

CREST
Cleaner Rivers through Effective Stakeholder TMDLs
 (formerly "Stakeholder-led TMDL Development and Water Quality Standards Studies
 Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek")

TMDL Steering Committee Meeting of August 24, 2004
Meeting Notes

ACTION ITEMS
<p>Each Steering Committee Member to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend the Executive Subcommittee meeting on September 21, 2004 from 10:00am to 12 noon. Financial commitment is not required to participate in this discussion about cost apportionment. • Attend the next Steering Committee meeting on September 28, 2004 from 10:00am to 12 noon. • Identify Technical Committee members to participate in first Technical Committee meeting. <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed red;"/> <p>City of LA and Consultant Team to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise draft MOU and Stakeholder Charter to reflect decision to make MOU more skeletal supporting document and Charter more detailed agreement. Distribute to Steering Committee members in advance of next meeting. • Send updated Cost Apportionment memo to Steering Committee for consideration prior to Executive Subcommittee meeting.

Deleted: Participate in Stakeholder Workshop scheduled for October 21, 2004.¶

Deleted: Provide maps of the water bodies at future meetings with references to river reaches noted.¶

DISCUSSION:

TMDL Process Framework and Workplan
<p><i>TMDL Process Framework (Schedule)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donna Toy Chen presented the TMDL schedule that reflects the overall TMDL development process and example workplan activities. This will be the primary tool for conveying overall schedule as well as detailed program activities and the format will be tailored to the particular audience (i.e., greater detail shown for Technical Committee than for Stakeholder Committee.) • Debbie Smith requested that the schedule indicate distinctions between the stakeholder-led TMDL development process, the Regional Board's development and adoption process, and EPA's adoption process. • "Implementation" needs to be defined to include studies and monitoring as well as BMP implementation. Show BMP implementation as parallel track. • Need "check-in" points of communication between the CREST team and the BMP implementation teams. • Identify "owners" of each task, (i.e., CREST or other planning groups.) • Detailed milestone dates to be firmed up at the next Steering Committee meeting.

TMDL Work Plans

- Don Schroeder and Richard Meyerhoff presented an overview the TMDL Work Plan development process and provided background information on specific constituents slated for TMDL development.
- Melinda Becker distributed the Preliminary Draft of the TMDL for Toxic Pollutants in Sediment and Fish Tissue for Ballona Creek and Ballona Creek Estuary (dated August 18, 2004) and described its background and content.
- Debbie Smith indicated that this organics TMDL lends itself to post TMDL development studies.
- A briefing workshop will be held to address the technical components of this organics TMDL. Once the release date of the draft TMDL is firm, a workshop briefing date will be selected for soon thereafter.
- The Steering Committee agreed to collectively develop comments on this organics TMDL for Ballona Creek.
- Rod Kubomoto indicated that the LA County Beaches and Harbors Dept. has worked with DPW studying sediment buildup.
- Consider Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission as potential partner.
- See related transcript of flip chart notes provided below.

Constituent Background Information and Conceptual Framework (Flip Chart Notes)

Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL

- Look at connections to stormdrain system - Focus on "source control"
- Seepage into system (from groundwater or sewage)
- Bacteria growth within system
- Linkage with beaches bacteria TMDL
- Compliance point is end (discharge) of pipe vs. point of impact
- Gather SCCWRP Data - get them at the table (as participants, or at least to present research)
- Develop hypotheses for bacteria
- Holistic approach
- High flow exemption
- Where is point of compliance
- Where is most effective points for treatment / BMPs
- Schedule - Work must be timely
- Early identification of WQ attainment strategies (identify opportunities for early successes)
- Get available technical information now
- Develop realistic implementation schedules
- Comparative study - bacteria growth in concrete vs. natural systems
- Investigate natural sources (e.g. birds) - review studies conducted in Orange County
- Compare differences between bacteria on concrete vs. those in natural channels
- Septic tank impact, especially upper Los Angeles River watershed

Ballona Creek Organics (Organochlorine)

- Set up tech workshop soon after September 2, 2004 (assumed date of draft TMDL posting by Regional Board)
- Opportunities for special studies
- County beaches, harbors, and corps
- Studying sediment transport and hydrology modeling
- Follow-up study

Nitrogen

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Related efforts underway throughout the region, i.e. nitrogen impairments - Professor Barry Hibbs/Cal State LA doing related studies (re: nitrogen in the Arroyo Seco)
<p><i>Beneficial Uses</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water quality and associated uses - Ecological integrity - Keep beneficial uses with added explanatory sentence
<p><i>TMDLs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water quality standards

Mission Statement and MOU/Charter
<p>The draft Mission Statement was reviewed and refined to generate the following final version:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Our mission is to restore and preserve beneficial uses of our rivers and creeks using a collaborative partnership to develop TMDLs and water quality attainment strategies with active and informed involvement by the community and stakeholders and by facilitating effective, innovative, practical, financially feasible, and integrated solutions."</p> <p>The Steering Committee agreed that the MOU should be reduced to a more skeletal agreement, and the Stakeholder Charter should contain the details of the CREST process. These will be revised accordingly by the City of LA/consultant team.</p>

Naming Ourselves
<p>The Steering Committee applied a "dot-voting" method to select the following acronym and definition as the program name:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CREST = Cleaner Rivers through Effective Stakeholder TMDLs</p> <p>This replaces the title "Stakeholder-led TMDL Development and Water Quality Standards Studies Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek" that has previously been used.</p>

Future Meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Executive Subcommittee:</i> A meeting to review the considerations presented in the Cost Apportionment memo will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2004 at City of LA offices at 433 S. Spring St., 5th floor Training Room. All members of the Steering Committee are encouraged to attend to discuss CREST program costs and considerations whether they intend to participate as cost-sharing members or not. • <i>Technical Committee:</i> The first meeting of the CREST Technical Committee will be held in September. A specific date and forum will be determined through e-mail exchange with Steering Committee members. • <i>Steering Committee Meeting:</i> The next CREST Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2004.

Deleted: <#>Stakeholder Workshop: The first CREST Stakeholder Workshop is scheduled for **Thursday, October 21, 2004**. The agenda will be reviewed at the next Steering Committee meeting.¶