

**FINAL APPLICATION FOR LICENSE
OF MAJOR UNCONSTRUCTED PROJECT**

VOLUME (19 OF 19)

PUBLIC MEETING NOTES

**LAKE ELSINORE
ADVANCED PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PROJECT NUMBER 14227**

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March 2019

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Canyon Lake Lions Club – August 13

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

I presented the project to a monthly meeting of the Canyon Lake Lions Club

Attitude to LEAPS

Neutral

Issues Discussion:

I presented the project and addressed the benefits to the Canyon Lake Community. There were questions as to how the project would impact the Lake Elsinore west side visually. I suggested that given the facilities would be underground, there would be no visual impact. The only exception being a two story structure that provided access to generation equipment underground.

Unanswered questions?

The club president advised me that their membership ranks were dwindling and wondered if I would consider joining the club. I demurred politely advising them that I lived in Oceanside. He then suggested that the club wanted to hold a community open house designed to attract membership. He asked if I would consider making a presentation to the guests at that event. I agreed to do so.

Commitments:

I encouraged him to contact me at anytime regarding questions or attending their event.

Canyon Lake Rotary Club - August 2, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Attitude to LEAPS

Pro

Canyon Lake Rotary Club

Issues Discussion:

I provided the Rotary Club with an explanation of the project, including its importance to the Canyon Lake community. We discussed the need to maintain Lake Elsinore at the preferred level and the positive impact that would have on Canyon Lake. In years past, EVMWD would draw down the lake level at Canyon Lake to help maintain Lake Elsinore depth. When this occurs, it causes a great deal of upset in the Canyon Lake community, which is not only a drinking water impound, but heavily used by lake residents.

Unanswered questions?

They asked of the benefit to the Lake Elsinore community and the area in general.

Commitments:

I committed to respond, return to their meetings, if they would like. They asked, if they held a community event to enhance their club image and recruit new members, if I would return as a guest speaker. I agreed to do so.

Follow Up: What & When?

As needed.

City of Lake Elsinore - 2018-present

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Grant Yates, City of Lake Elsinore
Mayor Natasha Johnson
Pro Tem Steve Manos, Councillor Bob Magee
Councilor Tim Sheridan
Nicole Dailey, Communications (Sr. Analyst)

Discussion:

Throughout 2018, the LEAPS team interacted with Grant Yates and City Hall, beginning with a meeting with Mayor Natasha Johnson and Pro Tem Steve Manos on January 16, with informal conversations and updates thereafter.

During the summer, John Bobenic, David Aladjem, and John Sparks met with Grant Yates and solicitor David Mann to initiate discussions on community investments and potential easements required for the property.

The second half of 2018 involved development of a “key influencers” list (see separate report on that format), including Lake Elsinore Councilors, with the exception of Brian Tisdale who had no interest in meeting us. Key City contacts included:

- Grant Yates (on-going contact)
- Nicole Dailey meeting on July 26, 2018 to discuss polling, outreach and attitudes
- Follow up meetings with Natasha Johnson (October 2) and Steve Manos (September 28, 2018 February 8, 2019)
- Sparks & O’Neal met with Grant Yates and newly-elected Councilor Tim Sheridan on December 14

Sparks formally tabled a draft easement agreement with Grant Yates on December 11, 2018.

Follow Up:

Sparks and O’Neal will continue to interact with the City management and elected officials regularly.

County Supervisor Kevin Jefferies and Staff – December 10, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Kevin Jefferies, Bob Magee (who is also a Lake Elsinore councilman) and staffer Jeff Greene. John Sparks and Paul O’Neal for Hydro Company.

Attitude to LEAPS

Neutral

Issues Discussion:

The discussion centered around commitments to lake betterment, and impacts on the community. Of great concern to Mr. Jefferies is his fear that the pumped storage project is, in reality, a bait and switch: meaning that the pumped storage will be abandoned and the transmission line alone will remain.

Unanswered questions?

None

Commitments:

Our commitment is to open lines of communication and an honest dialogue.

EVMWD - Summer 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

LEAPS: John Sparks, John Bobenic, David Kates, Rex Wait, David Aladjem, David Baumgarten, Greg Kahlen
John Vega, John Brown, Jim Gilpin, Bonnie Woodrome, Harvey Ryan, Phil Williams

Discussion:

Throughout summer 2018, the LEAPS and EVMWD teams met frequently to negotiate the settlement agreement and develop a communications plan. This culminated in a news statement on September 2, 2018. Since that time, there have been informal discussions between Sparks, Vega, Woodrome and Erin Gilhuly regarding public communication and engagement and visualization studies.

Follow Up:

Sparks continues to work with Vega and Woodrome in 2019.

Glen Eden Sun Club - February 12-27, 2019

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

John Sparks
Steve Spencer, President, Glen Eden Sun Club
Art Bell, GM, Glen Eden Sun Club

Discussion:

Sparks first met with Steve and Art on January 10, 2019, followed by a discussion of tower placements on Google Earth on February 7. During the first visit, Sparks toured flood damage and mitigation. The second visit focused on tower placement and aesthetic impacts on the resort. GE invited Sparks to the February 17 meeting of the corporation, but we elected to put this presentation off until the April/May meeting when Sparks has driven the right of way with Art Bell and aesthetic renderings are complete.

Follow Up:

Potential meeting March 7, depending upon rainfall and ground saturation.

Jack Hutchinson, Studio395 - February 8, 2019

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

John Sparks
Jack Hutchinson (Studio 395)

Discussion:

Sparks first met Jack Hutchinson at the November Chamber presentation. The Studio's goals is "to build an artists' community in Southwest Riverside county that will be the creative destination through collaboration with community, civic, and business partners." There is potential for Nevada Hydro to work with Jack and the Studio members to develop an arts partnership once the project is in the design stage to discuss community partnerships and possibly public use near the generation site.

In August of 2013 we The Studio received 501(c)3 California Non-Profit status in August 2013, which established the STUDIO 395 FOUNDATION.

Follow Up:

Sparks will stay in touch with Jack Hutchison and other members.

Jason Gagnon, Congressman Ken Calvert's Chief of Staff - February 14, 2019
400 S. Vicentia Avenue, Suite 125, Corona, CA 92882

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Jason Gagnon

Greg Kahlen

Attitude to LEAPS

Neutral

Issues Discussion:

I gave Jason a quick history of the project, and where we are at this point with FERC and the other regulatory agencies. I explained the timing of the FLA submittal and that we had been meeting with the City of Lake Elsinore, the County of Riverside, LESJWA and the TMDL Task Force, the U.S. Forest Service, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, SAWPA, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other regulatory agencies, and local groups like the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce, Glen Eden, and Sycamore Creek.

I gave Jason a copy of the LEAPS brochure and went over the major project components with him. He asked about how much of the project was in the Cleveland National Forest and about the Forest Service's role in getting a FERC license. I explained our application for a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service and that it is going concurrently with the FERC application. I also told him that our FERC application had not been accepted yet, but we hoped that it would happen soon.

Jason asked about our progress with the City and I told him they were on record as opposed to the project, but that we were seeing cracks in that, and that we were asking them to remain open-minded as the FERC application progressed. I also told him about the settlement agreement with EVMWD, the provision that the LEAPS project would add 15, 000 acre-feet of water to the lake, the study that Dr. Anderson had just completed, and a brief description of the results of the study. He seemed impressed.

When I was telling him where we were with FERC, I mentioned the studies they had requested. Jason asked a little more about those, and how they fit into the environmental review process. I told him some of the studies were complete and others were getting close, and that they would be posted with FERC and become public at that time.

We also talked about the California requirements for renewable energy and how LEAPS would serve as storage for energy produced by solar and wind generation. He asked about costs of energy produced by solar and wind as compared to pumped storage and I told him I would try to get them for him.

Toward the end of our meeting I gave Jason a copy of certain slides from the polling we had done. We discussed the population increase in and around Lake Elsinore in the last 10 years and that many of the new

residents knew nothing about LEAPS. I pointed out how the poll numbers support this, and that residents were generally in favor of the project after they heard of the potential benefits.

Follow Up: What & When?

I told Jason we would still like to have a meeting with Calvert. I told him we would like to give Calvert a similar update on the project, make sure he had all of the facts, and ask him to keep an open mind. He said the recent Federal budget discussions and partial shut-down had really played havoc with Calvert's schedule, but now that a budget has been agreed to, his schedule would be more predictable. He said he would find some dates in March that the congressman had available and arrange a meeting for us. Jason seemed to be impressed with the work we've done and the progress we've made. He said he looked forward to meeting with us again and to hear how we are proceeding. In general, I feel the meeting went as well as could be expected.

John Garrett, STOP LEAPS - February 7, 2019

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

John Sparks
John Garrett, STOP LEAPS

Discussion:

Sparks first met John Garrett when he asked a question about reported annual losses from the original application (This was developed by FERC in 2005-1007 and has been superseded by new market data). John has never been satisfied that this is no longer relevant. Further, Mr. Garrett's larger concern is both the aesthetic and fire threat of the transmission line through the Cleveland National Forest. We have discussed this at length, and I have referred him to CalFire for specific firefighting answers. Mr. Garrett also does not believe LEAPS will permit greater use of renewables, and has spent considerable time researching and calibrating renewables curtailments. This research is largely moot as it depends on historic curtailment; as the State moves to 50% renewables by 2030, more solar and wind generation will have to be a) overbuilt and b) curtailed due to the mismatch between generation availability and demand. Given that LEAPS will not be operational until 5-6 years before the 50% target, it will alleviate what will be growing curtailment at that time.

Follow Up:

Sparks attempts to work with Mr. Garrett, but it is clear he is more focused on the STOP LEAPS group than on working with LEAPS. Nonetheless, we will try to provide him with information as we obtain it through the FERC process.

Ms. Julie Reeder, Owner/Publisher of the Valley News – October 3, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Luncheon meeting with Ms. Reeder, an old friend and colleague.

Attitude to LEAPS

Issues Discussion:

I gave her a detailed description of the project and our public outreach efforts. We discussed the importance of the press in our efforts.

Any Questions?

None

Commitments:

We agreed to get together soon to discuss further project milestones and the importance of social media.

**MEETING NOTES
OF THE
LAKE ELSINORE/CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE**

November 14, 2018

PARTICIPANTS

Garth Engelhorn
David Jensen
John McNamara
Rae Beimer
Rae Beimer
Cynthia Gabaldon
Stormy Osifeso
Hisam Baqai
Lenai Hunter
Sudhir Mohleji
John Rudolph
Greg Kahlen
Tim Moore
Ken Theisen
Andrea Gonzalez
Rebekah Guill
Bruce Whitaker
Rick Whetsel
Mark Norton

REPRESENTATIVE

Alta Environmental
CDM Smith
CR&R
City of Canyon Lake
City of Moreno Valley
City of Perris
City of Riverside
City of San Jacinto
EVMWD
EVMWD
Wood Environmental
The Kahlen Group
Risk Sciences
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL

Nicole Dailey
Lauren Sotelo
Steve Wolosoff

City of Lake Elsinore
March JPA
CDM Smith

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Mark Norton at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Riverside, California.

Meeting Notes

The October 30, 2018 Task Force Meeting Notes were accepted with the following revision; the motion to approve the Change Order to the Contract with CDM Smith was not seconded by Cynthia Gabaldon representing the City of Perris. At this time it is not clear who seconded the motion, staff will follow-up to determine who seconded the motion.

Discussion: Update and Revise TMDLs (CDM Smith & Risk Sciences)

Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith presented a handout to stakeholders highlighting the final revisions to be addressed to the TMDL Technical Report.

Mr. Wolosoff requested comments to the items highlighted in the handout by November 19th. Additionally, Mr. Wolosoff will send out an updated version of Appendix B, which includes two new tables for allowable loads within the watershed if one were to try and monitor downstream of the entire jurisdictional area. Comments to Appendix B are also due November 19.

This was followed by discussion of the tracking of nutrient off-set credits for individual stakeholders. Nutrient off-set credits generated through the LEAMS are tracked by LESJWA staff through the annual LEAMS accounting report. It is envisioned for the future Task Force funded alum and fishery management projects will be tracked by LESJWA staff as well, once a model is in place to equate alum applied and fish removed to nutrient off-set credits. With respect to nutrient off-set credits generated by individual stakeholders through the implementation of on-site BMP, prior to the TMDL update these credits were tracked through a spreadsheet tool developed and managed by CDM Smith and presented to LESJWA staff as a part of the budget process. CDM Smith is currently working to update this spreadsheet tool to track future on-site nutrient off-set credits. The process to incorporate these credits into the budget process for future budgets is in process.

The plan moving forward is for the team led by CDM Smith to complete revisions to the TMDL Technical Report by the end of November and submit the document to the Regional Board to proceed with the Basin Plan approval process the beginning of December.

Discussion: Proposed Revision to TMDL Monitoring Program (Risk Sciences)

Tim Moore/Risk Sciences presented to the stakeholders on recent discussions between Regional Board and EVMWD regarding the effectiveness of LEAMS. The outcome of which is that the Regional Board requested that EVMWD report annually on the nutrient offsets produced by LEAMS to validate the effectiveness of LEAMS and to quantify the nutrient off-set credits.

Mr. Moore then recommended, to facilitate this reporting process, as well as to eliminate redundancy between the monitoring conducted by the District and the LE&CL Nutrient TMDL Task Force for the Task Force to incorporate the additional monitoring of Lake Elsinore required by Dr. Alex Horne to assess LEAMS into the existing TMDL compliance monitoring program.

Currently, through the TMDL compliance monitoring program, water quality sampling for Lake Elsinore is conducted monthly during the summer period (June through September) and every-other month (bi-monthly) during the remainder of the annual cycle (October through May).

The additional monitoring required to address the water quality data needs by Dr. Alex Horne includes monitoring for the balance of the months not currently monitored to provide a complete year of monthly monitoring. The estimated annual cost to incorporate this monitoring into the current monitoring program is \$26,100. The monitoring results would then be shared with EVMWD, who would then contract with Dr. Alex Horne to conduct the modeling analysis.

To meet the immediate need of monthly monitoring beginning in January 2019, Mr. Moore requested the Task Force consider supplementing the current year monitoring program to cover the first half of 2019 (January through June). The cost to complete this additional monitoring would be \$13,038 for three additional months of Lake Elsinore monitoring.

A decision on this request for a Change Order for Wood Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. for this additional monitoring will be addressed as part of the upcoming budget discussion.

Next, the Task Force wrapped up discussion on the collection of post-fire monitoring data at the Cranston Guard monitoring station. Mr. Moore noted that as it was determined that we missed the first flush rain event it would be difficult to characterize the post-fire loads. Additionally, we learned that there are a number of other agencies already conducting post fire monitoring in other parts of the watershed, and that our monitoring would not add much value. It is not recommended that the Task Force take on any special post-fire monitoring at this time.

Mr. Moore pointed out that with the recent fires above the Cranston Guard monitoring station, we will no longer be able to use it as a reference watershed. Therefore, going forward we will need to identify another reference watershed as part of the updates to the compliance monitoring program that will be implemented with the approval of the Revised LE&CL TMDLs.

Ken Theisen/Regional Board agreed that this issue would be addressed as part of the revised TMDL. Ms. Rebekah Guill/RCFC&WCD provided a brief update on the post-fire monitoring effort by the District. She informed stakeholders of a rain event on October 12th, which was not forecasted, and the District was not able to mobilize to collect water samples, but was able to record observations. That first event was not intense enough to cause significant debris flow.

Mr. Moore, asked about the fire retardant, Phos Chek and if it was possible to differentiate between natural background and the amount of phosphorus added from the use of fire retardants. It was noted that due to the proprietary issues with the chemical formulas, it would be difficult to determine its impacts.

Discussion: Stakeholder TMDL Nutrient Load and Budget Allocations (LESJWA Staff) a. Status Update: FY 2018-19 Invoices

Rick Whetsel/SAWPA informed stakeholders of the remaining outstanding FY 2018-19 invoices. These include: CA Department of Fish & Wildlife and Cities of Menifee and Murrieta.

b. Discussion: FY 2018-19 Budget Shortfall

Rick Whetsel/SAWPA presented to the stakeholders a spreadsheet detailing the FY 2018-19 Task Force Budget. This included the following highlights to explain the budget shortfall, as well as the proposed modifications (consultant Change Orders) to the FY 2018-19 budget.

Projected budget shortfall.

- Task force is expected to be short \$54,079 due to the currently uncollectable allocations to CR&R (Composting Project) and Nevada Hydro (LEAPS Project), as well as the reduced amount collected from San Jacinto Agricultural Operators (WRCAC), due to a number of WRCAC members not being up to date on their dues.

Consultant Change Order Requests.

- CDM Smith (TMDL Revision) for \$75,700
- Risk Sciences (regulatory compliance expert) for \$19,890
- Wood Environmental (3 months Lake Elsinore monitoring) for \$13,038
- The additional funding required to address these Change Orders totals only an additional \$38,747, as there was some capacity within the appropriate consultant budget line items for additional work to be funded.

Overall, combining the budget shortfall with the consultant Change Orders result in an estimated FY 2018-19 deficit of \$92,826.

To address this deficit, LESJWA staff reviewed the FY 2018-19 budget to identify opportunities to move existing funds. The following were identified as opportunities that are expected not to impact the efforts of the Task Force in FY 2018-19:

- Reallocate \$87,826 from Lake Elsinore Fishery Management – review of the proposal schedule showed that key elements of the program (notably the survey of the aquatic fishery for \$73,150 and fish tissue sampling and analysis for \$7,850) are not scheduled to begin until August 2019. Therefore, the need for funding in FY 2018-19 is much lower than budgeted and sufficient project funding remains in the budget to initiate the project.
- Reallocate \$5,000 from LESJWA Project Administration – Staff believes that additional saving can be achieved through efficiencies in the management of the Canyon lake Alum Application project.

Additionally, Mark Norton/LESJWA informed the Task Force that the policy for accepting outside contributions to the Task Force is being brought back for discussion at the December 10th LESJWA Board meeting. He invited the Task Force agencies to attend to voice their support for approval of the policy to accept outside contributions to the Task Force. It was noted, if the LESJWA Board approves the policy, this could allow for the Task Force to invoice Nevada Hydro and CR&R for \$114,914 in funds to support the Task Force.

Following discussion a motion was put forward by Rae Beimer representing the Cities of Canyon Lake and Moreno Valley and seconded by Stormy Osifeso representing the City of Riverside to reallocate most of the FY 2018-19 Lake Elsinore Fishery Management program funds and unspent funds in LESJWA Project Administration to cover our budget deficit and utilize these funds for the proposed consultant change orders, with the caveat that if the LESJWA Board approves the policy to accept outside contributions, we can then collect contributions from Nevada Hydro and CR&R. Those funds would then be reallocated to the Lake Elsinore Fishery Management program. The motion was approved with a single no vote from the City of Lake Elsinore.

c. Action Item Review: CDM Smith Change Order

Due to previous action to reallocate FY 2018-19 funds this item was not necessary.

d. Discussion: FY 2019-20 Budget Model Template

Item tabled.

Action Item: Lake Elsinore Fishery Management Proposal (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel/SAWPA informed stakeholders that only one proposal was received with regard to the RFP issued in September looking for firms to implement the Lake Elsinore Fishery Management Program. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the single proposal received was sufficient to proceed. Mr. Whetsel will distribute this proposal to stakeholders for review with the intent that the task force will take action to recommend this proposal to the LESJWA Board at the January 9th LE&CL TMDL Task Force meeting.

Lake UpdatesLake Elsinore

Nicole Dailey/City of Lake Elsinore informed stakeholders that the lake level is currently 1234.35 feet above sea level. She also informed stakeholders of a recent effort by the City to stock approximately 900 of each redear and bluegill sunfish.

CanyonLake

No update.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)Status Update: Amendment No. 1 to Task Force Agreement

Rick Whetsel/SAWPA informed stakeholders of the remaining outstanding signature pages for Amendment No. 1 to the Task Force Agreement (City of Murrieta).

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE&CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at SAWPA.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

LAKE ELSINORE/CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE

Wednesday,
January 9, 2019
1:00 p.m. – 4:00
p.m.

SAWPA, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Approval of Meeting Notes from the November 14, 2018 Task Force Meeting
- 15 min. 3. Update: Update and Revise TMDLs (CDM Smith & Risk Sciences)
- 15 min. 4. Discussion: LEAMS Effectiveness Study (Risk Sciences)
- 15 min. 5. Discussion: Canyon Lake Alum Project
 - a. Proposed Alum Application week of February 18th (LESJWA Staff)
 - b. EPA Final Water Quality Criteria for Aluminum (Risk Sciences)
- 15 min. 6. Action Item: Lake Elsinore Fishery Management Proposal (LESJWA Staff)
- 15 min. 7. Discussion: Outside Contributions (LESJWA Staff)
- 45 min. 8. Discussion: Prop 1 Grant Proposals (LESJWA Staff)
 - a. Canyon Lake Dredging
 - b. Lake Elsinore Potential Project
- 15 min. 9. Discussion: Task Force Priorities for FY 2019-20 and Forward (RiskSciences)
- 15 min. 10. Lake Updates:

- 15 min*
- a. Lake Elsinore
 - b. Canyon Lake
 18. Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)
 - c. Draft FY 2019-20 Task Force Budget
 - d. Amendment No.1 to Task Force Agreement
 12. Other Business
 13. Schedule Next Meeting
 14. Adjourn

ADA compliance: Any person with a disability that requires special accommodations in order to participate in this meeting should call the main number at 951.354.4220, or email the Task Force Secretary at svilla@sawpa.org, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. This will enable staff to make reasonable arrangements for a disability-related modification or accommodation.

11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503 • 951.354.4220 • www.sawpa.org

**MEETING NOTES
OF THE
LAKE ELSINORE/CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE**

August 15, 2018

PARTICIPANTS

Clarke Pauley
John McNamara
Dan Cortese
Melanie Sotelo
Rita Thompson
Tad Nakatani
Cynthia Gabaldon
Mike Roberts
Andy Ramirez
Hisam Baqai
Mike Loving
Barry Snyder
Chris Stransky
Richard Meyerhoff
Greg Kahlen
Ankita Vyas
Ken Theisen
Tim Moore
Abigail Suter
Andrea Gonzalez
Rebekah Guill
Rick Whetsel
Pat Boldt

REPRESENTATIVE

CR&R
CR&R
City of Hemet
City of Hemet
City of Lake Elsinore
City of Menifee
City of Perris
City of Riverside
City of San Jacinto
City of San Jacinto
City of Wildomar
Wood (formerly Amec Foster Wheeler)
Wood (formerly Amec Foster Wheeler)
GEI Consulting
The Kahlen Group
Michael Baker/Caltrans
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Risk Sciences
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
WRCAC

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL

Rae Beimer
Rae Beimer
Renee Hunter
Steven Wolosoff
Al Javier
Lauren Sotelo
Alan McConnell

City of Canyon Lake
City of Moreno Valley
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
CDM Smith
EMWD
March JPA
Caltrans

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Rick Whetsel at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Riverside, California.

Meeting Notes

The Task Force deemed the Meeting Notes acceptable for the meeting held on May 23, 2018.

Discussion: Update and Revise TMDLs (CDM Smith & Risk Sciences)

Ken Theisen /Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board spoke briefly to compliment the consultant team led by CDM Smith and stakeholders on their effort to prepare an updated TMDL Technical document.

Ken noted that he is feeling confident to make a recommendation for approval of this document to the Regional Board. Following completion of the document by the Task Force he will be drafting an Executive Summary and tentative Resolution for adoption for the Board. In addition, Ken will also be preparing an attachment that will outline in strikeout underlined form how these revisions will be incorporated into the Basin Plan.

Ken has provided a schedule to the State Board and EPA stating that the we expect the report to be finalized in November and made available for public review shortly afterward, with two public workshops between January and March. This will be following by a Public Hearing in June for adoption by the Regional Board.

It was noted that Mark Smythe is up for promotion of the Stormwater permitting and dairy units, and Ken will be taking-on the primary responsibilities to complete the TMDL adoption.

Ms. Pat Boldt noted that she recently attended an NRCS conference, where she was enlightened to the fact that this effort to implement a TMDL is much more advanced than in many places in the U.S.

Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith followed with a presentation on the effort to update and revise the TMDLs. This presentation focused on discussion of the final report figures and updates to the report.

Concerns were raised with regards to the recent fires in the forest area and the transport of nutrients through sediment erosion. Regional Board suggested the need for additional water quality monitoring downstream from the burned forest areas.

Next Steps:

- Currently the entire body of the TMDL Technical document is out for final review by stakeholders; comments due by mid-September (Sept 14th).
- The Economic Analysis chapter will be available for review within the month.
- Lastly, Tim Moore is working to prepare an Executive Summary to the TMDL Technical Document

Discussion: LEAMS Special Studies (Risk Sciences)

Rick Whetsel/ SAWPA noted that in June the 2016 LEAMS Offset Credit Accounting Report was approved and accepted by the Regional Board and in just the last couple of weeks the 2017 LEAMS Offset Credit Accounting Report was also approved. This certifies the nutrient offset credits for stakeholders for calendar years 2016 and 2017. Additionally, invoices for nutrient offset credits for calendar year 2018 were just sent out.

Regional Board has noted approval of the process for estimating the nutrient offset credits through the 2018 calendar year; however, moving forward the Regional Board has requested revisions to the process.

Tim Moore /Risk Sciences provided introduction to stakeholders on the proposed plan to re-evaluate the effectiveness of LEAMS, due to the changing conditions in Lake Elsinore.

The first step in this plan is for Tim Moore to work with Dr. Alex Horne and Dr. Michael Anderson to review the methodology to gain a better understanding of why the results of the 2017 analysis appear to be so different than the 2011 and 2014 analysis. The key to this proposed effort is evaluating how LEAMS is operated and how to maximize its utility.

Additionally, due to rising uncertainty as to the effectiveness of LEAMS, the Regional Board has requested that the effectiveness analysis be performed annually until a baseline can be established.

Lastly, Tim brought up that the method used to calculate offset credits, based upon hours of operation, does not work so well with LEAMS operating at over 5,000 hours instead of the 2,000 assumed in the offset credit calculation. Therefore, he is rethinking the units for which we assign credits. After he works through getting this new method approved by the Operators he will bring it back to the Task Force.

Tim's recommendation; due to the need of the Task Force to use LEAMS as a means of compliance for the Lake Elsinore TMDL. This re-evaluation effort be completed by the Task Force, instead of the Operators and for it to be accelerated to begin in the next fiscal year.

It is expected that the effort required by Dr. Horne and Michael Anderson's be completed by the end of the 2018 calendar year, with an estimate of the additional time and effort in place for the next Task Force budget.

Tim Moore will bring back a proposal for the study to be completed by Dr. Horne and Michael Anderson for the next Task Force meeting.

Update: Lake Elsinore Fishery Management (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed stakeholders that staff is working on a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Fishery Management tasks related to Lake Elsinore. This will include tasks to conduct a survey of the Lake Elsinore Fishery and if appropriate for carp removal.

Currently, staff is reviewing a draft RFP with Tim Moore. The plan moving forward is to work with Tim Moore and the City of Lake Elsinore on the preparation of a formal draft RFP to bring back to the Task Force for a recommendation of approval by the LESJWA Board.

Update: Canyon Lake Alum treatment (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA reminded stakeholders of the upcoming September Canyon Lake Alum application. Staff has scheduled a pre-application project coordination conference call for 9:30 a.m. Monday, August 20th to review key components of the program.

The September 2018 Canyon Lake Alum application is tentatively scheduled for the week of the 17th through 21st.

Lake UpdatesLake Elsinore

Rita Thompson /City of Lake Elsinore noted the lake level at 1235.08 ft above sea level. She also noted that the lake water was used by fire fighters to help suppress the recent wildfires. It is estimated that the impact on lake level was less than 0.5 inches and the recent additions of water from the Summerly Development project, as well as water added by EVMWD made up more than the difference in the loss of water used to fight the wild fires.

Canyon Lake

Ken Theisen /Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board informed stakeholders that he and Mark Smythe recently went on a tour of Canyon Lake. He also noted that the east arm of Canyon Lake is dealing with a bloom of brown algae.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)FY 2018-19 Invoices

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA announced to stakeholders that FY 2018-19 invoices were sent out on August 2nd.

Status Update: Amendment No. 1 to Task Force Agreement

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed stakeholders that he has followed up with emails/calls to stakeholders regarding the outstanding signature pages to Amendment No. 1 to Task Force Agreement. He believes he made good progress and is expecting to have the balance of the signature pages received by the end of September.

Other Business

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA announced that the Draft 2107-18 LE&CL TMDL Compliance Monitoring Annual Report was sent out this morning to stakeholders for review. Comments on the report are due by COB Friday, August 31st. Chris Stransky /Wood Environmental announced that he and John Rudolph would present on the findings of the FY 2017-18 report at the September LE&CL TMDL Task Force meeting.

Tim Moore /Risk Sciences announced to stakeholders that he would be providing an update on the LE&CL TMDL Task Force efforts to the Regional Board on Friday, September 7th.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE&CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at SAWPA.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

**LAKE ELSINORE/CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE
MEETING NOTES**

February 21, 2019

PARTICIPANTS

Dave Renfrew
Garth Engelhorn
Claudia Steiding
John McNamara
Kasey Castillo
Dan Cortese
Rae Beimer
Cynthia Gabaldon
Mike Roberts
Stormy Osifeso
Lenai Hunter
Sudhir Mohleji
Richard Meyerhoff
Ankita Vyas
Greg Kahlen
Tim Moore
Ken Theisen
Abigail Suter
Andrea Gonzalez
Edwin Quinonez
Rebekah Guill
Richard Boon
Chris Stransky
John Rudolph
Bruce Whitaker
Rick Whetsel
Mark Norton

REPRESENTATIVE

Alta Environmental
Alta Environmental
CASC/City of Hemet
CR&R
City of Canyon Lake
City of Hemet
City of Moreno Valley
City of Perris
City of Riverside
City of Riverside
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
GEI Consultants
MBI/Caltrans
The Kahlen Group
Risk Sciences
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Wood Environmental
Wood Environmental
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL

Steven Wolosoff
Nicole Dailey
Pat Boldt
Rachael Johnson

CDM Smith
City of Lake Elsinore
WRCAC
Riverside County Farm Bureau

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Mark Norton at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Riverside, California.

Meeting Notes

The January 9, 2019 LE/CL TMDL Task Force meeting notes were deemed acceptable.

Update: Basin Plan Amendment to Update and Revise TMDLs (Regional Board)

Regional Board staff was not available for comment, but Tim Moore / Risk Sciences was available to update stakeholders on a couple key items.

The Regional Board intends to post the final draft of all key documents including the Basin Plan Amendment, and Resolution of Adoption by March 1st. That will kick-off the formal Public Review and Comment period and concurrent to that the Peer Review process. Aiming for a late summer Adoption Hearing.

Mr. Moore noted significant changes to EPA staff working on the TMDL. Feedback from EPA has been positive and have not had significant comments to our proposed process.

Mr. Moore also noted that our schedule for adoption of the LE&CL TMDL update may be delayed, not due to issues with our work, but due to the permit process for the Poseidon project, which is consuming a great deal of Regional Board staff time. Therefore, Mr. Moore suggested that the Task Force submit a letter to Regional Board, with respect to the Regional Board Triennial Review Process, requesting the LE&CL TMDL Revision be approved within this Triennial Review Period.

Mr. Moore will prepare a letter for review by the Task Force and submit to Regional Board.

Update: Lake Elsinore Water QualityRCFC&ECD Monitoring Results (RCFC&WCD)

Rebekah Guill /Riverside County Flood Control & WCD and Garth Engelhorn /Alta Environmental presented an update and preliminary results from the Post Fire Monitoring being conducted by the County to evaluate the impacts of the Holy Fire.

Richard Boon and Andrea Gonzalez /Riverside County Flood Control & WCD followed with a presentation to stakeholders on the effort by the County to manage storm runoff and debris from the burned area, this included a brief video to showing an example of the local storm flow.

Following the presentation Mr. Moore requested, to support this significant effort by the County to manage debris flow from the burn area, that the load of TN and TP removed by the County from reaching Lake Elsinore be quantified and a comparison be made of the pre and post sediment loadings.

Ms. Pat Boldt /WRCAC informed stakeholders that local consultants AIS, recently completed vegetation mapping for the State.

TMDL Compliance Monitoring (John Rudolph/Wood Environmental)

Chris Stransky and John Rudolph /Wood Environmental presented results of recent water quality monitoring of Lake Elsinore in response to the recent storm events.

Mr. Rudolph also described a scope of work for clean-up and abatement funds prepared for the City of Lake Elsinore to characterize of the newly formed sediment plume for possible dredging, as well as,

looking as algal speciation and water quality related toxicity issues in sediment runoff from the burned area.

Mr. Stransky noted that the field crew collected and froze some dead fish from the Lake to for possible fish tissue analysis. Mr. Moore suggested that these fish could be analyzed as part of the upcoming Fishery management effort to be led by Wood Environmental.

Clean-up and Abatement Funding (Ken Theisen/Santa Ana Regional Board)

Nicole Dailey /City of Lake Elsinore informed stakeholders of the application submitted to the State for cleanup and abatement funds. She thanked Regional Board staff Ken Theisen and Heather Boyd for their assistance in preparing the application and noted that she and Ken have setup a call with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the guidelines for an emergency situation and permit requirements if the results of the monitoring by Wood Environmental show the need for this material to be dredged from the Lake.

This application for funding is for \$42,000 to complete the Phase 1 work proposed by Wood Environmental and if necessary the City will prepare a second application for phase 2 work, which will include work related to dredging of the sediment from the burn area.

Ms. Dailey also noted that the City and County have been tracking their costs in hopes that it will be eligible for reimbursement from FEMA.

Lastly, Ms. Dailey noted that the fish die-off lasted about five (5) weeks and resulted in the removal of 150 tons of primarily dead carp from the Lake.

With the recent storms, lake level has risen to 1240.7 feet above sea level.

Discussion: Canyon Lake Alum Project

Postponed Alum Application week of February 18th (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA informed stakeholders that the Canyon Lake spring alum application planned for the week of February 18th has been postponed, due the heavy rains forecasted for the watershed. It is proposed that the alum application will take place either the last week of March or mid-April. Moving forward Mr. Whetsel will coordinate with Robert Laag /Riverside County Flood Control & WCD and Garth Engelhorn /Alta Environmental on the weather forecast.

Permit Requirements for Alum additions to Canyon Lake (Risk Sciences)

Tim Moore / Risk Sciences is discussing the timing for need of a permit for the application of alum to Canyon Lake with Regional Board staff. It is expected that we will be looking at the configuration of a new alum program beginning with the alum applications planned for 2020, which coincides with the next RFP to be issued by the Task Force to hire a firm to implement the program.

Discussion: Prop 1 Grant Submittals (LESJWA Staff)

Mark Norton /LESJWA provided a brief update on proposals for Proposition 1 funding submitted by LESJWA and the City of Lake Elsinore, with potential to support the effort of the LE&CL TMDL Task Force.

Canyon Lake Dredging

Mr. Norton briefly described the Canyon lake POA project for \$6 Million for dredging of the East Bay of Canyon Lake. This will include the removal of approximately 170,000 CY of sediment. An issue with this project is its state of readiness, as the project has not initiated efforts to prepare CEQA or permits.

Lake Elsinore Potential Project

Ms. Dailey provided a brief description of the proposal by the City of Lake Elsinore for a Pilot Algae Harvesting project. This project would entail the use of a barge or similar technology to physically remove algae mass from the Lake. The project cost is estimated at \$247,000, include significant disadvantaged community benefits and is ready to go.

Mr. Norton informed stakeholders that the next step in the grant process is for project rating and ranking to be completed in March and DWR review scheduled for June 2019.

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)Draft FY 2019-20 Task Force Budget

Rick Whetsel /SAWPA brought up on the viewing screen a draft FY 2019-20 LE&CL TMDL Task Force budget and walked the stakeholders through the various budget line items, noting significant modifications to the proposed budget model.

Following a lengthy discussion, stakeholders requested Tim Moore to work with staff to finalize a the assumptions to the budget model and distribute a complete copy of the draft FY 2019-20 LE&CL TMDL Task Force budget to stakeholders for review.

Amendment No. 1 to Task Force Agreement

Mr. Whetsel noted the outstanding signature pages are the Cities of Menifee and Murrieta and CA Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Other Business

Mr. Norton reminded stakeholders of the upcoming SAWPA OWOW Watershed Conference to be held at Cal State Fullerton scheduled for March 29th.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE&CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at SAWPA.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**MEETING NOTES
OF THE
LAKE ELSINORE/CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE**

January 9, 2019

PARTICIPANTS

Steven Wolosoff
John McNamara
Dan Cortese
Nicole Dailey
Rita Thompson
Cynthia Gabaldon
Roberts
Stormy Osifeso
Lynn Merrill
Mike Loving
Darcy Burke
Lenai Hunter
Sudhir Mohleji
Richard Meyerhoff
Ankita Vyas
John Rudolph
Greg Kahlen
Tim Moore
Ken Theisen
Abigail Suter
Andrea Gonzalez
Rebekah Guill
Bruce Whitaker
Rick Whetsel
Mark Norton

REPRESENTATIVE

CDM Smith
CR&R
City of Hemet
City of Lake Elsinore
City of Lake Elsinore
City of Perris Mike
City of Riverside
City of Riverside
City of San Jacinto
City of Wildomar
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
GEI Consultants
MBI/Caltrans
Wood Environmental
The Kahlen Group
Risk Sciences
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Riverside County Flood Control & WCD
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

VIA-CONFERENCE CALL

Lauren Sotelo
Rae Beimer
Pat Boldt
Mike Ali
Margie Armstrong
Rachael Johnson
Scott Bruckner
Melanie Sotelo

March JPA
City of Moreno Valley
WRCAC
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Farm Bureau
County of Riverside
City of Hemet

Call to Order & Introductions

The Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Mark Norton at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Riverside, California.

Meeting Notes

The November 14, 2018 Task Force Meeting Notes were deemed acceptable.

Update: Update and Revise TMDLs (CDM Smith & Risk Sciences)

Steve Wolosoff /CDM Smith presented a handout to stakeholders on the status of the LE&CL TMDL Technical Report submitted to Regional Board on December 3rd.

Mr. Wolosoff discussed how the updated TMDL modeling can be used to support stakeholders in measuring and tracking the effectiveness of the regional TMDL projects including the Canyon lake Alum project, LEAMS and on-site BMPs implemented by individual stakeholders.

Mr. Ken Theisen /Regional Board discussed the tentative schedule for the Basin Plan Amendment process for Regional Board to adopt the Revised LE&CL TMDL Technical Report.

This included:

January 16th – CEQA Scoping Meeting

February/March – Technical Report Peer Review

May 3rd – Public Workshop Presentation to Regional Board

June – Second Public Workshop (if needed)

August/September – Adoption Hearing

Discussion: LEAMS Effectiveness Study (Risk Sciences)

At the November 14 LE&CL TMDL Task Force meeting Tim Moore/Risk Sciences requested and received approval from stakeholders to issue a Change Order with Wood Environmental to conduct addition monthly monitoring of Lake Elsinore to support EVMWD in their annual effort to validate the nitrogen and phosphorus offset credits generated by LEAMS.

Mr. Moore informed stakeholders that upon further discussion with Dr. Alex Horne there is also a need for additional algal speciation monitoring and analysis that was not included in this initial request. This need for this data is to better differentiate between nitrogen fixation occurring in the atmosphere versus in the water column.

Mr. Moore noted that the results of this work will be reflected in the calculation of LEAMS Offset Credits generated in calendar year 2019.

Discussion: Canyon Lake Alum Project

Proposed Alum Application week of February 18th (LESJWA Staff)

Mr. Rick Whetsel/SAWPA informed stakeholders that the next Canyon Lake Alum Application is tentatively scheduled for the week of February 18th.

Mr. Whetsel will coordinate with the project partners to schedule a coordination call for late January.

Mr. Moore noted the issues of Free Riders among the non-participants in the TMDL and made the statement that this is something that needs to be addressed before the next fiscal year budget, as he is currently working on a dynamic model for allocating the costs of the alum project among stakeholders. This model will differ from the past in that stakeholders will only be asked to pay for the alum they need.

EPA Final Water Quality Criteria for Aluminum (Risk Sciences)

Tim Moore/Risk Sciences informed stakeholders that in December EPA finalized water quality criteria for aluminum. Due to this new EPA criteria, the Task Force will now need to get a permit for alum.

Mr. Moore will investigate the necessary steps for the Task Force to address the new EPA requirements and report back to the Task Force.

Action Item: Lake Elsinore Fishery Management Proposal (LESJWA Staff)

Rick Whetsel/SAWPA requested feedback from stakeholders regarding the proposal submitted by Wood Environmental to oversee and implement the Lake Elsinore Fishery Management Program.

Following brief discussion, a motion was put forward by Nicole Dailey /City of Lake Elsinore and seconded by Lynn Merrill representing the City of San Jacinto to recommend the LESJWA Board to authorize an agreement with Wood Environmental to oversee and implement the Lake Elsinore Fishery Management Program. The motion was approved unanimously by the Task Force.

Discussion: Outside Contributions (LESJWA Staff)

Mark Norton/LESJWA informed the Task Force that there has been no action by LESJWA regarding a policy for accepting outside contributions to the Task Force. LESJWA recommended the formation of a subcommittee to investigate the issue; however the sub-committee has not yet scheduled to meet.

Discussion: Prop 1 Grant Proposals (LESJWA Staff)

Mark Norton/LESJWA informed the Task Force of the current OWOW Proposition 1 grant solicitation and the opportunity to submit projects to support the LE&CL TMDL. These include:

Canyon Lake Dredging

Mr. Norton noted the interest by the Canyon lake POA to submit a project to conduct dredging in the East Bay of Canyon Lake. LESJWA staff will be working with the Canyon lake POA to submit an application for the project noting the benefits to the Canyon Lake TMDL.

Lake Elsinore Potential Project

Mr. Norton noted that he is working with staff at the City of Lake Elsinore to identify possible projects.

Discussion: Task Force Priorities for FY 2019-20 and Forward (Risk Sciences)

Tim Moore/Risk Sciences presented to stakeholders a handout detailing the LE&CL TMDL Task Force Priorities for FY 2019-20 and forward. This document identified a number of key tasks for the task Force to address over the next two years and beyond.

A key item to be addressed is a succession plan by Risk Sciences. Mr. Moore informed stakeholders that in he intends to retire from full-time work in June of 2020. Thereafter, he would only be available for a part-time advisory role with very limited travel. He suggested the Task force consider a colleague of his to transition into his role as regulatory compliance expert and at the direction of the task Force will be introducing this person in the upcoming months.

Lake Updates

Lake Elsinore

Nicole Dailey /City of Lake Elsinore informed stakeholder of a fish die-off in Lake Elsinore that began on December 20th and continues to this day. The city does not know what the issue is that is causing the continuous die-off fish and has requested CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife to collect fish sample to determine the cause of death.

A major concern is the run-off from the Holy fire, as there has been significant sediment run-off filling the debris basins and actually forming a small delta in the lake. Previous water quality monitoring by Wood Environmental, prior to December 20th showed relatively normal water quality in terms of what is normal for Lake Elsinore.

Rebekah Guill /RCFC&WCD informed stakeholders of sampling on November 29th, which showed extremely high concentrations of total suspended solids, nutrients and metals in the run-off from the burned area. Ms. Guill noted that the County did not collect toxicity samples. She will share this data with the Task Force.

Mr. Ken Theisen /Regional Board will investigate if Clean-up & Abatement funds can be used to help with the monitoring and clean-up of the sediment run-off.

Canyon Lake

No update of Canyon Lake was provided

Task Force Administration (LESJWA Staff)

Draft FY 2019-20 Task Force Budget

No draft budget was prepared.

Rick Whetsel/SAWPA informed stakeholders of the following outstanding invoices for FY 2018-19:

- City of Murrieta

Amendment No. 1 to Task Force Agreement

Rick Whetsel/SAWPA informed stakeholders of the following outstanding signature pages for Amendment#1 to the 2012 task Force Agreement:

- City of Murrieta
- City of Menifee
- CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Other Business

No other Business was discussed.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next LE&CL TMDL Task Force meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at SAWPA.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Lake Elsinore Chamber Presentation - November 7, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

John Sparks, Kiersten Ross, Paul O'Neal, Greg Kahlen
30 Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce attendees (sign in requested)
Janet Zimmerman, EVMWD (CV consulting)
John Garrett (Opposition)

Discussion:

Sparks gave the revised 20-minute presentation reflecting message pillars and key issues of lake quality and quantity, EVMWD, transmission, fire suppression, and regulatory process.

Follow Up:

Sparks/O'Neal to follow up with Kim Cousins.

Lake Elsinore Chamber President and CEO, Kim Cousins – October 25, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Kim Cousins

Attitude to LEAPS

Neutral

Issues Discussion:

I presented the project and addressed the benefits to the Lake and to the business Community. Kim advised me that letting the Hydro Company join the chamber had caused his annual review to drop from a 5 to a level 1. He was not upset with the company or project. He encouraged to remain involved with the chamber.

Unanswered questions?

None

Commitments:

I thanked him for his courage and commitment to become involved with the chamber, attending their events and providing sponsorships where appropriate.

Follow Up: What & When?

We will stay closely in touch.

Lake Elsinore Councilor Robert Magee - February 12-27, 2019

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

John Sparks

Bob Magee, LE Councilor and employee in office of Supervisor Jeffries

Discussion:

Sparks first met with Mr. Magee at the Lake Elsinore State of the City event on September 27, 2018, followed by a meeting in Supervisor Kevin Jefferies office in Riverside on December 10, 2018. The third meeting was at the City of Lake Elsinore City Hall on February 7, 2019.

Councilor Magee had submitted questions to LEAPS via City Manager Grant Yates and through LESJWA (he is the City representative on the LESJWA Board). Although LEAPS had endeavored to answer his questions, Mr. Magee had reservations/corrections for some answers (notably dwellings off Grand Avenue that could be impacted, the amount of earth to be transported during construction, and the absolute boundary of the Cleveland National Forest with regard to the Santa Rosa substation) which were duly noted in the February meeting.

Follow Up:

Sparks and Kahlen will follow up on Mr. Magee's questions and revise answers accordingly to reflect new information. We will continue to meet with Councilor Magee as studies and community outreach continue in the FERC process.

Lake Elsinore County Supervisor Kevin Jefferies - February 12-27, 2019

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

John Sparks
Kevin Jeffries, First District Supervisor, Riverside County

Discussion:

The LEAPS team has interacted with Mr. Jeffries since September 2017 when Paul O’Neal attended a meeting where the Supervisor moved a motion for the District to express opposition to the LEAPS project to FERC. The motion passed and opposition was filed with FERC. In November 2017, Spvr. Jeffries invited the LEAPS team to present to the Temescal Valley MAC, which was well attended. Rex Wait presented, supported by Paul O’Neal and John Sparks.

After several failed attempts, Sparks and O’Neal met with Supervisor Jeffries in his office in Riverside on December 10, 2018. Also attending were Lake Elsinore Councilor Bob Magee and Spvr. Jeffries’ Chief of Staff Kevin Green. Most of the meeting focused on Councilor Magee’s questions submitted via LESJWA staff.

The meeting was curtailed by the need of the attendees to travel to Lake Elsinore for a LESJWA Board meeting.

The meeting was short but cordial, and we committed to further conversations.

Follow Up:

Sparks and O’Neal will continue to interact with Supervisor Jeffries and his staff as we work through the FERC process.

Lake Elsinore Fire Update - August 9, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending.

Lake Elsinore community meeting to provide a Holy Fire update.
City Council members Magee and Tisdale.

Issues Discussion:

We talked a bit about the Hydro Company's assistance in providing water, energy drinks and energy foods for the firefighters. Mostly just a discussion of how we were stepping up to the plate.

Unanswered questions?

N/A

Follow Up: What & When?

None.

Lake Elsinore State of the City Event – September 27, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

A number of guests, including State Senator Jeff Stone, his District Director, Paulette Brown-Hinds and others.

Attitude to LEAPS

Neutral

Issues Discussion:

On hard issues were discussed. We did, as the opportunity arose, discuss our project’s progress.

Unanswered questions:

None

Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce, November 7, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Kierstin Ross, John Sparks, Greg Kahlen, Paul O’Neal
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce

Discussion:

Paul O’Neal has kept in regular contact with LEV Chamber President & CEO Kim Cousins since early in 2018. As part of this contact, O’Neal attends Chamber luncheons and “Hump Days” regularly. On November 7, Sparks and the team did a formal Q&A session at the golf club. We followed this by sponsoring Hump Day on January 9 and O’Neal spoke briefly.

Follow Up:

O’Neal to continue to look for opportunities to partner with the Chamber and continue dialogue with members. Sparks will do a key influencer session with Kim Cousins as time permits.

LESJWA Mark Norton - October 3, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

John Sparks
Mark Norton, SAWPA, LESJWA

Discussion:

As part of our “key influencer” program, Sparks met with Mark Norton to review LEAPS issues, LESJWA opportunities, and water quality issues. Mr. Norton is a very objective expert on efforts to restore Lakes Canyon and Elsinore who recognizes the benefits of importing 15,000 acre-feet of high-quality SWP water into Lake Elsinore, and the potential to aerate and oxygenate LE held by installed LEAPS infrastructure.

Follow Up:

Greg Kahlen has been the prime contact for LESJWA and the TMDL Task Force. Sparks will follow up with Mr. Norton regarding the condensed version of Dr. Anderson’s water report, and will work with LESJWA consultant Tim Moore to confirm data points, messages and communications opportunities.

LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER
18, 2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brenda Dennstedt, Chair, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Phil Williams, Vice Chair, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Vicki Warren, Secretary/Treasurer, City of Canyon Lake
Robert Magee, City of Lake Elsinore
Kevin Jeffries, County of Riverside

OTHERS PRESENT

David Wysocki, LESJWA Attorney
Nicole Dailey, City of Lake Elsinore
Greg Kahlen, The Kahlen Group
David Kates, Nevada Hydro Company

LESJWA STAFF

Mark Norton, Sara Villa

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Regular Board of Directors meeting of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Dennstedt at the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, 31315 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, California.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JUNE 27 2018 Recommendation:

Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT: MAY/JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2018

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

C. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2018

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

D. TMDL TASK FORCE REPORT: MAY 23 2018/AUGUST 15 2018

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, approve the Consent Calendar.

Result:	Adopted (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Jeffries/Magee
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Jeffries, Magee, Warren, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. POLICY DIRECTION TO LAKE ELSINORE & CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE

(MEMO 836)

Mark Norton recommended that the Board of Directors approve a policy that funding contributions can be made to Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force (LE/CL TMDL) and LESJWA from outside parties, and allow funding contributions from Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage (LEAPS) proponents and CR&R to support coordination with the TMDL Update as defined in the original LE/CL TMDL FY 2018-19 Budget.

Norton provided a brief background regarding two entities that approached the LE/CL TMDL with their support to the TMDL Update. CR&R is a green waste composting storage facility within the 100-year floodplain of the upper San Jacinto River in an unincorporated Riverside County area near Lakeview. The LEAPS project, with the suggestion from the Regional Board requested that they participate in the LE/CL TMDL Task Force and provide funding for the work for the TMDL update.

At the April 19, 2018 LESJWA Board Meeting, the Board approved the FY2018-19 LESJWA Budget subject to removal of the monetary contributions from the LEAPS proponents. The LESJWA

Board informed staff that due to ongoing litigation among Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) and the LEAPS proponents that such funding was deemed inadvisable and not recommended. The LE/CL TMDL Task Force requested that LESJWA staff approach the LESJWA Board to request direction on a policy on bringing in private parties into the LE/CL TMDL Task Force and if funding contributions should be accepted by non-Task Force agencies to participate in the Task Force studies. The LE/CL TMDL Task Force is currently experiencing a budget revenue gap of \$36,868 from CR&R and \$36,868 from LEAPS (\$73,736 total), staff recommends the support from the LESJWA Board to accept a policy that funding contributions can be made from outside parties to support coordination with the TMDL Update.

Director Williams noted that EVMWD has settled their lawsuit, though there are some conditions and requirements that he is yet to discuss with his district attorney to see what level of participation he could have. There is a settlement agreement with LEAPS and there are certain items that can and can't be said and he doesn't want to jeopardize anything, therefore he abstains. Director Jeffries stated that he has campaign contributions from CR&R in excess of his limitations and all his other capacities being in a JPA, he can't participate in the discussion, and abstains. Director Warren and Director Magee abstained as well. Chair Dennstedt recommended that this item be deferred to the December meeting to allow Director Williams to go to his legal counsel for clarification on participation, and then together they can figure out who would be the third member who could vote and represent a quorum of the Board. Director Magee raised concerns on the inconsistency of a policy statement, there is one applicant that has clearly gone through the entitlement process and is seeking a permit and another participant with a draft application; is the threshold when the Regional Board says the project can be

permitted or when they get all the entitlements? Chair Dennstedt recommended that this item be deferred to the December meeting. Motion to continue and direct staff to comply with chairs direction Magee/Dennstedt all concur and moved to the next agenda item.

MOVED, to continue and direct staff to comply with Chair Dennstedt's direction in deferring Agenda Item No. 5.A for the next scheduled LESJWA Board meeting.

Result: Adopted (Unanimously)
 Motion/Second: Magee/Dennstedt
 Ayes: Dennstedt, Jeffries, Magee, Warren, Williams
 Nays: None
 Abstentions: None
 Absent: None

6. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recommendation: Receive for information.

A. LAKE ELSINORE FISHERY MANAGEMENT TASKS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

STATUS REPORT (MEMO 837)

Mark Norton recommended that the Board of Directors receive and file the Lake Elsinore Fishery Management Tasks Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP is to seek work that will be part of the TMDL Compliance to assess conditions of the enhancement to the Lake Elsinore fishery and identify appropriate management measures for improving and supporting the aquatic habitat, and to conduct a survey of the lake fishery, fish tissue analysis, and carp removal. The RFP was issued September 20 and are seeking proposals October 26. It is anticipated to bring forward the recommendation of the Consultant for LESJWA Board approval in December. Director Magee thanked Mark Norton for working with his staff in preparation of this RFP; and recommended a few items to be discussed with the selected Consultant prior to approval. He referenced the following; On page 61 of the Agenda Packet under Task 4, there needs to be an inclusion/discussion and analysis of the potential impacts of the LEAPS project. Under the Implementation Activities, it needs to include a recommendation for specific species both existing and new. Also, on page 62 of the Agenda Packet under the "Disposal" bullet point, it needs to state that the consultant pays the landfill disposal tipping fees and that it ensures that disposal is in fact the last option. We could let them keep the money on the beneficial use of removal, and we would want them to coordinate with our staff so that we get the recycling/diversion credits.

MOVED, approve Director Magee's recommendation to discuss/include the following items with the selected Consultant for the Lake Elsinore Fishery Management Tasks RFP: 1) Discussion of the potential impacts of the LEAPS project, 2) Include the recommendation for specific species both existing and new, and 3) Include that the selected consultant pays the disposal tipping fees.

Result: Adopted (Unanimously)
 Motion/Second: Magee/Williams
 Ayes: Dennstedt, Jeffries, Magee, Warren, Williams
 Nays: None
 Abstentions: None

Absent: None

B. TMDL REVISION AND UPDATE STATUS REPORT (MEMO 838)

Mark Norton recommended that the Board of Directors receive and file the status report on the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDLs Revision and Update. CDM Smith and Risk Sciences have been working with the LE/CL TMDL Task Force in creating a draft which is currently being reviewed by the Regional Board. The TMDL Revision and Update reflects the accomplishments and goals of what was originally planned to reflect the changes that have occurred since the last TMDL of the land use and how we measure. A Task Order for CDM Smith and a Change Order for Risk Sciences will be brought forward for LESJWA Board approval at the next scheduled meeting.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No.

6.B.

C. LAKE ELSINORE ADVANCED PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT (LEAPS) UPDATE (MEMO 839)

Mark Norton recommended that the Board of Directors receive and file the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project (LEAPS) update. Nevada Hydro is seeking to file a license application through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the LEAPS project. The proposed LEAPS project will pump water out of the lake into the mountains and by the use of releasing water generate new electricity that will benefit the Southern CA Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric Company. Mark Norton introduced two (2) representatives from Nevada Hydro to answer any questions; Greg Kahlen, and David Kates.

Kahlen provided an oral status report to the Board of Directors; and noted that an application for the LEAPS project was submitted by Nevada Hydro to FERC on October 2017. FERC reviewed the application and requested additional information from Nevada Hydro. The additional information was then submitted to FERC in January 2018. Soon after, the application was published on FERC's website requesting ten (10) study plans; for example, fire suppression, traffic, biological studies, and cultural resource studies. The studies have been submitted, and FERC is in the process of reviewing. The application is still awaiting acceptance and a license issued to build the project. Once the application is approved and the license is issued, there is a list of items that are required before construction, such as a construction schedule, and a Financial Plan explaining how the project will be built, operated and maintained. Kahlen provided a handout of the FERC application "Exhibit A"Project Description" to the Board of Directors. As part of the settlement, the LEAPS project is to have the water district put 15,000 acre-feet of water into Lake Elsinore and 9,000 of that is to raise the lake itself, and the remaining 6,000 will be for the upper reservoir to make the project operate.

Director Magee questioned where would you find 15,000 acre-feet of water? Kahlen noted that Nevada Hydro will buy the water from EVMWD, whom they can possibly get it from Metropolitan Water District or other sources. Director Magee questioned if they have other water sources external to this valley where they are proposing to arrange water wheeling arrangements? Kahlen noted they are not proposing anything, that they are buying. Kates stated that they have agreed with EVMWD to purchase 15,000 acre-feet of water and then continue to purchase additional water yearly to maintain a certain water level.

Director Magee thanked Greg Kahlen and David Kates for attending and noted that he will review the large-scale map and go over the alignments and the permitting timeline. Director Magee raised concerns on the point of penetration into the lake bottom and how that impacts the wildlife. Kates stated that they have contracted with a lake expert, Dr. Michael Anderson, to study the impact of the LEAPS operation of the lake as well as adding additional water to the lake, and one of his biggest tasks is to help us determine what the most effective configuration might be. Director Magee extended the invitation to Greg Kahlen and David Kates to attend the City Council meeting once this project gets further along. Norton questioned when CEQA will be addressed. Kates noted that they have filed seventeen (17) volumes of information with FERC, and once they accept the application that then triggers the involvement of the State and they will have to do a CEQA analysis.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No.

6.c.

D. COMMUNICATION LETTERS FOR THE FYE 2018 AUDIT AND STATE CONTROLLERS REPORT WITH TEAMAN RAMIREZ & SMITH INC.

Mark Norton recommended that the Board of Directors receive and file the communication letters for the FYE 2018 Audit and State Controllers Report with Teaman, Ramirez & Smith, Inc.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No.

6.D.

E. ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Mark Norton informed the Board of Directors that the LE/CL TMDL Task Force explored doing stormwater quality monitoring due to the Holy Fire in the area, however, no monitoring is currently proposed by the Task Force since Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFCWCD) will be moving forward with an extensive program. Credit for conducting this monitoring that supplements the Task Force's existing watershed stormwater quality monitoring will be considered by the Task Force as further details are learned.

F. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Warren thanked LESJWA staff on the Canyon Lake Alum Treatment, and she noted that everything went well.


G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTS

It was requested that the Cranston and Holy Fire results be distributed once available.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Dennstedt adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

Approved at a Special Meeting of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, December 10, 2018.


Brenda Dennstedt, Chair

Attest:

Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board

Meeting with Ms. Jannlee Watson and Jerry Sincich – December 11, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Ms. Watson, Mr. Sincich, John Sparks, and Paul Oneal

Attitude to LEAPS

Neutral

Issues Discussion:

The discussion centered on the transmission route from the project to the north. Ms. Watson and Mr. Sincich actually have no issues with the pumped storage project. Their concerns are with the impact of the transmission line as it descends into their valley towards an SCE connection point. Both Ms. Watson and Mr. Sincich are articulate, informed and business-like in their approach.

Unanswered questions:

None

Commitments:

Our commitment is to open lines of communication and an honest dialogue.

Meeting with new Lake Elsinore Councilman Tim Sheriton –December 14 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Councilman Sheriton, City Manager Grant Yates, John Sparks, and Paul O'Neal

Attitude to LEAPS

Neutral

Issues Discussion:

Councilman Sheriton was not yet fully informed regarding the project. We brought him up to speed with a full discussion of the project. His concerns are, of course, impact on the community and the lake. I advised the councilman that I was arranging a tour of the Lake Hodges Pumped Storage facility. I invited him and he eagerly accepted.

Unanswered questions:

None

Commitments:

Our commitment is to open lines of communication and an honest dialogue. I also committed to the Hodges tour.

Follow Up: What & When?

When the tour date is established, we will invite the councilman anew

Mr. Jeff Comerchero, Chief of Staff for County Supervisor Chuck Washington–
October 4, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Attitude to LEAPS

Met with Chuck Washington's Chief of Staff, Jeff Comerchero. Jeff also serves as a Temecula City Councilman. (note that he retired from council effective December of 2018.

Issues Discussion:

Mr. Comerchero advised me that the Supervisor would not normally get involved with a project in another Supervisor's District. The project is within Kevin Jefferies District. Jeff told me that they would meet with me regardless due to the many years we have worked together, as a friend and colleague courtesy.

Unanswered Questions?

None

Commitments:

None other than to stay in touch.

NBC4 LA - February 12-27, 2019

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

John Sparks
Sebastian Echeverry, NBC4 Los Angeles

Discussion:

Sparks gave several interviews and replied in writing to numerous questions posed by the reporter and his editor. The reporter had been contacted by the STOP LEAPS opposition with concerns about wildfires, but in the end, the report was short and superficial, and did not include any contact with (available) wildfire experts.

Follow Up:

Story was published February 28, 2019. No follow up at this time.

NPR Riverside - March 7, 2019

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

John Sparks
Benjamin Purper, 91.9 Inland Empire NPR

Discussion:

Sparks gave a taped interview responding to numerous questions raised by residents, including

- fighting wildfire near power lines
 - referred reporter to CalFire experts but gave high level description of 500kV line operation
- Poisoning algae and fish in the lake
 - assured reporter we would do no such thing and that our operations would not impact wildlife, fish, or recreationists
 - took the opportunity to introduce Dr. Anderson study and note beneficial impact of imported water and opportunities LEAPS infrastructure presents o local water authorities
- Impacts on eagles and other birds during construction
 - discussed environmental protections and that we are updating biostudies to inventory what wildlife is in the area, which will be built into design and construction plans
- General concern that LEAPS is not providing guarantees
 - discussed the FERC process and where we are, noting we do not even have an REA and that at this point, we don't have a project to provide guarantees. Then noted if we do get approval/license, we guarantee we will import high quality SWP water unless lake is too high
- Interview was cordial and reporter expressed understanding of my answers.

Follow Up:

No follow up at this time beyond monitoring for story.

Paulette Brown-Hinds, Voice Media Ventures - August 9, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Attitude to LEAPS

Pro

Paulette Brown-Hinds, Voice Media Ventures Founder and President

Issues Discussion:

I provided Ms. Hinds a complete rundown of the project, including history and the public outreach model I was following in engaging the community.

Unanswered questions?

Ms. Hinds asked numerous questions. She left with no unanswered queries.

Commitments:

We committed to stay in touch regarding project progress. Ms. Hinds is extremely well connected, she told me she would be glad to assist in any way she could.

Follow Up: What & When?

As needed.

Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians - 2018-2019

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Rachel Nixon of Garcia and Associates is the lead on the Pechanga and Soboba files.

Nixon has been in regular contact with Tribal representatives since the initial meeting in February 12, 2018 attended by Paul Macarro (Cultural Co-ordinator), Ebru Ozdil (Cultural Resources Planning Specialist), Brenda Tomaras (External Counsel/Partner, Tomaras & Olgas LLP), Michelle Hannah (Deputy General Counsel), Dr. Lisa Woodward (Archivist), Molly Earp-Escobar (Cultural Resource Specialist) and Nicole Corey (Analyst Intern).

Discussion:

Background: *In 2007, a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) was prepared to address cultural resources for a substantially similar project. Additionally, a programmatic agreement (PA) for the LEAPS project licensing was issued by FERC to the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in February 2007; however, the SHPO has not responded by either signing the PA or indicating that it will not be signed. In October of 2007, FERC sent a letter to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to participate in final consultation regarding the PA. In 2012, FERC granted a preliminary permit to study the LEAPS project and a new FERC Project number (FERC Project No. 14227-003) was issued in 2017. On November 29, 2018, FERC issued a letter to the Tribes with a potential interest in the LEAPS licensing inviting them to engage in a government-to-government (i.e., sovereign-to-sovereign) meeting with FERC. This had been a long-standing request from the Pechanga. In a letter dated January 3, 2018 FERC directed that consultation with Indian Tribes (Pechanga already underway) be reinitiated. Nixon and her firm have initiated/maintained such contact.*

On December 11, 2017, Rex Wait wrote to Mark Macarro, Tribal Chairman of the Pechanga Tribal Council acknowledging their letter to FERC and requesting a meeting to discuss Pechanga concerns.

On February 12, 2018, Nixon, Sparks, Kates and O'Neal met with representatives of the Pechanga at the Cultural Resources Centre (listed above).

Contact has been on-going and Nixon will be filing a more fulsome report in the coming months.

Follow Up:

On-going contact via Rachel Nixon and Garcia and Associates.

Pierre Colbaert – September 12, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

I met over coffee with Mr. Pierre Colbaert at the request of Lake Elsinore City Councilman Bob Magee.

Attitude to LEAPS

Neutral

Issues Discussion:

Mr. Colbaert was concerned over the quality of the lake. He was disappointed in the EVMWD and Sawpa efforts to remedy the water quality issues. He suggested to me that strong fountains placed strategically around the lake would oxygenate the water. I agreed with him that the lake water needed additional water oxygenation and that we would attempt to address that issue when adding imported water to the lake. I told him, further, that I saw merit in his suggestions and that we would likely leave those kind of decisions to the lake managers.

Unanswered questions?

None, really.

Commitments:

I encouraged him to contact me at anytime to discuss his suggestions should he have more.

Riverside County - Summer 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

LEAPS: John Sparks, Paul O'Neal
George Johnson, County Executive Officer, Riverside County

Discussion:

Sparks and O'Neal met with George Johnson to brief him on the project and seek advice. The meeting was cordial and the CEO suggested we work with Kevin Jeffries, the District One Supervisor in whose district the project will be constructed.

Sparks spoke with George Johnson on July 24 and worked with him and Steve Bruckner regarding input to the Visualization Studies (Study 30) in August, County input October 1, and met with the CEO on December 10 for a key influencer interview.

Follow Up:

Sparks continues to work with Vega and Woodrome in 2019.

SCE Community Workshop on the proposed Alberhill Substation – November 13, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Approximately 50 members of the Lake Elsinore Community

Attitude to LEAPS

Neutral

Issues Discussion:

The presentation by SCE was brief. It was followed by individual discussions from mostly Temescal residents. My interaction was brief, with only one community member who simply asked about project status.

Unanswered questions?

None

Commitments:

None

Southwest Riverside Economic Development Council – October 2, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Attitude to LEAPS

I attended the Board of Directors meeting for the SWRCEDC.
Years ago I served on the board of directors.

Issues Discussion:

I gave them a quick overview of the project and my role in the process.

Unanswered questions?

None

Commitments:

I committed to rejoining their board and to making a project presentation.

State Senator Stone - 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

John Sparks
Senator Jeff Stone, COS Chris Wysocki

Discussion:

Sparks, Wait, Kates and Nick Garcia met with Senator Stone and Chris Wysocki in Sacramento in April 2018.

Sparks & O'Neal had a short conversation with the Senator at the LE State of the City on September 27, 2018.

Sparks & O'Neal had a long discussion with the Senator in Temecula on October 22, 2018 where he participated in the key influencer interview.

Follow Up:

None at this time.

Sycamore Creek HOA - December 12, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

John Sparks

Jerry Cincich, President, Sycamore Creek HOA

Britta Haywood-Graham, GM, Sycamore Creek HOA

Discussion:

Sparks had delivered the Study Plan for FERC Study Request 34: Alternative Northern Transmission Alignments to the HOA offices on August 8, 2018. Sycamore has responded to FERC through legal counsel. On December 12, Sparks met with Jerry Cincich and Britta Haywood-Graham to discuss concerns (aesthetic disruption not just for the 5-12 homes on the edge of one right-of-way but for the whole community due to the I-15/Lee Lake crossing and switchyard⁰ and route preferences (not the ROW between Sycamore and Glen Eden).

Follow Up:

Sparks will follow up with Jerry Cincich regarding alternative route studies and visualizations.

Terramor Club - September 6, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

I attended the Community open house event at the new terramar Club. While there I chatted with Ms. Tracy Davis, a member of "We are Temescal Valley".

Issues Discussion:

Ms. Davis wanted to remind me that she was in attendance when last presented in her community. She told me to not forget to stay on my toes, that she had her eye on me. Ms. Davis is an astute woman. She has no problem with the project as a whole, but is concerned with having potential power lines crossing the Temescal Valley.

Unanswered questions?

N/A

Commitments:

To stay in communications.

US Forest Service Teleconference - December 12, 2018

LEAPS Meeting Report

Attending

Darrell Vance, District Ranger, USFS
Jake Rodriguez, District Recreation and Lands Officer, USFS
Jeff Heyes, Forest Planner, USFS
Linda Serret, Forest Planner, USFS
Joe Raffaele, Forest Recreation Program Manager, USFS
Tristan Leong, RS Hydroelectric Coordinator, USFS
Brad Aughinbaugh, Forest Utility Coordinator, USFS
Rex Wait Nevada Hydro
David Kates, Nevada Hydro
Greg Kahlen, The Kahlen Group

Issues Discussion:

1. Updates since November 1 meeting
Nevada Hydro is expecting a letter from FERC in a week or two that addresses study requirements. Rachael Nixon contacted Darrell Vance to obtain the USFS cultural resources contact.
2. Letter of nominal effects
USFS explained that a letter of nominal effects is now used in place of a Special Use Permit when performing non-invasive work, i.e. biological and cultural resource surveys. A Special Use Permit will still be required for any construction activities including geotechnical borings. A letter of nominal effects may be issued for more than one type of survey or study.
3. Status of recreation, fire, and cultural resources conversations
USFS has talked to Scott Crawford and Rachael Nixon regarding recreation and cultural resources studies respectively. They have not heard from our fire study consultant. David Kates will follow up with him.
4. Timing for USFS to provide deliverables from November 1 meeting
 - a. *Road construction definition*
Jeff Heyes said they cannot find a good definition of road construction, and are still waiting for information from Regional or National headquarters. USFS may end up wanting Nevada Hydro to propose construction methods and have them respond. David Kates replied that Nevada Hydro could make such a proposal, as long as USFS understood that it was a "proposal" and not a final document.

- b. *Fire extent from Holy fire and past fires*
Jeff Heyes is to get shape files to Nevada Hydro.
 - c. *Process flow chart from Tristan*
Tristan Leong said that the FERC process is used and followed by the USFS, and that USFS does not have a separate process flow chart.
 - d. *Recreation study items to be included in future recreation studies*
Jake Rodriguez provided a sample study at the meeting.
5. Questions or comments on deliverables provided by Nevada Hydro
- a. *Items provided to USFS in early November*
USFS has no comments yet. Darrell Vance asked to have the location of the Case Springs substation resent to him. They asked when water for Lake Elsinore would be purchased. David Kates water would be purchased by the time FERC issues a license, and possibly sooner.

Next Meeting: Will be scheduled when Nevada Hydro receives the letter from FERC that accepts the license application and provides comments on study plans. Darrell Vance stated that a meeting should be planned for late February or early March to discuss the fire study and aesthetics.

We are Temescal Valley - December 11, 2018

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

John Sparks, Paul O'Neal

Janlee Watson, We Are Temescal Valley

Jerry Cincich, President, Sycamore Creek HOA

Discussion:

Paul O'Neal has kept in regular contact with Janlee Watson, who edits the WATV Facebook page. He and Sparks met with Watson and Jerry Cincich to discuss aesthetic impacts of power transmission towers and lines on Sycamore Creek residents. Cincich specifically asked for a visualization of the Lee Lake switchyard and Highway 15 crossing from the Von's parking lot. Sparks shot it the next day and it was included in the FERC filing.

Sparks also requested that Jannlee Watson communicate to Glen Eden and John Garrett that we'd like to meet.

Follow Up:

Sparks & O'Neal will stay in touch with Watson and Cincich.

WOOD Consultants – USFWS Meeting: March 14, 2019

10:00am to 11:30am @ USFWS Palm Springs Field Office

LEAPS Outreach Meeting Report

Attending

Scott Crawford – Wood

Emily Hockman – Wildlife Biologist USFWS

Kennon Corey Assistant Field Supervisor – USFWS

Introduction:

A general project introduction was provided to Emily and Ken. Ken was familiar with previous work conducted on the project from discussions with Jesse Bennett in the early 2000's. Prior to the meeting, Emily was provided several documents from Jesse.

Jesse primarily works in Orange County now, so he was not selected to continue the work on this project since most of the impacts will be in Riverside County. Ken Corey is the Assistant Field Supervisor for the Palm Springs Field Office and will be assisting Emily on this project. He was in the meeting for the introduction of the project and then had to step away for another meeting.

Project History:

I explained to them how the project started and the results of our previous studies (early 2000's) and the location of the few sensitive species that we did see. I explained that due to unforeseen circumstances, the project was put on hold for a number of years.

FERC Process:

Now that the project is back on track, I explained the step-by-step process to get the FERC License and then the Environmental Review Process will begin. I explained to them that FERC provided us a list of action items that needed to be completed within 90-days. Once those are submitted to the satisfaction of FERC, they would issue the license. Once that is issued, they would initial a more formal consultation and we would complete the rest of the focused surveys that were requested.

Current Project Design:

I walked through each page of the revised vegetation mapping and identified all areas that we previously surveyed for sensitive species and the areas that were outside of the project footprint that we observed sensitive species. I stopped at each tower location and explained the installation process. Emily did have one question with regard to a few of the pull-stations. A few stations did not contain any access roads and she was wondering if the equipment needed for that work effort would be helicoptered in or would

an access road be necessary. I told her I would follow-up and get back to her. I showed her the location of all of the substations, the underground electrical lines, the reservoir, and the powerhouse location. We went down the ROW from North to South and ended at the Case Springs Substation. She had no specific questions on the design, but did have some general questions regarding installation practices.

Current FERC Requests:

I discussed with them the information that we pulled together to submit to FERC as part of the initial license application. I also described the FERC request for additional information, which included the Biological Resources Plan. I went through each topic and explained what information FERC was looking for, including the consultation with USFWS. I explained to them the reason for the updated/ revised vegetation mapping, the habitat assessments associated with the focused survey recommendations, and additional species that were required, but not until the license was issued.

Surveys Conducted in 2018:

USFWS has the Arroyo Toad, Least Bell's Vireo and Coastal California Gnatcatcher survey reports for 2018. I discussed the survey methods and the survey locations, which were based on previous survey location and the updated habitat assessment completed in 2018 prior to conducting surveys. They said they would review the information and provide us feedback within the next 30-days, but were not willing to provide any feedback during the meeting.

Surveys Currently Conducting in 2019:

I discussed which surveys we are currently completing, which included Quino Checkerspot Butterfly and Golden Eagle surveys, but were waiting for FERC REA before we start the rest of the spring surveys, at FERC's request. The surveys we started are in anticipation of the issuance of the REA, but were only started so we don't miss the survey window as well as from the request of FERC, in regards to the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Surveys.

Surveys Proposed for 2019:

I did request that they review the Biological Resource Plan to understand the information that we are prepared to collect, but wanted to ensure that we don't miss a survey window for specific species that we may or may not have surveyed for. I explained to them that Spotted Owl Surveys were previously completed in early 2000's, but those suitable habitat areas that were surveyed previously have recently burned in the recent Holly Fire. So the focused surveys for this species may not be required or necessary due to a lack of suitable habitat. I did recommend that we would be covering the surveys for special status plants, and they were very happy about that.

General Discussion and Action Items Moving Forward:

I spoke with Kennon Corey at the beginning of the meeting and he explained that this informal consultation is one of many steps involved with the consultation process for this project. He was not willing to provide any direct feedback from the meeting, only that it was a data dump of information that he and his staff would review and would likely have follow-up emails, phone calls, and possibly another sit-down meeting before they would be willing to provide specific comments. I explained to him that I would be preparing a letter report to submit to FERC that includes a brief description of the meeting notes, information requested during the meeting, and that a response would be required within 30-days. He agreed that the approach seemed reasonable.

Emily requested a copy of the shapefiles for the project, including all project facilities that were identified on the revised vegetation maps. I told her that I would have to get approval from our client, but that shouldn't be a problem.

On a side note, during the meeting, I discussed with Ken Corey the fact that the quino checkerspot butterfly survey season typically starts the third week of February, but due to an unusually cold February and March, we have only completed one survey out of the first 5 weeks. He agreed that the cold weather has delayed the survey window and said as long as the reason for the delay is identified in the survey report, the surveys would be acceptable. We are working with Stacy Love, who is the permit coordinator, and she was made aware of the issue as well. Today will be the first official quino checkerspot butterfly survey. Next week, we are planning on starting the golden eagle survey, the rest of the survey still have some time before they are required to start.

I will take most of the information in this email and use it to create the letter to FERC. I will most likely have a few more specific details, where appropriate. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the meeting that I may not have addressed.

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