

Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinator Update

Presented to the Rio Hondo WASC

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Watershed Coordinator Activities

WC Activities
since Last
WASC
Meeting
(9-20-2022)

- Evaluated LRS projects in Rio Hondo Watershed Area
- Reviewed submitted Feasibility Studies for Kinneloa and Merced Ave projects
- Participated in progress meetings for Washington Park (TRP) Feasibility Study; related coordination
- Coordinated with consultant team and project proponents from South El Monte HS (TRP) Feasibility Study
- Reviewed materials and coordinated with consultants and project proponents re: Sierra Madre Green Street (TRP) feasibility study

WC Activities since Last WASC Meeting

(Continued)

- Worked with City staff and consultants with City of Temple City about project concept for potential future project in the City
- Attended Sustainable Conservation webinar re: Resilience through Restoration
- Attended LANI Our Water, Our Future workshop
- Reviewed credit trading program
- Coordinated with new WASC members re: setting up individual interviews
- Coordinated re: setting up a municipal-focused educational event through the SGVCOG
- Participated in Watershed Coordinator monthly meeting
- Prepared monthly report for the SCWP

(Continued)

WC Activities since Last WASC Meeting

(Continued)

- Participated in SB 54 webinar
- Monitored SGV Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan Scoping Session
- Participated in Los Angeles Permit Group meeting
- Analyzed existing, proposed, and potential projects in Eaton Wash
- Conducted preliminary analysis of potential project sites in Alhambra Wash, Rubio Wash, Arcadia Wash, Santa Anita Wash, and Sawpit Wash

Planned Upcoming Activity Focus

- Continued coordination re: development of a project concept in or near Temple City
- Continued research and support re: LRS projects
- Work with SGVCOG on educational event
- Coordinate with neighboring Watershed Coordinators and/or community-based organizations within the Watershed Area re: next outreach events
- Continued research on potential future project sites



Report on California Bacteria Summit

Richard Watson, Watershed Coordinator





Background

- Widespread concern among MS4 Permittees and consultants regarding use of Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB) Water Quality Standards
- Great for POTWs but terrible for stormwater in wet weather because of widespread distribution of defecating animals.
- Major reason the Regional Pathogen Study was approved by five WASCs

Development of Summit

- Summit planned and hosted jointly by State Water Board and CASQA after a year of planning on September 14, 15, and 16 in Sacramento.
- Coastkeepers and other environmental groups opted out at last minute
- Had to attend in person to ask questions and participate in small group discussion

Structure of Summit

- Emphasis on waters that are safe to swim (REC-1) and shellfish that are safe to eat (SHELL)
- Day 1 - presentations and discussions related to current water quality standards
- Day 2 - presentations and discussions related to understanding the current situation, opportunities, and emerging implementation approaches
- Day 3 - identification of needed regulations and research for achieving waters that are safe to swim and shellfish that are safe to eat (near-term and long-term)

Results

- Several great presentations, including one by a representative of USEPA, the Assistant E.O. from San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board, and several scientists
- General agreement that changes are needed, with emphasis on risk analysis using current science
- Will be a follow-up
- Video recordings and PDFs of presentations available at <https://www.casqa.org/events/bacteria-summit>



Ideas Regarding LRS Projects and Future Pathogen Requirements

Richard Watson, Watershed Coordinator





Background

- Original LRS agreement was approved in 2016 and addendum to revise actions for the Alhambra Wash, Eaton Wash, and Rubio Wash was developed in 2017
- Neither original agreement nor addendum considered upstream water capture projects since they preceded voter approval of Measure W
- Last year the Watershed Coordinator team was asked to review previously approved and proposed projects and is currently examining relationships between approved projects and potential future projects to support future WASC decision making.
- Issue of project relationships was central to approval of Vincent Lugo Park project during the last program year

Current Situation

- Final design of the projects near the mouths of the three washes is about 6 months behind schedule
- US Army Corps of Engineers' approval will take another 6-12 months
- September 23, 2023 is a key date - final WLAs are supposed to be achieved
- In a mid-September 2022 LRS meeting the City of Pasadena made a presentation about concerns with the project, and another meeting is scheduled for October 17.

Recommendations

- To save money, the projects should be right-sized after probable future upstream projects are analyzed.
- In the meantime, the current design process should be completed.
- Construction should be postponed until the WASC has a better understanding of future relationships between current and future projects.



Research on Potential Microplastic Requirements and Possible Impacts on Rio Hondo Projects

Richard Watson, Watershed Coordinator





Background

- For last couple of years, we have been monitoring research and possible stormwater regulations concerning microplastics
- CASQA's True Source Control Subcommittee has had representatives of both the State Water Board and the Ocean Protection Council make presentations concerning microplastics
- On February 23, 2022 the Ocean Protection Council approved a comprehensive *Statewide Microplastics Strategy*, which was mandated by SB 1263 in 2018
- Earlier the State Water Board had defined microplastics as synthetic particles with at least three dimensions ranging from 1 nanometer to 5 millimeters in size



Current Situation

- One of Ocean Protection Council's "solutions" is Pathway Interventions, and the Council has identified stormwater as a major pathway for microplastics to reach the ocean
- State Water Board has been focused on drinking water but is expected to adopt stormwater regulations for microplastics within a few years
- Existing BMPs can handle *macroplastics* and the larger microplastics, especially in dry weather
- High flows overwhelm BMPs except stormwater capture, which will be partially effective in addressing microplastics

Potential Impacts on Rio Hondo WASC Projects

- Likely pressure for more water capture projects
- Probable need for treatment trains for pre-treatment and post-treatment
- More research likely needed
- Need to coordinate with State and Regional Water Boards as well as NGOs



Research on Current and Future Metals Requirements and Possible Impacts on Rio Hondo WASC Projects

Richard Watson, Watershed Coordinator





Background

- We have been working since 2018 to get the Regional Water Board to switch from CA Toxics Rule standard for copper to biotic ligand model (BLM) standard recommended by USEPA in 2007
- Regional Board agreed during the 2017-18 Triennial Review to make the changes but has not yet done so
- We have since attempted to get the Regional Board to change both copper and zinc to biotic ligand model standards at the same time because variables to be monitored are the same, although the models are different



Current Situation

- Staff says they will proceed with copper but have not committed to changing zinc standard
- Zinc tends to be the critical metal pollutant because there is a true source control measure for copper (SB 346 – the brake pad bill) but we do not yet have a true source control measure for zinc
- The Regional Water Board is coordinating with the State Water Board, and both are in consultation with the International Zinc Association
- We need action on both metals sooner rather than later

Recommendations

- Testimony from Elected Officials from SGV Cities should be requested
- If appropriate, the WASC could send a letter to the Regional Water Board
- Presentations to the Regional Board about current and future projects that would help address metals would be valuable



Questions and Discussion

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Monrovia Canyon Park, Photo Courtesy City of Monrovia



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