Regional Board) to have a meeting with the County and the City of San Diego on behalf of the
49 Copermittees to discuss this issue. They are hoping to have the meeting between June 3 and June 15 to
50 discuss a draft proposal for annual reporting at a reduced requirement as a result of the pandemic and
51 pending budgetary constraints and resource reduction. No response from the Regional Board has been
52 received yet. If the Copermittees can reach consensus this week on what to propose, and if the Regional
53 Board sets the meeting before June 15, then the County of San Diego and City of San Diego can bring the
54 outcome of that meeting to the next Program Planning Subcommittee meeting on June 18 and
55 consultants could be notified how to proceed before July 1.

56 Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) presented the initial list for what would be included in a
57 potential request for reduced reporting.

- 58 1. JRMP data, including the fiscal report
- 59 2. Full TMDL reporting
- 60 3. A table showing the non-TMDL data collected and the values below, above, or equal to the
61 thresholds for the rest of data collected (instead of extensive narratives)
- 62 4. Updates on special studies in a bulleted format
- 63 5. Narrative with a table showing compliance pathways and progress on meeting goals.
- 64 6. All analytical data in CEDEN format (in appendix)
- 65 7. The master strategies list for watersheds with a column for adaptive management notes on each
66 strategy (in appendix)
- 67 8. Responses to WQIP letters due in 2021
- 68 9. Trends analysis to address 40 CFR 122.429(c)(7) identification of water quality improvements or
69 degradation

70 Kristina Hysler (City of San Diego) also recommended removal of the stormwater volume and load
71 calculations for this reporting year for both the wet and dry weather MS4 outfall monitoring program.
72 These calculations are the source of the Regional Board's concern with the C-value presentation in
73 letters received last summer. Copermittees met with Regional Board staff, discussed the C-value issue
74 and load calculations, and at this time there is no resolution to the issue.

75 Sheri Dister (Weston Solutions) suggested cross-walking the list above to Provision F.3.c.(3) in the
76 Permit, which covers the annual reporting requirements.

77 Matt Yeager (Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District) suggested explaining to the
78 Regional Board this reporting relief request is from budgetary and resources impacts from the
79 pandemic. It may also be good to have a prepared response for how much money this is expected to
80 save the Copermittees. John Phillips (City of El Cajon) mentioned some city managers have issued
81 bulletins on loss of revenue and necessary reductions. These bulletins would support the reduced
82 reporting request.

83 The Copermittees also discussed an important point to bring forth is this is an administrative request for
84 reduction that would not impact water quality. Writing hundreds of pages or compiling reports is not
85 the same as having boots on the ground, in the field doing work to improve water quality.

86 Several Copermittees already have management support for requesting reduced reporting. Stephanie
87 Gaines (County of San Diego) asked for all Copermittees to notify her by close of business on Friday,
88 June 5, 2020, as to whether their management would be supportive of the request or not.

89 Some Copermittees expressed they would be more comfortable if they knew exactly what is going to be
90 presented to the Regional Board. The Subcommittee discussed having a PowerPoint that would include
91 a crosswalk from the Permit to the list of items discussed previously. A letter from the Copermittees
92 may also be written; however, the Permit is not clear as to whether the Executive Officer of the Regional
93 Board has the authority to approve the reduced reporting request or if the matter would require a vote
94 at a Regional Board meeting. The PowerPoint prepared for this next meeting with Regional Board staff
95 could include asking them what kind of request is necessary for them to start the approval process.

96 Alicia Appel (City of Escondido) asked if the regulatory relief request will have a proposed expiration
97 date on it. Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) suggested it would be related to how long it would
98 take to “return to normal business practices” from the pandemic instead of a specific number of years,
99 but it is open for discussion and suggestions.

100 Matt Yeager (Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District) asked if regulatory relief
101 has been requested by anyone else in the State of California. The COVID-19 pandemic could possibly be
102 considered a force majeure situation. Paul Hartman (LWA) volunteered to check with colleagues in other
103 parts of the State.

104 The Copermittees reached general consensus for the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, Orange
105 County, and County of Riverside to meet with Regional Board staff to further this request.

106 **7. Other Discussion**

107 There were no other items brought up for discussion.

108 **8. Action Items and Next Steps**

109 Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) reviewed the action items for this meeting.

- 110 • Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) to send redlined May meeting notes to Hilary Ellis
111 (Secretary).
- 112 • Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) to send Copermittees latest draft language, with
113 embedded comments, on responsiveness not meaning responsibility for sources. Copermittees
114 to review and provide comments or redlines by June 12 and discuss at the June PPS meeting.
- 115 • Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) to compile notes on reduced reporting request to the
116 Regional Board and send to the Copermittees ASAP.
- 117 • Copermittees to discuss reduced reporting request with management and notify Stephanie
118 Gaines (County of San Diego) by Friday, June 5 with support or not.
- 119 • Paul Hartman (LWA) to find out if similar regulatory relief is being requested in other parts of
120 the State.

121 **9. Future Meetings and Ad Hoc Subcommittee Support**

122 The next Program Planning Subcommittee meeting is June 18, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM.

123 The next WQIP Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting is not yet determined. It will be scheduled as work
124 products necessitate.

125 The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 PM.