

CREST
Cleaner Rivers through Effective Stakeholder TMDLs
Steering Committee Meeting No. 7
March 22, 2005
Minutes

Attendees: Paul Thakur (Caltrans D-7)
James Cowan (City of Alhambra)
Daniel Wall (City of Burbank)
Cathy Chang (City of Culver City)
Gerry Greene (City of Downey)
David Cheung (City of Los Angeles)
Donna Toy Chen (City of Los Angeles)
Gus Dembegiotes (City of Los Angeles)
Shahram Kharaghani (City of Los Angeles)
Varouj Abkian (City of Los Angeles)
Vijay N. Desai (City of Los Angeles)
Dave Jones (Consulting Team)
Don Schroeder (Consulting Team)
Hampik Dekermenjian (Consulting Team)
Avinash Patwardhan (Consulting Team)
Tom Grovhoug (Consulting Team)
Gil Wheeler (Consulting Team)
Shelley Luce (Heal the Bay)
Rod Kubomoto (Los Angeles County DPW)
Kristen Ruffell (Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts)
Ginachi Amah (LARWQCB)
Melinda Becker (LARWQCB)
Melanie Winter (The River Project)
Cindy Lin (U.S. EPA)

Copies: CREST Steering Committee members

On Tuesday, March 22, the seventh CREST Steering Subcommittee meeting was held at 433 S. Spring Street, 5th Floor Conference (Training) room. Key decisions and action items are highlighted in **bold**.

AGENDA

1. Overall Meeting Schedule and Deliverable Review Process
2. Overview of TMDL Program Work Plan Development Process
3. Committee Decision Making and Documentation Process
4. Technical Committee Report Out
5. Outreach to Other Interested Parties
6. Related Activities of Steering Committee Members

DISCUSSION:

Dave Jones distributed the documents for the meeting

1. Overall Meeting Schedule and Deliverable Review Process

Document review process: Based on the circulation of documents, it's recognized that it takes approximately 30 days of review prior to distribution. For this reason, the Steering Committee meetings will be held bi-monthly. Technical Committee meetings will remain monthly.

2. Overview of TMDL Program Work Plan Development Process

Draft of Work Plan will be distributed next month. It's the road map for the CREST process. The Work Plan will show all the projects but this committee will decide the priority and execution of Work Plan.

3. Committee Decision Making and Documentation Process

Committee expressed the need for a decision making model. Cindy Lin brought up the Calleguas Creek process. It includes a steering committee and 4 other sub-committees. Most decisions are made at the steering committee level. They don't have a dispute resolution process but the group talks it out until they reach consensus. The Calleguas Creek Steering Committee makes strategic, non-technical decisions.

A process issue: all documents should be labeled "Draft" until the group reaches decision to make documents final.

4. Technical Committee Report: Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL

- A draft of the Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL Water Quality Attainment Strategies work plan was distributed that was revised based on the results of the March 15, 2005 Technical Committee meeting. The document is designed to establish the framework to come up with implementation strategy and the appropriate monitoring and performing special studies. The intent of the workplan is to develop this framework.
- Issue was raised that the document does not included the 2 elements (Source Control, Naturalizing Streams). Technical committee members indicated that they discussed many elements of the work plan. The elements listed were mentioned during the meeting but the other options are not excluded from the study.
- There was concern of low flow diversions and its impact on habitat and the estuary of Ballona Creek. Diversions make sense for the other drains that discharge directly to the bay but impacts from low flow diversions on Ballona Creek is more of a concern. Another concern was that low flow diversions don't improve water quality inland of the point of discharge; therefore source control should be a critical component. The other TMDLs for Ballona Creek will likely incorporate source control.
- To deal with naturalizing channels, we need to bring in the Army Corp of Engineers since they "own" the channel.
- The plan should also look at other studies that are going on elsewhere to see if some of the same issues are being addressed.
- It was suggested that a study is needed to look at the effects of low flow diversions on bacteria levels at the beaches. The LARWQCB responded that such studies would be conducted on a case-by-case basis. Some low flow diversions have not helped as much because significant sources of bacteria are the birds at the piers.
- Explaining the Ballona Creek Bacteria work plan: the workplan tasks will support development of the implementation element of the Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL. It was clarified that various options including flow diversions, naturalizing streams, and source control will be considered and assessed. . For the options considered, their impacts will be assessed especially for low flow diversions since its impact may be great.
- The cost of these studies should be shared. How are those studies going to be funded? The City of LA is currently providing seed money but other agencies and stakeholders should participate and should be discussed at the next meetings.

Action Items:

1. **The Consultant Team will revise the Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL work plan document to clarify that a range of options including source control, flow diversions, and naturalizing channels will be considered when developing the implementation strategy for the TMDL. The document will then be redistributed as draft and will be discussed at the Technical Committee, as the BC Bacteria work is initiated.**
2. **All documents should be labeled "draft" until approved and finalized by the respective committee.**

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