



**Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition  
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 7, 2017  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time) at  
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
1995 Market Street, Riverside, California 92501**

1. Introductions  
Sign-in sheet attached
2. Meeting minutes,  
Unanimously approved
3. Updates, and announcements  
Kurt Berchtold is retiring from the Santa Ana RWQCB  
Arne Anselm replacement advertisement will likely be public before the next SMC Meeting.  
LA County Department of Public Works will be getting a new director effective March 1<sup>st</sup>
4. Administrative/Briefings
  - a. Web Site Revamp – Michael Trapp (Michael Baker International)  
Steering Committee members liked the updates and were excited about the expanded capabilities.  
**Action:** All future distribution of documents will be conducted via website and not email to cut down on email traffic.
  - b. Annual Report – Michael Trapp  
Steering Committee member suggested changes to include budget details for projects to highlight leveraged money from non-SMC sources and other minor corrections. References to SMC research agenda specific objectives will be included in next year's report.  
**Action:** Additional financial information will be added along with other corrections within two weeks and give SC one week to provide electronic approval of corrections. Post final version to website.
5. Ongoing Projects (as necessary)
  - a. Regional Bioassessment - Eric Stein (SCCWRP)  
The SMC Bioassessment Technical Workgroup is prepping for the 2017 sampling season. Training and refresher courses will begin in mid-March. Technical work group is currently discussing articles for the next annual report and feedback from the Steering Committee is requested on what items they would like to see included. Arne suggested nutrients as an area in response to the combination of

- the state's nutrient numeric endpoints and biointegrity policies (Presentation added to meeting folder on website)
- Action:** SC to provide feedback on items to be included in next annual report
- b. CSCI Score Spatial Representativeness - Rafi Mazor (SCCWRP)  
Tabled to next Meeting due to time constraints
  - c. Water Quality Index - Ken Schiff  
Advisory committee is set but Chris Solek has moved to the USGS. Group discussed keeping Chris as individual member or rep of the USGS, or replace with a different NGO. Ken will talk to Chris about continuing to serve on the committee and permission with new position to participate. SC also approved Phil Markel to join representing WWTPs.  
The Advisory Committee recommended four questions that the WQI should address: status of impacts, causes of impacts, sources that contribute to causes, and trends. The Advisory Committee provided two approaches for answering the first question: focus solely on biology (beneficial use) or use multiple lines of evidence (chemistry, biology, physical, etc.). The EC chose the multiple lines of evidence approach first and, if it does not work out, use biology only as a contingency. (Presentation added to meeting folder on website)  
**Action:** Ken will work with Advisory committee to create the initial WQI and report back in 6 months on progress
  - d. Toxicity Results Implications Results White Paper - Michael Trapp  
Draft preliminary results prioritized 11 sites for further analysis. Data available on CEDEN is very limited and old and thus electronic copies of the lab reports are not available. Thus assumptions must be made to compare the data if more details cannot be found.  
**Action:** Michael will work with member agencies to locate more complete data sets for analysis. Provide draft to SC prior to next meeting.
  - e. SMC CLEAN project –Daniel Apt (Olaunu), Michael Trapp, and Matt Yeager (Yeager Consulting)  
Update on TAC meeting. Draft standardized monitoring plan for LID assessment created and coordinated with State board on possible adoption as part of Prop 1 funding. Beginning to coordinate with Riverside Co on possible support to conduct additional sampling at their demonstration site with back up spiking experiments to supplement data for analysis if no rain is captured.
  - f. Stormwater Retention Credit Framework/Alternative Compliance Project- Mark Grey, and Matt Yeager  
Update on discussion about efforts in SoCal related to alternative compliance protocols for new and significant redevelopments. Major efforts surround definitions of geospatial placement of projects. (Handout added to meeting folder on website)
6. New Projects (Discussion on Participation and Funding)
- a. Regional Bioassessment / Data Management Proposal - Eric Stein  
Lots of data are being produced by the SMC programs, but the SMC does not have a centralized location for data storage and access. The current project requires 80% of funds for just data management and responding to member agency data requests. The proposed project creates an SMC open data portal for data upload, data quality assurance checks, data retrieval, and data analysis. This would dramatically reduce ongoing costs for the SMC program.

Some SC members, especially the RWQCBs, would like to enhance the project by including NPDES wet and dry weather monitoring data as well as SMC regional monitoring data to the open data portal.

The SC discussed the need to coordinate their regional monitoring, NPDES monitoring, and data submittal requirements to CEDEN. Many members expressed their concerns about CEDEN, but CEDEN submittal is currently an NPDES requirement and the SMC members do not want to duplicate workloads for SMC and CEDEN. The Los Angeles RWQCB is willing to consider offering letters of support for the open data portal to be acceptable for CEDEN requirements.

A motion was made and approved to support this effort with the conditions that this database will be interface with CEDEN and submission to this platform will suffice for NPDES reporting requirements. (Presentation added to meeting folder on website)

**Action:** Eric will work with Greg to address concerns about reporting. Final budget will be created and added to SMC FY 17-18 and 18-19 budget and sent out to SC for approval.

- b. Toxicity Laboratory Intercalibration (Implementation Plan Update) - Ken Schiff  
A draft supplemental implementation agreement for funding with potential options was presented. Funding options included; 1) Funding partners, 2) Regulatory relief, 3) existing SMC funding mechanism. There is insufficient funds to pursue option 3. Several partners have expressed interest in collaborative funding (option 2) including the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), but the specific amounts remain uncertain. Ken has talked to all three RWQCBs and they are open to trading testing for this project with required testing as part of regulatory relief (option 1). However, each agency must negotiate their agreements individually. As a rough starting point, Option 1 has the potential to cover half (\$350K) of the total projected project price of \$700k. The other \$350k could be funded through option 1 and an SMC implementation agreement.  
**Action:** 1) SMC member agencies should begin negotiating regulatory relief agreements, Ken is available to assist when asked; 2) EC to provide feedback on how much they would like to expend on this project based on projections in the draft implementation agreement distributed today, and 3) EC to provide any other edits to draft implementation agreement.

- c. Others  
None

7. Budget Approval (FY 17 -18)

Draft budget will be created per conditional approval of the Database project and sent out to SC prior to next SC meeting.

**Action:** SC to approve at their next meeting

8. Committee Member Items  
(None)

9. Next Meeting –

- a. June 6<sup>th</sup> 2017, 10 AM - 2 PM  
(Riverside County FCD)