

**CREST**  
**Cleaner Rivers through Effective Stakeholder**  
**TMDLs**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**March 28, 2006**  
**Minutes**  
**DRAFT**

**Attendees:**

Ginachi Amah (Regional Board)  
L. B. Nye (Regional Board)  
Terrence Flemming (U. S. Environmental Protection Agency)  
Penny Weiland (City of Los Angeles)  
Donna Toy-Chen (City of Los Angeles)  
Sheila Brice (City of Los Angeles)  
Lisa Carlson (City of Los Angeles)  
Gerry Green (City of Downey)  
Robert Wu (CALTRANS)  
Jason Pelletier (North East Trees)  
Suzanne Dallman (Los Angeles/San Gabriel Watershed Council)  
Susannah Turney (City of Arcadia)  
Lisa Gilbane (Southern California Marine Institute)  
Kathleen Bullard (Consulting Team)  
Sherwood Natsuhara (City of Vernon)  
Scott Lines (City of Long Beach)  
Allen Nazemi (City of Calabasas)  
Rey Tahir (Tecs Environmental)  
Catherine Tyrell (Consulting Team)  
Jagjit Kaur (Consulting Team)  
Richard Meyerhoff (Consulting Team)  
Darren Hartwich (Consulting Team)  
Gerry McGowen (City of Los Angeles)

**Copies:** CREST Technical Committee members and Steering Committee members

On Tuesday, March 28, 2006, the fifteenth CREST Technical Committee meeting was held at 2714 Media Center Drive, Dodgers Conference Room.

## **Purpose of the Meeting**

- Understand Flowchart for Moving Forward on LAR Bacteria TMDL Development
- Develop Thoughts on Points of Compliance and Reference Watershed
- Develop Framework for Cost Sharing Agreement (including providing in-kind services) for upcoming Los Angeles River Monitoring
- Decide on Methodology for Outreach to Other Cities in Watershed

## **TMDL Development Timeline**

The meeting started with Darren giving an overview of the water quality process. There are two tributaries that are not currently listed, but may be listed in next round of 303(d) listings. They are Aliso Canyon Wash and Burbank Western Channel. Darren presented a flow chart on how CREST will work on the draft TMDL process. This draft TMDL will not include an implementation plan.

The goal is to have a strawman TMDL by December 2006. There was a discussion on this date, and members asked if it would be possible to move the date. This TMDL does not have a date required by the Consent Decree, but it is on the Regional Board's (RB) schedule for completion during Fiscal Year 2006-07. The consultant will look into revising the timeline with recommendation from the group in later meetings.

## **Key Features Document**

Next the "Key Features Document" was presented by Richard Meyerhoff.

Model watersheds were discussed. There were questions on the locations for the best attainable condition; urbanization; number of samples; and the risk considerations. Members decided to have SCCWRP speak on their study of reference watersheds. [Note: this presentation was given at the April 28, 2006 TC meeting.] In discussing watersheds, one thing to consider is the location of the compliance points. Items impacting this decision include: locations where greater REC-1 activity occurs.

There was a brief discussion on the fact that the numeric targets come from Basin Plan, and therefore there is no flexibility. They can be met on different schedules during the implementation, but the actual targets will not change.

Also, Use Attainability Analyses (UAA) were discussed. It was reiterated that whether the standards are reasonable is not a part of CREST. Organizations can look into changing standards outside of CREST.

Reference beaches were the ones unimpacted. There might be an inland river without human exceedances. This subject would be discussed by the SCCWRP presentation on April 28, 2006.

There was a motion to have TC investigate the technical approach. TC asked SCCWRP to present their study on reference watersheds. One-third of LAR is in a national forest; it also has tributaries, such as the top of the Arroyo Seco that are in natural, not urban, environments.

Can a natural source exclusion be used instead of reference beach? The Regional Board stated that this is done in permitting, but not in TMDLs. One alternative is to do a natural source exclusion above rest of watershed. CREST will investigate natural sources at another time.

### **LAR Monitoring**

The EPA-grant funded sampling program for bacteria on the LAR was presented to members, and a flyer on the schedule and participation was handed out. The flyer will be updated and sent out to members. There will be sampling on Reaches 2 and 4. Each reach will be sampled on separate days. The two reaches won't be compared on any given day. The sampling will be done on storm drains, tributaries and other sources.

### **Additional Agency Involvement**

How will CREST involved otherwise uninvolved cities? There was a request to receive a list of stormwater coordinators from RB. The consultant team would help asking cities to participate. The cities might be approached at the Watershed Council.

There was a discussion of adding metals analyses to the bacteria sampling event. The cost of the analyses requested is estimated at \$100 per sample or about \$1000 per sampling event. However, due to the lack of time and commitment from other agencies, this was not done. The LAR metals TMDL became effective on January 11, 2006.

If CREST monitors next year, CREST needs to tell the cities, as a recommendation from SC. CREST needs to make recommendations now as cities are currently working on their budgets.

This is last TC meeting before sampling begins. CREST is planning on sampling if it rains more than four days before the sampling event. Wet weather is defined as the day of rain and three days afterwards.

CREST will attend meetings outside of SC meetings to bring in new participants. The Key Features document would be available for the April 19 Watershed Council meeting.

There was a discussion of presenting ideas to the mayors and city council members of cities along the LAR. This workshop would inform the leaders about TMDLs, what their city is responsible for, and how the LAR Metal TMDL will affect their city. It was decided to have a letter presented by Alexis Strauss of the EPA to Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa to sign and send to other mayors.

There was a request to get member organizations to place a link to the CREST website on each member organizations' website. The CREST website was not found on a Google search. CREST will look into getting onto Google. CREST may also need to pay to have links.

There was a request to put information for the next meeting and a map to the next meeting on the website.

### **Action Items**

1. SC will task TC to look at reference watershed options.
2. Invite SCCWRP to speak at TC.
3. Send LAR sampling schedule to all members.
4. Put on the time, date, and a map to the next meeting on the CREST website.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held jointly with the TC meeting. It is scheduled for May 23, 2006 from 1:00-3:00. It will be held at the City of Los Angeles Public Works Building (PWB) 1149 S. Broadway. Please see the meeting announcement for details on directions and parking.