

Safe, Clean Water Program

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC)



Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, February 6, 2020
10:00am – 12:00pm
City of Santa Clarita City Hall, Century Room
23920 Valencia Blvd, Santa Clarita, CA, 91355

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Kristen Ruffell (LA County – Sanitation)
Jason Gibbs (GP Strategies)
Janine Prado (Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services)
Darren Hernandez (Santa Clarita)
Allen Ma* (LA County Public Works)
Julian Juarez (District)
Rick Viergutz* (Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency)

Hunt Braly (Poole & Shaffery)
Heather Merenda (Santa Clarita)
David Peterson* (Santa Clarita)
Sandra Cattell (Santa Clarita Sierra Club)
Dirk Marks (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency)
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel (St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation)
Mary Johnson (Agua Dulce Town Council)
Robert Newman (Santa Clarita)

Committee Members Not Present:

None

*Committee Member Alternate

See attached sign-in sheet for full list of attendees

1. Welcome and Introductions

All committee members and the public stood up for the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States.

All committee members made self-introductions and quorum was established.

The Chair, Mr. Darren Hernandez, reminded the committee to sign in, reminded the public that Public Comment cards are available, and pointed out where the restrooms are located.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2020

The District provided a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Darren Hernandez asked the committee members for comments or revisions.

Ms. Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 23, 2020. Mr. Dirk Marks seconded the motion. **The Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 23, 2020 (unanimous).**

3. Committee Member and District Updates and Disclosures

a) Regional Watershed Coordinator Updates

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Mr. Mike Antos (District consultant) announced that the interactive map that was discussed in the previous meetings is now available online. District staff navigated to the map titled "Safe, Clean Water GIS Reference Map" on the Safe, Clean Water website and Mr. Mike Antos demonstrated a few of the many features of the map.

Ms. Sandra Cattell asked if all blue line streams are on the map. Mr. Mike Antos said that the data is extraordinarily large as a layer on the map, but most of the blue line streams are visible on the map's base layer. He pointed to an example on the map. She claimed that the river that he was showing was not a blue line stream. Mr. Mike Antos offered to have a conversation with her separately to get the same understanding on the definition of "blue line streams".

b) Scoring Committee Updates

Mr. CJ Caluag (District) noted the tentative upcoming WASC timeline. The District is currently scheduling project applicant presentations throughout February. The Committee will develop their Stormwater Investment Plan (SIP) in March, and the Regional Oversight Committee will provide their review and recommendations in April. May through June, the District will prepare the Board Letter that presents the SIP to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for approval. For this WASC, the Committee could start discussing the SIP during the next WASC meeting.

Mr. CJ Caluag added that all the projects (i.e., projects submitted to the Infrastructure Program) have been reviewed by the Scoring Committee (SC), and about a third of the projects did not provide sufficient information to be scored. The project applicants should have received an email to provide more information. For this WASC, Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvements Project passed the threshold. Newhall Park Infiltration Project did not provide sufficient information to be scored and was sent an email to provide more information. He said that the SC cancelled their next meeting, but will reconvene on February 18.

Mr. CJ Caluag said that the Regional Oversight Committee met last week and discussed that the understanding and approach for the calculation of Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Benefits. If the WASC agrees the project is considered to benefit a DAC, the total allocated amount shown on the SIP would be applied towards the 110%

Mr. Allen Ma followed up on the Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvements Project update and said that they are gathering more information on the water quality monitoring.

Mr. Hunt Braly asked what happens to the project if it does not meet the minimum score by the SC? Mr. CJ Caluag said that unfortunately, the project will not be able to go into the SIP for this year.

Ms. Kristen Ruffell asked for clarity on the 110% DAC return requirement. Mr. Matt Frary (District) responded saying that the District team developed a planning tool for the Committee to assist in prioritizing projects based on the some priorities of the Safe, Clean Water Program. A member of the public asked what if Acton does not have DAC. Mr. Matt Frary said that it does not mean a project could not be funded in Acton. Ms. Kristen Ruffell asked if 110% DAC return requirement is a rolling average. Mr. Matt Frary said that it is an annual requirement and not a rolling average.

Mr. Dirk Marks asked why the Newhall Park Infiltration project did not meet the minimum threshold score by the SC. Ms. Heather Merenda expressed concern on the SC's methodology of scoring projects and that information was not disclosed to the project applicants. The SC

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gave the project team five days to provide more information to the SC with clearer technical explanation to allow the SC to score the project. She said the SC also asked for more information regarding the project's community benefit. The SC asked for an agreement between the project applicant and the school that the project would benefit. She said the process is a lesson learned for the SC and project applicant. She concluded that the project team got the required information asked by the SC.

Ms. Kristen Ruffell asked Ms. Heather Merenda if she had enough time to provide the required information and encourages the County to make sure the project applicant has sufficient time to pull forth the rigor of what is asked for. Ms. Heather Merenda responded that the SC offered to work with Ms. Heather Merenda's engineers to help get the information asked for.

c) Follow-up discussion from previous meeting

Mr. Allen Ma already provided a follow-up on Hasley Canyon Park Stormwater Improvements Project during the previous agenda item.

4. Public Comment Period

Mr. Darren Hernandez received two Public Comment Forms for a later agenda item.

5. Discussion Items

a) Ex Parte Communication Disclosure

Ms. Heather Merenda disclosed that she had discussions with Mr. TJ Moon from the SC regarding the required information for the Newhall Infiltration Park Project.

b) Presentation

i) Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution (Scientific Study Program) – Mr. Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates, Inc.

Overview of the proposed Regional Scientific Study will use the latest available technologies and approaches to measure waterborne pathogens across Safe Clean Water Program watersheds to help identify key sources of human health risk, develop cost-effective strategies that better protect human health, and support the regulatory shift needed to accommodate a modernized approach.

Mr. Richard Watson provided a PowerPoint presentation of his project submittal to the Scientific Studies Program to the Santa Clara River WASC.

See attached for a copy of the presentation slides.

Ms. Sandra Cattell asked if there was more recent information for the Santa Clara River watershed other than what is shown on slide 4 of the presentation, "Wet Weather Average Concentrations: LA County Land Uses". Mr. Richard Watson responded that he does not know off the top of his head but information like this has been shared extensively. Ms. Heather Merenda added that Ms. Sandra Cattell's question is the reason why this study is being

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proposed, because we do not have good risk-based indicators to identify what is harmful to humans.

Ms. Heather Merenda asked Mr. Richard Watson to explain a similar study done in San Diego. Mr. Richard Watson explained that one of the items the study looked at was the impact of surfer health along the coast of San Diego County. They had experts from around the country. He explained the Regional Board responded generally favorably to the study.

Mr. Hunt Braly asked how other WASCs are responding to this study. Mr. Richard Watson said that he is receiving very positive feedback on the study and added that the Upper Los Angeles River WASC Chair Mr. David Nahai proposed to have a discussion with other WASC Chairs since funding is being requested across the WASCs. He added that they would want a representative from each WASC to serve as an advisory panel that represents the watersheds for the study.

Mr. Hunt Braly asked for clarity on the objective of the study. Mr. Richard Watson said the key is finding two or three human markers that is acceptable from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the community that proves it is contributed to harmful pollutants.

Ms. Sandra Cattell asked if the Study could cost less if it utilized existing data. Mr. Richard Watson said that it is possible. Ms. Sandra Cattell asked what would happen to the extra funds if the study ends up being significantly cheaper. Mr. Richard Watson said that he is aware of the possibility and that any funded project will be audited. Mr. Mike Antos added that funding adjustments are available after each year. Since each year the Committee has to vote on the funding, the Committee can adjust the funds for the study.

ii) Public Comment Period

A member of the public expressed concern for how the study would negatively affect the schools in Acton that depend on the County-approved septic tanks. She expressed concern on whether the testing data for the study would be available to the public. Mr. Richard Watson responded that there is a twenty-one-page document that covers the stakeholder process of the study including the fact that it will all be available publicly. The member of the public was concerned that Acton would be penalized for being on a septic system. Ms. Kristen Ruffell added that she understands the results of this study would stop there from being as many false positives and if they septic systems are not causing water pollution now, this study would not take them there..

A member of the public expressed concern for the scale of the scope of the study. She is troubled that the study aims to be used by regulators for enforcement given that the study does not have a clear plan. She feels that the community of Acton will be greatly affected if the study decides that the septic systems are a problem. Mr. Richard Watson agrees that there should be a clearer scope and that is why the stakeholder process is in place to gain feedback and clarify the scope from those discussions. He agrees there could be dangers with over-regulation, but that the study may find that we are being regulated for the wrong things. He intends for the study to improve regulations. He explained a situation where the Regional Water Quality Control Board changed its regulations on copper after a study, so he is confident that the regulators will comply. He concluded that he will follow up with the public member for her concerns.

Mr. Hunt Braly agreed with the significance on the septic system issues and expressed that those permitted with septic systems should be aware of this before the study begins. He asked

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Ms. Heather Merenda how much it costs to monitor. She responded that it is approximately \$30,000 a month between the City and the District. Mr. Hunt Braly said that perhaps that Mr. Richard Watson's team, the City, and the District could all work together on this effort. Ms. Heather Merenda said it could be possible through changing the Memorandum of Understanding with the County and respects Mr. Hunt Braly's concerns for tax-payers.

A member of the public expressed her concern with what happened when the City tried to work with the District on improving the water quality of the Elizabeth Lake. She expressed concerned that the study would result in all the septic tanks needing to be retrofitted. Mr. Richard Watson said that the LA County Board of Supervisors could change the ordinance in the future and Ms. Heather Merenda said that the Committee hears the member of the public's concerns.

Mr. Hunt Braly told the member of the public that the study will merely provide recommendations on how to go about the results of the study and that people will have a voice on what is feasible from the study and what is not. Mr. Richard Watson agreed and said that during public outreach, stakeholders will be educated and have the opportunity to speak their concerns on the recommendations of the study. Mr. Hunt Braly ensured that the study, if funded, should provide a report several times a year. The Committee reminded Mr. Hunt Braly that project applicants are required to provide a report on a quarterly basis.

Ms. Mary Johnson agreed with the public members' comments that the results of the study could lead to a lot of unknowns including whether the community will get additional regulations. She would not want families to be financially burdened from this. Mr. Hunt Braly responded that Regional Water Quality Control Board regulations are already there. He does not see how the study could make things worse and believes it can help..

Ms. Sandra Cattell made a suggestion on an additional nature-based solution for the Newhall Park Infiltration project team.

6. Break

Committee decided not to take a break.

7. Voting Items

None.

8. Items for next agenda

Ms. Kristen Ruffell asked the District for the projected timeline of the SIP. Mr. CJ Caluag said the SC will meet on February 18, therefore the Committee can choose to begin discussing projects for the SIP during the next WASC meeting on February 20. Ms. Kristen Ruffell asked that the District add an agenda item for the District to present and explain the tool that is being developed for the Committee to help prioritize projects and an agenda item for the Committee to discuss how to choose projects for the SIP.

Mr. Matt Frary said that this study is a good example on what happens in the Safe, Clean Water Program when a project spans over multiple watersheds. He said that there will be facilitation from District staff to help those conversations. District staff will schedule a meeting for the WASC Chairs to discuss these issues and get potential feedback. That meeting would serve as an informational meeting, where there will be no voting, even if the group will want to decide to fund the study or not.

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9. Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Hernandez thanked the committee members and public for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 20, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
City of Santa Clarita City Hall, Century Room
23920 Valencia Blvd., Santa Clarita, CA 91355

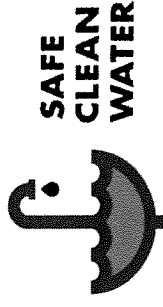
Future Meetings:

Thursday, March 5, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Thursday, March 19, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

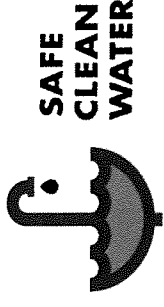


Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Julian Juarez	FCD	JJUAREZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	
Carolina Hernandez	FCD	CHERNANDEZ@dpw.lacounty.gov	
Steve Cole	GSA for the Santa Clara River Valley	scole@scvwa.org	
Rick Viergutz	GSA FOR THE Santa Clara Valley Water Agency	rviergutz@scvwa.org	
Janine Prado	City of Santa Clarita Recreation & Community Services	JPRADO@santa-clarita.com	
Tyler Pledger	Santa Clarita	tpldger@santa-clarita.com	
Kristen Ruffell	Sanitation Districts	kruffell@lacsds.org	
Martha Tremblay	Sanitation Districts	mtremblay@lacsds.org	
Dirk Marks	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	dmarks@scvwa.org	
Mike Alvord	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	malvord@scvwa.org	
Hunt Braly	Poole & Shaffery	hbraly@pooleshaffery.com	
Mary Johnson	Agua Dulce Town Council	maryjohnson767@gmail.com	
Jason Gibbs	GP Strategies	jgibbs@gpstrategies.com	
Frederick Andre Hollings	CA Department of Tax and Fee Administration	fahollings1@gmail.com	
Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel	St. Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Foundation	zuliebear@aol.com	

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COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ALTERNATE SIGN-IN

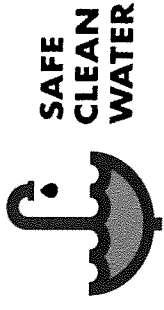


Member Name	Municipality/ Organization	Email Address	Signature
Heidi Webber	Community Hiking Club	hwebber50@gmail.com	A
Sandra Cattell	Sierra Club	sumcatt@yahoo.com	P
Diane Trautman	Santa Clarita Sierra Club	d.trautman@icloud.com	A
Bruce Hamamoto	Los Angeles County	BHAMAMO@dpw.lacounty.gov	P
Allen Ma	Los Angeles County	AMA@dpw.lacounty.gov	A
Darren Hernandez	Santa Clarita	dhernandez@santa-clarita.com	P
Darin Seegmiller	Santa Clarita	Dseegmiller@santa-clarita.com	A
Heather Merenda	Santa Clarita	HMERENDA@santa-clarita.com	P
Oliver Cramer	Santa Clarita	ocramer@santa-clarita.com	A
Robert Newman	Santa Clarita	rnewman@santa-clarita.com	P
Mike Hennawy	Santa Clarita	mhennawy@santa-clarita.com	A
Tom Cole	Santa Clarita	tcole@santa-clarita.com	P
David Peterson	Santa Clarita	Dpeterson@santa-clarita.com	A

Santa Clara River

Watershed Area Steering Committee Meeting

PUBLIC SIGN-IN



First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organization	Email Address
Richard	WATSON	RWA	r.watson@twaplaning.com
Kevin	Chang	LACPW	kchang@pw.lacounty.gov
Mike	Andos	Stanbec	Mike.Andos@Stanbec.com
JACQUELINE	Ayer	Acton Town Council	actontowncouncil.org
DON	Laird	ACTON	76248@yahoo.com
ROBERTA	Gelmont	Acton Dolce	REGELMOR@GMAIL.COM
ANGE	Martin	Acton	mrsangelike_martin@yahoo.com
Cam	Naltmeyer	WBPAE	camandjerry@Netzer.net

*Signing or completing this form is voluntary for members of the public

Overview of Proposed Scientific Study

Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates, Inc. (RWA)

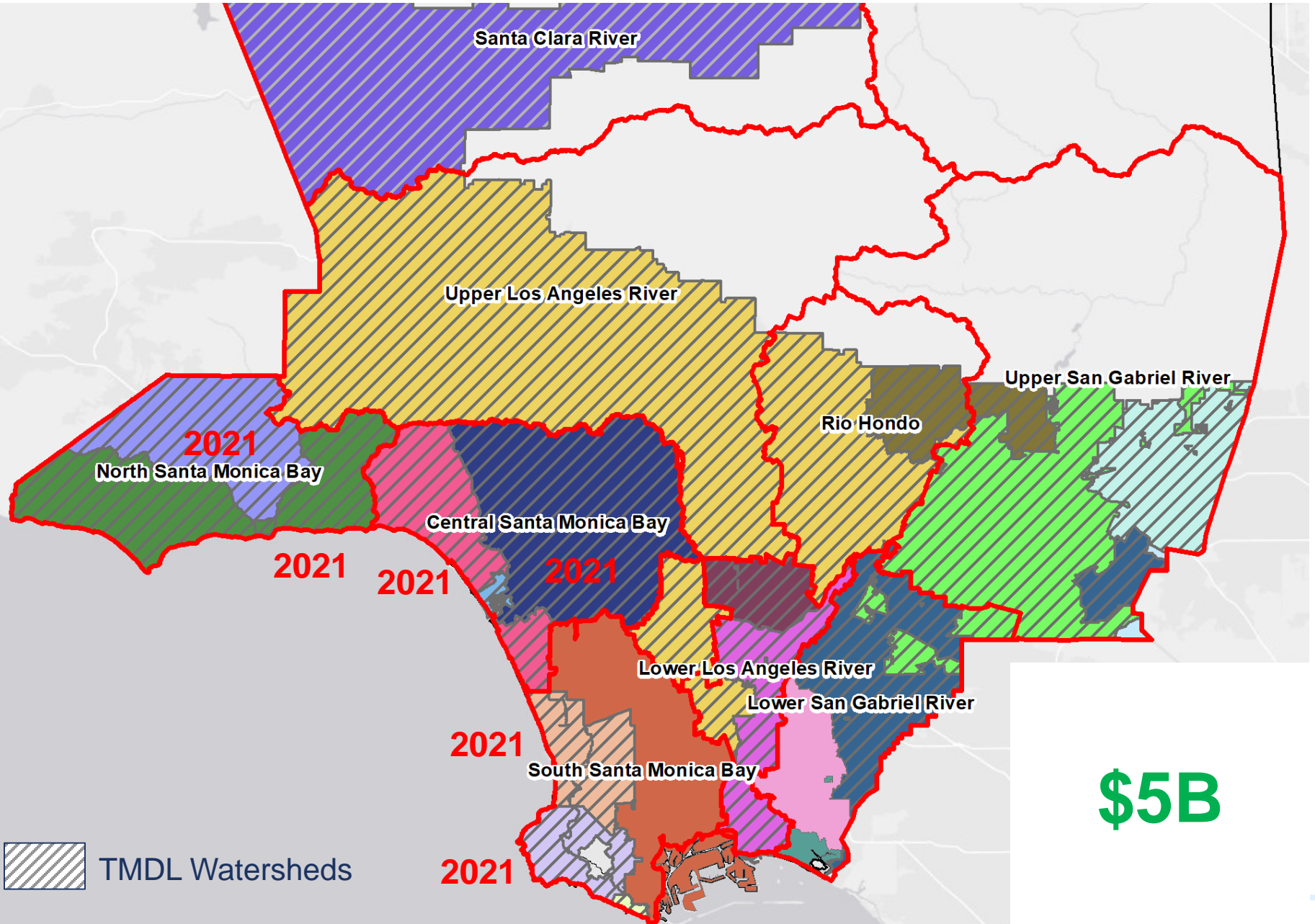
Presentation to Santa Clara River WASC

06 February 2020

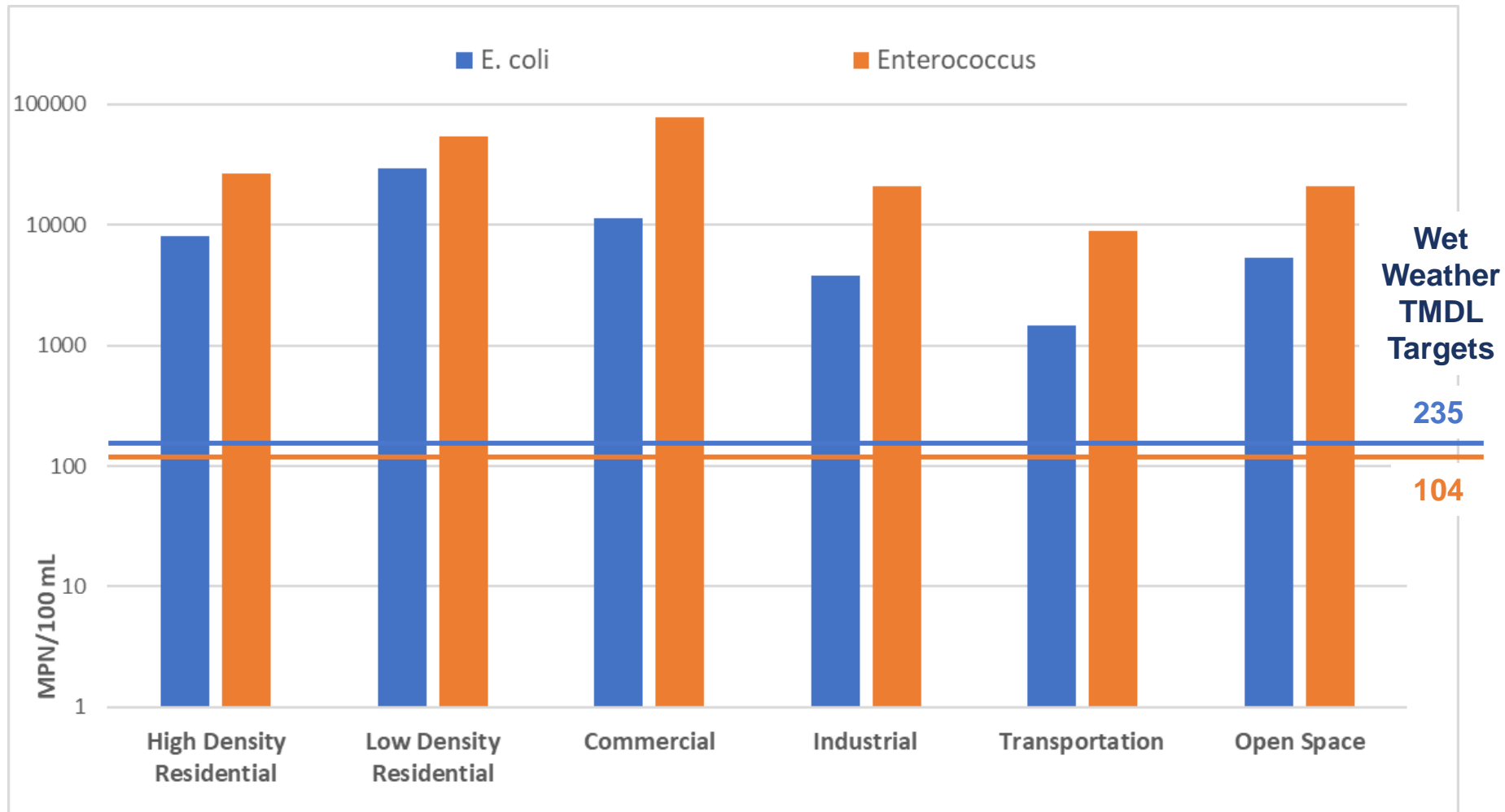
Overview

- Bacteria Challenges
- Nexus to Stormwater Capture
- Objectives of Study
- Scientific Study Approach
- Scientific Study Schedule and Cost Estimate
- Summary of Study

E/WMP Groups Addressing Bacteria



Wet Weather Average Concentrations: LA County Land Uses



Nexus to Stormwater Capture and Study Objectives

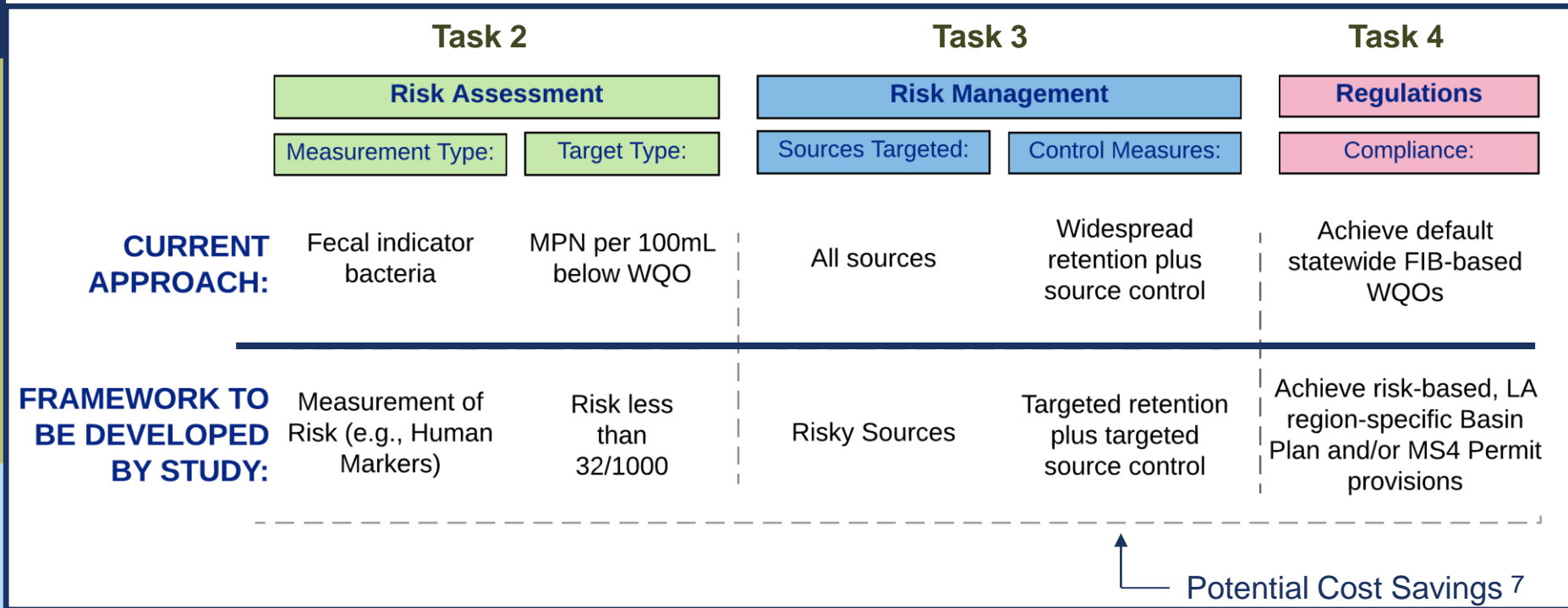
- Nexus to Stormwater Capture
 - Study will facilitate improved targeting of sources and water to capture
 - Study could reduce need to capture stormwater for bacteria compliance purposes
- Objective of Study
 - Leverage recent research
 - Produce strategies for incorporation into Program Plans
 - Support regulating agencies in making informed decisions

Scientific Study: Initial Steps

- Small Group Initiated Discussions
 - City and County of LA; LLC, LLAR, LSGR; and LWA
- Developed Special Study Approach
 - Apply state of the science to LA County specific issues
 - Built a scope for Measure W Regional Program funded study that each group can elect to participate (or not)
- Presented Approach E/WMP Groups
- Discussed with Regional Board staff

What will the study do?

Task 1 Stakeholder Process



Study Schedule

Task	Year									
	1	2	3	4	5					
Task 1 – Stakeholder Process										
Task 2 – Risk Assessment										
Task 3 – Risk Management										
Task 4 – Regulatory Revisions										

Measure W Scientific Study Funding

- Funding is now available to address issue through studies
- Multi-year studies eligible for scientific study funding (5% of regional program funds)

Watershed Area	Estimated Available Regional Funding for Special Studies	
	Annual*	5 Years*
Central Santa Monica Bay	\$890,000	\$4,450,000
Lower Los Angeles River	\$640,000	\$3,200,000
Lower San Gabriel River	\$835,000	\$4,175,000
North Santa Monica Bay	\$90,000	\$450,000
Rio Hondo	\$575,000	\$2,875,000
Santa Clara River	\$300,000	\$1,500,000
South Santa Monica Bay	\$920,000	\$4,600,000
Upper Los Angeles River	\$1,930,000	\$9,650,000
Upper San Gabriel River	\$945,000	\$4,725,000
Total	\$7,125,000	\$35,625,000

* Assumes Measure W revenue of \$285,000,000/year.

Cost Estimate

Tasks		Cost Estimate
Task 1-	Stakeholder Process	\$490,000
Task 2-	Risk Assessment	\$5,880,000
Task 3-	Risk Management	\$2,940,000
Task 4-	Regulatory Revisions	\$490,000
Total		\$9,800,000

Watershed Area Cost Allocations – Los Angeles County Bacteria Scientific Study

Watershed Area	% Share of Budget for Study ²	Projected SCWP Scientific Study Funds		Study Contribution by Watershed Area	Percent of SCWP Scientific Study Funds over 5-Years
		Annual	5-Year		
Central Santa Monica Bay	12.5%	\$890,695	\$4,453,125	\$1,224,282	27.5%
Lower Los Angeles River	8.98%	\$639,825	\$3,199,125	\$880,257	
Lower San Gabriel River	11.72%	\$835,050	\$4,175,250	\$1,148,559	
North Santa Monica Bay	1.26%	\$89,775	\$448,875	\$123,786	
Rio Hondo	8.07%	\$574,988	\$2,874,938	\$790,860	
Santa Clara River	4.21%	\$299,962	\$1,499,812	\$412,629	
South Santa Monica Bay	12.91%	\$919,838	\$4,599,188	\$1,265,369	
Upper Los Angeles River	27.09%	\$1,930,162	\$9,650,812	\$2,654,816	
Upper San Gabriel River	13.26%	\$944,775	\$4,723,875	\$1,299,442	
Total	100%	\$7,125,000	\$35,625,000	\$9,800,000	

1. Costs assume participation by all Watershed Areas, which increases efficiency of the study. Costs will need to be recalculated if not all Watershed Areas participate. Projected SCWP Scientific Study Funds are based on \$142.5 million in annual funds for the regional program (5% of which is available for scientific studies).
2. Percent of Total Budget is based on a proportional distribution of the costs based on the SCWP taxable impervious area.

Watershed Area Cost Allocations – Annual Cost Estimates to Implement Bacteria Study

Watershed Area	Study Year					Total Budget	Projected Scientific Study	
	1	2	3	4	5		Funds Available	% of Funds
Central Santa Monica Bay	\$330,750	\$330,750	\$330,750	\$116,016	\$116,016	\$1,224,282	\$4,453,125	27.5%
Lower Los Angeles River	\$237,611	\$237,611	\$237,611	\$83,712	\$83,712	\$880,257	\$3,199,125	
Lower San Gabriel River	\$310,111	\$310,111	\$310,111	\$109,113	\$109,113	\$1,148,559	\$4,175,250	
North Santa Monica Bay	\$33,340	\$33,340	\$33,340	\$11,883	\$11,883	\$123,786	\$448,875	
Rio Hondo	\$213,532	\$213,532	\$213,532	\$75,132	\$75,132	\$790,860	\$2,874,938	
Santa Clara River	\$111,397	\$111,397	\$111,397	\$39,219	\$39,219	\$412,629	\$1,499,812	
South Santa Monica Bay	\$341,599	\$341,599	\$341,599	\$120,286	\$120,286	\$1,265,369	\$4,599,188	
Upper Los Angeles River	\$716,800	\$716,800	\$716,800	\$252,208	\$252,208	\$2,654,816	\$9,650,812	
Upper San Gabriel River	\$350,860	\$350,860	\$350,860	\$123,431	\$123,431	\$1,299,442	\$4,723,875	
Total	\$2,646,000	\$2,646,000	\$2,646,000	\$931,000	\$931,000	\$9,800,000	\$35,625,000	

1. Costs assume participation by all Watershed Areas, which increases efficiency of the study. Costs will need to be recalculated if not all Watershed Areas participate. Projected SCWP Scientific Study Funds are based on \$142.5 million in annual funds for the regional program (5% of which is available for scientific studies).
2. Percent of Total Budget is based on a proportional distribution of the costs based on the SCWP taxable impervious area.

Summary of Study

- Will use latest available technologies to measure water-borne pathogens across watersheds.
- Will help identify key sources of human health risk, develop cost-effective protective strategies, and support needed regulatory shifts in support of this approach.
 - To make this successful, can't just be technical
 - Best way to focus on risk in the region
 - The time is now.

Questions and Thank You

Richard Watson
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