

CREST
Cleaner Rivers through Effective Stakeholder
TMDLs

Steering Committee Meeting No. 10

August 23, 2005

Minutes

DRAFT

Attendees: Sheila Brice (City of Los Angeles)
Lisa Carlson (City of Los Angeles)
Donna Toy-Chen (City of Los Angeles)
Vijay Desai (City of Los Angeles)
Charlie Yu (City of Los Angeles)
Jenny Newman (LARWQCB)
Susanne Dallman (LA/SG Watershed Council)
Terry Fleming (USEPA Region IX)
Bob Wu (CALTRANS)
Paul Thakur (CALTRANS)
Mark Pestrella (LA County – DPW)
James Cowan (City of Alhambra)
Alex Farassati (City of Calabassas)
Gerry Greene (City of Downey)
Susannah Turney (City of Arcadia)
Hampik Dekermenjian (Consulting Team)
Heather Boyle Van Meter (Consulting Team)
Michele Pla (Consulting Team)
Dave Jones (Consulting Team)

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Copies: CREST Steering Committee members and Technical Committee members

On Tuesday, August 23, the **CREST Steering Committee meeting** was held at 2714 Media Center Drive, Dodgers Conference Room.

Meeting Purpose:

- **Input on CREST objectives and performance measures**
- **Discussion and input on CREST Workplan participation**
- **Update on Ballona Creek Bacteria activities**

Agenda

- **CREST Objectives and Performance Measures**
- **CREST Work Plan – Participation**

LA River Bacteria

- **Technical Committee Report Out**
Ballona Creek Bacteria – Dry weather options evaluation
EPA Grant – LA River Monitoring
- **CREST Website**

Introduction / Approval of Minutes from last meeting

- Hampik Dekermenjian served as the meeting facilitator.
- One comment made by James Cowan to the meeting minutes was incorporated into the minutes (page 5).
- The minutes from June 28, 2005 steering meeting (SC) were **approved except** the change on Page 5 “1.A.1-8 Terry recommended that all 7 steps **may be** required for a complete TMDL and the rewrite should include all 7 steps.” **may be** should be changed to **are**.

Discussion

Minutes Format

In response to popular request, the minutes will be in condensed format, without individuals cited.

Objectives and Performance Measures

Heather presented the Crest objectives and performance measures (2-page handout). A total of 7 Objectives and their measurements were described in handouts. The following were also discussed:

- Term **technology** in Objective # 4- Potential Performance Measure may be replaced with **solution, BMP, practice**. Practice was preferred, or improving or emerging practice.
- Objective # 4.2 & 6: need to develop performance measure. Need tools to assess whether practices or solutions are achievable and practical. Identify and quantify achievable and practical solutions
- Heather said that tools had been used in TC and no comments were heard in TC that would significantly change the work done. Currently, only qualitative measures were developed for performance measurement due to work on potential implementation. We may move to the direction of quantitative measures.
- There were concerns about uncertainty of the Detection Limits and water quality standards –but those concerns were out of Crest scope. Terry said they are the EPA and Regional Board calls.

Action item: Changes to be incorporated by consulting team if feasible.

CREST Work Plan – Participation - LA River Bacteria

- Heather presented the CREST activity schedule (excel sheet) from July 2005 to December 2005. There will be joint SC/TC meeting in November (after Thanksgiving) and no meeting in December.

- Page 9 of the CREST Work Plan (49 pages) outlined the planned progress from 2006 -2009.

The task of developing a draft LA River TMDL outline proposed 2-3 months ago was not mentioned in the schedule and it was suggested to add it to TC schedule. Dave said that comments about CREST workplan were received from Terry and Melinda and a few other stakeholders. However, we need more participation. Dave indicated that CREST (consulting team) would like to get more data, e.g. runoff data, flow data and WQ data to compile GIS database (useful data) and this is another way stakeholder can participate, by providing information.

A discussion then followed regarding the need for additional data for a GIS database. At this time, there seems to be a lot of data. However, it is important to have stakeholders participate in CREST. Currently many stakeholders are not participating. The meeting attendees were surveyed about their reasons for being at the CREST meetings. The answers were: 1) to track the TMDL development process; 2) to gather data and information for management; 3) weigh potential benefits for their agencies, 4) to provide technical information.

It was noted that City of Los Angeles has previously invited various stakeholders to participate in CREST. It may be beneficial to do another outreach to various cities and agencies at this time. This outreach may be conducted by doing follow-up (call, email, or letters) and or have a marketing (?) strategy that will place emphasis on product or results.

Cost Sharing

The stakeholders in the meeting feel that other stakeholders in the watersheds should share the cost of developing the TMDL, not just those present at the meeting. This was agreed by the attendees. It is important to consider that most cities plan their budget ahead.

The City of LA indicated that it has also been trying to encourage participation and discuss cost sharing by meeting with other agencies such as LA County. It was noted that that non-profit organizations may not have money for the TMDL development but can help through other means. It was also noted that LA City occupies 50% of LAR and BC watershed area and LA City is committed to the TMDL development.

Other comments include:

- Find a general way to talk to outreach and get other stakeholders involvement and participation in CREST
- Some city reps said their cities do not have budget for TMDL development.
- A cost-sharing letter should be sent all stakeholders (city manager, city council) in the watershed to convince and motivate stakeholders to have TMDL budget. Cities must have TMDL budget in their overall budgets one way or another.

- If letter is drafted, it should address regulations related to the TMDL, stakeholder's responsibilities, TMDL facts, TMDL requirements, TMDL development, responsible parties, tangible products or solutions (current practices), benefits, estimate costs, length of period and cost-sharing formula etc, and options or possibilities.
- Suggestions: Cost-sharing should be based on area percentage and contributions in the watershed.

Action item: Draft a letter (or communication) and report back to SC.

Technical Committee Report Out – presented by Michele

TC meeting is held every month. There will be TC meeting this afternoon that will focus on BC bacteria TMDL (continued) and LA River (start working on EPA grant).

Ballona Creek Bacteria –Dry weather Options Evaluation

Heather talked about objectives and performances earlier this morning. We are using the workplan to develop specific info to help the regional board to develop water quality attainment strategy of the TMDL. As you know, the targets are established. The reference beach is the same as Santa Monica bay .We are focusing on development of water quality attainment strategy, e.g. implementation strategy(s), and comparison of the strategy(s). It was separated into dry and wet weather. Dry weather options evaluation was completed and Wet weather was discussed briefly. We have gone through the draft implementation strategy(s), e.g. flow control, source control, diversion, treat and return. The strategies will be prioritized high, medium and low based on analysis. There will be a cost analysis based on implementation strategy when the implementation strategy analysis is done. There will be a draft out in November.

EPA Grant – LA River Monitoring

Terry analyzed LAR dry weather bacteria data and presented the data to TC in last TC meeting. Draft workplan on how to use the EPA grant was given out. The workplan's concepts:

- a) The monitoring and analysis will focus on bacteria source
- b) The monitoring will focus on dry weather
- c) The monitoring will sample for more than 1 pollutant.
- d) The monitoring data should help the selection of BMPs.

SC should review the workplan. If it is OK with SC after reviewed by SC, TC will proceed. Other discussion and comments:

There was a discussion about the cost of bacteria analysis, and what should be done first; identification of bacteria forms or bacteria source. Terry suggested source, per workplan concepts. There were also questions regarding the sampling frequency and number of

sites. This has not yet been determined, because we are at concepts stage only. It will be determined at next TC meeting.

It was discussed that the frequency of the sampling depends on the design –

- for short term variability of a storm drain – frequently;
- for meeting the standards – 5 days/30days;
- for long-term trend – number of samples over a period of time.

The focus is on dry weather for the reasons that: a) many exceedance days in dry weather; b) very little info about the source in dry weather; c) limited resources [grant funds]. These issues will be discussed in TC meeting and everyone is welcome to the meeting.

Action Item: There were no objections on the concepts 1-4. Some asked for more time to review the workplan. Dave asked that comments be sent through email ASAP.

CREST Website

City of Los Angeles and consulting team worked together to set up Crest website in August. After consulting with the city attorney's office, WWW.CRESTMDL.ORG was chosen as Crest web site.

The Web site has following:

1. About Crest
2. Activities
3. Reports and studies
4. Meetings

Other Comments:

- Add: a) more photos, b) other studies &links, c) milestones. d) Protected area for member only
- Stakeholder list, contact information and email address: some reps said that they needed authorization to have that information be listed in the Crest web site.

Next Meeting

Oct. 25, 2005 (morning) for Steering

Also, A joint Technical / Steering Committee meeting will be held in November on the sampling workplan.