

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee: Basin Water Management Committee

Meeting Date: March 10, 2021

Present: D. Michalko (Chair), A. Alberti, D. Arrighi, B. Bowcock, D. Colby, P. Cranmer, D. DeJesus, P. DiMaggio, B. DiPrimio, A. Fellow, R. Frausto, R. Gonzales, E. Hills, E. Hitchman, G. Hofer, S. Kiggins, B. Lewis, T. Love, J. Macias, J. Martinez, H. Nguyen, L. Noriega, L. Pacheco, T. Robinson, K. Sansone, J. Santana, R. Schoellerman, S. Shaw, J. Taylor, A. Tesfaye, J. Vargas, C. Venegas, D. Wert, P. Zampielo and M. Zvirbulis.

Staff Present: T. Zampielo, K. Gardner, L. Augino, S. Johnson, J. Savron and Y. Yap

The meeting was called to order by Mr. David Michalko, Chair.

I. PFAS Activities – Presentation by Ken Sansone, SL Environmental

Mr. Michalko introduced Mr. Anthony Zampielo, Executive Officer, who described updates regarding PFAS which have been presented by Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster (Watermaster) Staff (Staff) to various groups within the region over the past several months. Mr. Zampielo discussed materials distributed prior to the meeting and introduced Mr. Ken Sansone, SL Environmental. Mr. Sansone has worked with various agencies on cost recovery related to other contaminants and delivered a presentation focused on general information regarding PFAS, legal activity related to PFAS contamination, and shifting the cost of treatment from rate payers to the parties responsible for contamination. Mr. Sansone stressed the importance of bringing forward litigation as soon as possible due to the abbreviated statute of limitations.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – NO ACTION REQUIRED

II. “Carson Project” Update

Mr. Michalko introduced Mr. Zampielo who delivered an update regarding the Metropolitan Water District’s (MWD) Regional Recycled Water Program “Carson Project”. Mr. Zampielo explained that MWD has established a panel to review potential areas of concern regarding the “Carson Project” and discovered that the relatively low position of the plant within the water system could potentially result in levels of boron in the treated water that may exceed the Basin Plan Objective in the Main Basin. MWD has conferred with Staff to determine the best course of action for managing this and other constituents as final plans for treatment are developed. Mr. Zampielo also noted that

MWD has been engaged with representatives from Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) regarding spreading opportunities in the Basin.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – NO ACTION REQUIRED

III. Local Water Supply

Mr. Michalko asked Mr. Zampiello to discuss upcoming San Gabriel Valley Protective Association (SGVPA) meetings. Mr. Zampiello stated that due to low rainfall so far this year, the SGVPA Distribution Committee meeting has been cancelled. He then asked Mr. Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers, to give a report on local water supply, which was distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting. Mr. Johnson reported that 19,000 AF of local water has been conserved in the upper area and 9,000 AF has been conserved in the lower area. Unfavorable conditions, including low water levels in the canyon, lower than average precipitation, and falling levels at the Key Well, indicate it is unlikely local water will be available for spreading in the Main Basin this year.

Mr. Zampiello explained that water levels in the canyon are currently just above minimum pool, which he defined for the Committee. He explained that while dry conditions are not good for water supply this year, low rainfall and runoff is proving to be beneficial for LACFCD as they have secured emergency permits to begin the removal of debris resulting from wildfires in the area.

Mr. Johnson also discussed the upper area credit, factors for determining lower area entitlement were discussed.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – NO ACTION REQUIRED

IV. Basin Conditions and OSY Discussions

Mr. Johnson reported on Main Basin conditions and implications for the determination of the Operating Safe Yield (OSY), which were detailed in materials provided to the Committee prior to the meeting. Rainfall is currently far below average, and conditions do not favor a recommendation which increases the OSY. Mr. Johnson explained the critical impact of replenishment on local water levels. Pumping under average water conditions, without replenishment, would result in a loss of about 250,000 AF over a 9-year period, equal to a 62.5-foot reduction in water levels. He also reviewed a 10-year history of adopted OSY's and key well levels noting that for 7 consecutive years the OSY has been set at 150,000 AF, which is evidence of the serious steps the Watermaster Board has taken to make the Basin reliable and sustainable. Mr. Zampiello explained the critical role the Resource Development Assessment (RDA) has played in slowing the decline of water levels in the absence of local runoff. Consideration of additional mechanisms to support wet deliveries as well as the potential impact of reliance on MWD were also discussed.

FOR INFORMATIN ONLY – NO ACTION REQUIRED

V. Other

Mr. Zampiello led the Committee in additional discussion regarding PFAS and impacts within the Main Basin. A map of potential sources of contamination provided by Stetson Engineers was reviewed. Local response to PFAS is dependent on established Action Levels and Maximum Contamination Levels. In some areas, treatment methods are already in place which are effective in the treatment of PFAS, however, additional treatment costs may result if PFAS is detected. Mr. Johnson stated that 18 different compounds within the PFAS family are currently being tested for within the Basin, although Notification Levels only exist for 3 of the 18 compounds.

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