

**Tijuana River Watershed Management Area  
Meeting Minutes  
January 16 2018 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm  
County Operations, 5510 Overland Avenue, 4th Floor Room 451**

**Attendees:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Names</b>
City of Imperial Beach (IB)	Chris Helmer
	Wbaldo Arellano
City of San Diego (SD)	Brianna Menke
	Heather Krish
	Ming Lai
County of San Diego (County)	Joanna Wisniewska (WPP)
Amec Foster Wheeler, a Wood Group Company (Amec)	Matt Rich
	Brenda Stevens
	Terra Miller-Cassman
D-MAX Engineering, Inc. (D-MAX)	John Quenzer
Dudek (Dudek)	Bryn Evans

Notes: WPP – Watershed Protection Program, DPR – Department of Parks and Recreation

1. **Call to order:** 1:00pm
2. **Roll Call**

All participants introduced themselves.

3. **Time for public to speak on items not on the agenda**

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

4. **Approve minutes from previous meeting**

IB motioned to approve the minutes from the December 2017 meeting. SD seconded. Meeting minutes were approved with no further edits.

- **Action item:** D-MAX will post meeting minutes on the Project Clean Water website.

5. **Bight planning: trash study**

- The last trash Bight meeting was held on January 11, 2018. The Bight '18 trash component will focus on four different topics: trawls, rivers, microplastics, and biota.
  - Trawls: data will be collected to add to the existing database for trawls and to draw trends of magnitude and extent of debris.
  - Microplastics: monitoring will focus on amounts of trash sourced from wastewater treatment plants, other sources, and comparisons between amount of debris in bight and other areas.
  - Rivers: The Storm water Monitoring Coalition (SMC) has agreed to sample rivers for trash during their 2018 Bioassessment surveys and will be doing a probability based design covering approximately 100 sites in 2018.
  - Biota: data will focus on the amount of micropalstics in mussels in coastal estuaries and adjacent beaches, and the difference between wet and dry weather.
- There has been some discussion of potentially collecting information related to Track 1 and Track 2 trash requirements. These study areas could be 1). Trends of the trash

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amendment (effectiveness); and 2) the source of the trash (MS4 or direct). It is not clear to what extent the planned Bight trash work may be able to provide this data.

- The Bight '18 Debris committee has expressed interest in expanding the study into Orange County. Members of the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (TRVRT) noted that in their meetings, inclusion of Ensenada to cover the full extent of the Bight was discussed. However, this had not been discussed with the Bight Debris Program work group.
- Bight sediment monitoring sites will be reselected this week using the same randomized drawing. Details will be provided once they are received from the Bight committee.
- **Action item:** IB to follow-up with TRVRT regarding the inclusion of Mexico into Bight '18 programs.

**6. FY19 watershed shared costs budget**

The Draft Fiscal Year 2019 scope, budget and shared cost spreadsheets were reviewed.

- Costs for optional sediment chemistry and toxicity monitoring at SMC bioassessment sites are included in the budget. Optional sediment monitoring includes sediment collection for pyrethroids, TOC, grain size, % solids, and sediment toxicity (1 species) analysis at SMC stream bioassessment sites where fine sediments are present. Data will be submitted to SCCWRP to evaluate the relationship between sediment pyrethroid concentration and stream benthic macroinvertebrate health.
- Costs for watershed participation in Bight Sediment Quality Monitoring (estuary locations; different than the bioassessment site sediment monitoring discussed above) were reduced from \$45,000 for 2 sites estimated during the December meeting to \$40,000 for 2 sites based on additional information that has become available.
- Costs to create a “smart document”, which will include additional links in the document to aid navigation, were incorporated into Task 3 (Annual Reporting). The County noted that the County-led watershed (San Luis Rey and San Diego River) will be moving forward with a smart document for next year. Other group members noted that TJ should probably do the same for regional consistency.
- Special Study budget has been included in the FY 2018-2019 budget for use on an as-needed basis, with prior approval from the RAs.
- **Action item:**
  - Consultant team to provide more information about the optional sediment monitoring proposed for the SMC Bioassessment monitoring.
  - Consultant team to send the group a request for voting on the 2018-2019 budget via email. This will be structured as three voting items: (1) watershed shared costs excluding optional tasks, (2) optional additional cost to create a smart document, and (3) optional additional cost for sediment sampling at SMC bioassessment sites.

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**7. Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team/Watershed updates**

IB met with the Department of Justice regarding the potential litigation with IBWC. They reviewed projects related to improving water quality. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2018. An action plan is expected to be determined by the end of the month.

**8. Future meeting locations and content**

The group discussed the potential of changing future meeting locations to rotate between jurisdictions or within the watershed to visit projects of interest. Constraints include workgroup members' work schedules. If the meeting time remains the same, the group is open to changing the location.

- **Action item:** Amec and IB will look into alternative meeting locations for the February 20 meeting.

**9. Monitoring Update**

All five wet weather outfalls were monitored during the January 8-10, 2018 storm event. Wet weather monitoring for the 2017-2018 season is complete. Amec will provide a monitoring summary when data are received.

**10. Year in Review Watershed Summary**

To ring in the New Year, Amec presented some highlights and accomplishments of the watershed group from 2017, including:

- Streamlined 2016-2017 Annual Report and public friend executive summary
- On track to achieve WQIP Interim 2018 sediment reduction goal.
- RMAR/ROWD submittal, including recommendations for permit revisions to make the WMA programs more effective.
- Transboundary collaborative efforts to improve water quality in the border region.

**11. FY17 WQIP Annual Report finalization and delivery**

Certification statements provided by the RAs are being incorporated to finalize the document. Amec will hand deliver the report to the Regional Board on January 30 or January 31.

**12. JRMP Annual Report Submittal Directly by Jurisdictions**

The group discussed the Regional Board's request that RAs directly submit their JRMP annual reports to the Board, in addition to being attached to the WQIP Annual Report.

**13. Permit reissuance timeline**

The Regional Board expects to release a tentative order over the summer and will hold an associated workshop to receive feedback. The target date for final adoption of a reissued Permit is fall 2018. The Regional Board may also prepare and send out an administrative draft of the new Permit prior to release of the tentative order; if one is prepared, it is expected to be released in Spring 2018.

**14. Other items (time permitting, no action will be taken)**

Update on action items from previous Watershed Group meeting

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(Note that the status provided below is as of the date of the meeting)

- **Re: Approve minutes from previous meeting**

D-MAX will post meeting minutes on the Project Clean Water website.  *Completed*

- **Re: FY17 WQIP Annual Report and executive summary**

- Label axes on Progress Toward Goals figure in Executive Summary.  *Completed*
- Combine Sediment Management Activities for the Tijuana River Valley and Watershed Hydrology and Hydraulic Study paragraphs under the Recovery Team section.  *Completed*

- **Re: Draft FY19 Watershed and Shared Costs Budget**

The Consultant Team will make adjustments to the budget based on the discussion which include:

- Estimate how much effort would be required to make next year's report fully functional as a smart-document.  *Completed*
- Include estimated costs for Bight monitoring based on number of sites selected in the watershed.  *Completed*
- RAs to provide comments on the draft budget and input on Special Study efforts by January 9, 2018.  *Completed*

The next meeting will be held on February 20, 2018 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm at Dempsey Holder Safety Center, 950 Ocean Lane, Imperial Beach, CA 91932.