

San Gabriel River Regional Monitoring Program
Technical Stakeholder Group Meeting
November 12th, 2014

Attendees:

Mike Sullivan, LACSD
Sharon Green, LACSD
Phil Markle, LACSD
Lysa Gaboudian, LACSD
Chris Lopez, LACDPW
Emiko Innes, LACDPW
Michael Lyons, LARWQCB
Stuart Goong, OCPW
Scott Johnson, Aquatic Bioassay
Karin Patrick, Aquatic Bioassay
Rich Gossett, IIRMES

1. Newly awarded contract
 - a. Aquatic Bioassay and Consulting was awarded the SGRRMP contract in September, 2014
2. Program Update
 - a. 2014 Sampling Effort
 - i. Random sites
 1. The number of randomly selected sites decreased from 10 to 6 in 2014 to accommodate special study requirements specified by the SMC and the TSG. The four additional sites were used to bioassessment sampling at non-perennial stream sites and 2009/2010 revisit sites.
 2. 5 of 6 random sites were successfully sampled in 2014
 - i. SGUR06368, located on the East Fork San Gabriel River, was not sampled in 2014 due to high temperature on two occasions and rainfall that exceeded one inch on another occasion. Since no sites remained on our random site list, there were no make-up sites available.
 - ii. Revisit Sites
 1. Three previously sampled random sites were resampled to determine if stream conditions have changed over time.
 - iii. Non-perennial Stream Sites
 1. To assess changes in biological condition resulting from non-perennial stream conditions, a single site was sampled multiple times during the summer prior to it drying up.
 - a. To conserve resources we conducted the non-perennial stream survey at our post fire site (SGUR00428) in Shortcut Canyon. Two sampling events were conducted: results from the first will

be used for both the SMC non-perennial stream survey and the SGRRMP post fire survey.

- iv. Targeted Sites
 - 1. Sampling was completed at the 8 target sites.
 - 2. CRAM was also conducted at two of the 8 targeted sites (SGLT506 and SGUT501).
 - v. Estuary Sites
 - 1. All sampling was completed for the three estuary sites in June.
 - vi. High Value CRAM sites
 - 1. We conducted CRAM at one of the two high value sites in August 2014
 - a. The property owners at Los Cerritos Wetlands denied us access to this site. It was not replaced by another site.
- b. 2014 Data Status
- i. Freshwater Bioassessment Sites
 - 1. All data has been analyzed, QC'ed and submitted to the SMC/CEDEN with the exception of benthic macroinvertebrates (Due Feb. 28, 2015)
 - ii. High Value CRAM Sites
 - 1. All data has been submitted to the SMC
 - iii. Bioaccumulation
 - 1. Bioaccumulation samples have not been collected in 2014 due to contract issues. LACSD is resolving these issues and sampling may still occur this year at Puddingstone Lake.
 - iv. Estuary Sites
 - 1. All data has been analyzed, QC'ed and submitted to the SMC with the exception of benthic infauna (Due March 28, 2015).
- c. Annual Reports/QAPP
- i. 2012 Annual Report Updates – Due to LACSD November 28th, 2014
 - ii. 2013 Annual Report Updates – Due to LACSD January 29th, 2015
 - iii. 2014 Annual Report
 - 1. Draft due May 14th, 2015
 - 2. Final due September 4th, 2015
 - iv. 2015 QAPP
 - 1. Draft QAPP due March 30th, 2015
 - 2. Final QAPP due May 1st, 2015
- d. Technical Stakeholder Group Meetings (TSGM)
- i. Technical Stakeholder Group Meetings (TSGM)
 - ii. TSGM2 – End of February
 - iii. TSGM3 – Early May
 - iv. TSGM4 – August
 - v. TSGM5 – as needed

3. Web Portal

- a. 2014/2015 Budget

- i. \$10,000 needed for:
 1. Data update – most current data in the portal is from 2009
 2. Site Maintenance
 - a. Software license updates required
 - b. Application testing
 - c. Update GIS layers
 - ii. Once all of the updates are made, EcoLayers estimates that we will need ~\$5000 per year for base maintenance.
 - iii. The TSG members agreed that the web portal is a good idea and that we should move forward.
 - b. Web portal breakout group
 - i. Group Members: Phil, Lysa, Stuart, Rich, Scott, Karin
 - ii. This small group will meet with Joe (Ecolayers) to discuss ideas for the new web portal. Ideas and decisions will be presented to the TSG for approval at the February meeting. This discussion will lead to a final approach for the portal and projected budget.
 1. Potential topics
 - a. Discuss budget for coming year.
 - b. Include SWAMP/CEDEN Data
 - i. Ecolayers did this for SDRWQCB: Scott will contact Lilian Busse to discuss details
 - c. Improve map and data display
 - d. Improve data exports
 - c. SGRRMP Website
 - i. We need a website for the SGRRMP web portal
 - ii. This website could also include all SGRRMP related documentation including the QAPP, program document, reports, meeting information (upcoming meetings, agendas, minutes) etc.
 - iii. Sharon Green asked that we track website traffic
 - iv. The domain 'www.sgrrmp.org' is available.
4. Update Current Program Document:
 - a. The current Program Document has not been updated since the inception of this program. Aquatic Bioassay will update the Program Document to reflect changes already made by the workgroup (Due January 15th, 2015). This document will be used for the 2015 sampling season.
5. Future Program Document Revision – Review and update, as necessary, the 5 monitoring questions
 - a. The workgroup will begin reviewing and updating the Document Plan, and then present the changes to upper management.
 - b. Question 1: Examples of possible changes include:
 - i. Begin revisiting previously sampled random sites.

1. This allows us to increase our power to detect changes in the ambient condition of the watershed over time
- ii. Establish 2 or 3 permanent revisit sites to act as long term sentinel sites.
- iii. Drop pyrethroids and potentially replace with a more relevant contaminant.
- iv. Measure CECs
 1. The workgroup sees this as more of a special study. They would like more information regarding the State Water Board's current list of CECs before the February meeting
- c. Question 2: Examples of possible changes include:
 - i. Unique site habitat parameters
 1. Should we add additional parameters to our unique sites (currently we only conduct CRAM assessments).
 2. We might not be able to conduct CRAM assessments at Los Cerritos Wetland in the future. Should we add an additional site(s)?
 - ii. Targeted Freshwater Sites
 1. Should we continue monitoring the same sites or should we add/drop sites.
 - a. Especially the concrete lined channel sites
 2. Should we add attached algae, chl-a, and AFDM to our targeted sites?
 - iii. Sentinel Bacteria Sites
 1. We currently only measure E. coli, should we add other parameters?
 - iv. Estuary Sites
 1. We currently collect sediment chemistry, infauna, and sediment toxicity so that we can calculate the sediment quality objectives (SQOs) indices. Should we also include fish tissue?
- d. Question 3: To date only LACSD receiving water data have been used to evaluate this question. The TSG agreed that they wanted to explore including data from more agencies for this purpose. These data would serve the purpose of helping answer Question 3 and also be included on the web portal. In addition, it will allow us to build a sampling matrix of all stations and data types being collected, thus helping the TSG reduce redundancies and improve efficiencies in the design changes for Questions 1 and 2.
 - i. Examples of possible changes include:
 1. Include data from Industries that discharge in the watershed. Sharon followed up with three groups that might be willing to assist with this effort. The TSG could send a representative to these groups to explain our program and see if they would be willing to share data.
 - a. Building Industry Association of Southern California (BIASC)
 - b. Industry Advisory Council
 - c. Power Plants – AES
 2. Include data from Orange County Public Works

- a. Karin will talk with Stuart Goong regarding OCPW's MS4 permit, TMDLs, and mass emission stations
 - 3. Include data from LACDPW
 - a. LA County draft CIMP has been submitted and should be approved by early next year.
 - i. Can we get a copy of the draft CIMP (it is not posted on the LARWQCB Website:
http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/index.shtml)
- e. Question 4: Examples of possible changes include:
 - i. All swim sites are currently in the upper watershed.
 - 1. Should we add or remove sites?
 - 2. Should we add indicators (currently measure E. coli)?
 - 3. Should we measure Enterococcus?
 - 4. Should we try to measure sources (qPCR)?
 - ii. Reporting Results
 - 1. Results are currently reported in our annual report, should we try to report these results immediately when there are exceedances?
 - a. Lysa proposed that these data be forwarded to LA County Department of Public Health as they become available, similar to the reporting of data from the LACSD beach sampling program.
 - b. Karin followed up Esmeralda at the USFS office. She said that they currently report results for other human health risks to Department of Public Health (i.e. plague, West Nile virus, etc.) and we should be able to report the SGRRMP bacteria exceedances too. She also asked that USFS be notified immediately if there are exceedances.
- f. Question 5: The TSG agreed that our goal is to provide OEHAA with tissue contamination data annually so that they can decide if posting is necessary at a given water body. The SGRRMP is not reasonable for posting waterbodies.
 - i. Examples of possible changes include:
 - 1. Should we drop Arsenic?
 - 2. Should we push OEHHA to post SGR waterbodies?

Action Item List

- 1. 2012 Annual Report updates: Scott/Karin (Deadline: November 28, 2014)
- 2. 2013 Annual Report: Scott/Karin (Deadline: January 29, 2015)
- 3. 2014 Draft Annual Report: Scott/Karin (Deadline: May 14, 2015)
- 4. Set up meeting with Web Portal group before February Meeting: Scott (Deadline December)
- 6. Talk with Lilian Busse regarding SDRWQCB web portal including SWAMP/CE DEN data (Karin)

7. Update Program Document to reflect the changes the workgroup has made at previous meetings: Scott (Deadline: January 15th, 2015)
8. Draft QAPP due to workgroup: Karin (Deadline: March 30th, 2015)
9. Final 2015 QAPP: Karin (Deadline: May 1, 2015)
10. Contact the State Water Board and/or LARWQCB to determine what specific CECs or groups of CECs they are currently studying (Karin) (Deadline: February 15th, 2015).
11. Coordinate with Stuart Goong, OCPW, to get information regarding their TMDLs, MS4 permit, mass emission stations: (Karin)(Deadline: December 15th, 2014)
12. Coordinate with Emiko and Chris, LADPW, to get information regarding their MS4 permit once the CIMP is approved
13. Generate tables for Program Document review: (Karin) (Deadline: February 1st, 2015).