

CHOLLAS CREEK METALS TMDL STAKEHOLDER MEETING

June 23, 2011

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Lemon Grove Community Center

3146 School Lane

Lemon Grove, CA 91945

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees:

Bill Harris, *City of San Diego*
Christina Arias, *San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board*
Constantine Kontaxis, *Caltrans*
Cora Long, *City of Lemon Grove*
Dave Renfrew, *Weston Solutions*
Deena Raver, *County of San Diego*
Edith Gutierrez, *City of San Diego*
Eric Becker, *San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board*
John Kuhn, *City of La Mesa*
John Stump, *Chollas Restoration, Enhancement, And Conservancy Community Development Corporation*
Ken Johansson, *Caltrans*

Kris McFadden, *City of San Diego*
Kristina Schneider, *AMEC*
Len Sinfield, *U.S. Navy*
Lewis Michaelson, *Katz & Associates*
Lindsay Gaesser, *San Diego Coastkeeper*
Richard Watson, *Richard Watson & Associates*
Roman Partida, *San Diego Coastkeeper*
Ruth Kolb, *City of San Diego*
Sarah Rossetto, *Katz & Associates*
Stephanie Bauer, *Port of San Diego*
Stephanie Bracci, *City of San Diego*
Tim Graham, *City of San Diego*
Tracy Cline, *County of San Diego*

1. Welcome and Introductions
Lewis Michaelson, facilitator, and Kris McFadden from the City of San Diego welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting began with a round of introductions, followed by a description of the purpose of the meeting - to update stakeholders on Metals Total Maximum Daily Load [TMDL] efforts.
2. Background
Cora Long from the City of Lemon Grove and Ken Johansson from Caltrans gave a presentation about the TMDL process and progress and actions to date. Dissolved metals part of this TMDL for Chollas Creek watershed are copper, lead and zinc. Phase I of the Chollas Creek Dissolved Metals TMDL Implementation Plan is underway, and it is scheduled to be complete in 2013. Phase I has included research, evaluation and

compliance with Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Stakeholder Comments: One attendee asked if the water quality improvements have been observed during the last year of work on Phase I. Ruth Kolb from the City of San Diego responded that water quality improvements related to dissolved metals has not yet been observed through the compliance monitoring conducted.

3. Featured Projects

The projects presented are examples of the range of work being done in Phase I by the dischargers (Cities of San Diego, Lemon Grove and La Mesa; County of San Diego; U.S. Navy; Caltrans; Port of San Diego). There are 94 projects planned during Phase I.

A. Brake Pad Partnership

Ruth Kolb gave a presentation about the Brake Pad Partnership and Senate Bill 346. About 50 percent of copper in the Chollas Creek watershed is from brake pads. Brake pads could be made up of approximately 50 percent copper by weight. With the approval of SB 346 in 2010, copper will be phased out of brake pads sold in California. This was the most effective way to control the source and set deadlines for copper reductions. Approximately 50 percent of the lead found in Chollas Creek is from aviation gas. Tires and belt wear on vehicles are pollutant sources for zinc. There are other opportunities for source control that have been identified.

Stakeholder Comments: One attendee asked what made up the other 50 percent of the copper found in the watershed. Ruth said she would send him the Aerial Deposition Phase III Study for review.

Post Meeting Follow up: The Aerial Deposition Study, Phase III has been sent to the interested party.

B. Memorial Park Infiltration Basin

Tim Graham from the City of San Diego gave a presentation about the Memorial Park Infiltration Basin in the San Diego Bay watershed. Construction began in July 2010 and was completed in December 2010. Monitoring began in February 2011, and the results have been good so far. Of the rain events that have been monitored, the system has captured and infiltrated between 90 and 100 percent of the flow. The Southcrest Park is a similar future project that is expected to be complete in 2013.

Stakeholder Comments: One attendee asked if anything was learned that will be useful in Phase II. Tim responded that the team is still running the analysis, but the initial results have shown it to be a successful project. The complete results would be available by the stakeholder meeting next year (which typically occurs in summer). One attendee asked where the community pool discharge goes and

Tim responded that he would check with the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department.

Post Meeting Follow up: The City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department has confirmed that the pool water is discharged to the sanitary sewer system.

- C. Chollas Creek Runoff Reduction and Groundwater Recharge Project
Deena Raver from the County of San Diego and Richard Watson from Richard Watson & Associates gave a presentation about the Chollas Creek Runoff Reduction and Groundwater Recharge Project. They explained that the purpose of the project was to demonstrate the use of low-impact development (LID) for TMDL compliance. In addition, the project aimed to retrofit LID measures into existing development, gain experience with bio-filter design and soil media, and monitor to assess effectiveness of porous pavement and bio-filtration. Two project sites within the Chollas Creek watershed were used.

Retrofitting best management practices (BMPs) into existing development and implementing infiltration and bio-filtration was found to be difficult.

Results showed that porous pavement with a stone reservoir worked, and rainfall events less than one inch retained and infiltrated well. With the exception of one large rainfall event, 89 percent of rainfall was captured and infiltrated.

Results also showed that bio-filtration can help comply with the Metals TMDLs. There were substantial reductions in the concentrations of dissolved copper, lead and zinc. Most of the exceedances were for copper and were primarily related to bypass. The planters increased the hardness of discharges, which reduces the toxicity of metals. The final report for this project will be complete in August 2011.

- D. Navy's Storm Water BMP Model and Nationwide LID Policy
Len Sinfield from the U.S. Navy gave a presentation on the Navy's Storm Water BMP Model and Nationwide LID Policy. The Navy is required by law to use LID construction on new developments or retrofitting projects over \$750,000.

The Pacific Beach Project at Naval Base San Diego is a \$250 million football-field-size detention basin. The WinSLAMM method for understanding the relationships between sources of urban runoff pollutants and runoff quality is also used at Naval Base San Diego. It is currently used to link the storm drain watershed landscape and uses, to the pollution. Currently, rainfall and the surface type are considered.

Stakeholder Comment: One attendee requested information on what is being done at Navy facilities outside Naval Base San Diego. Len responded that other parties are responsible for those facilities. One attendee requested that transportation on base be monitored as a source point for pollution.

4. Monitoring Results

Ruth Kolb presented the monitoring results. Monitoring is mandated during the first and second storms, as well as one storm after the month of February. However, five storms were tested. Testing was done at compliance monitoring sites and jurisdictional special study monitoring sites. In addition, chronic testing was done over four-day periods.

Copper was found in the highest concentrations, but she explained that the reductions of copper in brake pads will help reach the compliance goal date of 2028. She also mentioned that a requirement for non-copper brake pads is needed before it can be enforced.

The Water Effects Ratio (WER) is a default value of one that tests to see what amount of metals are protective of the environment in the watershed. Conservative WER results are recommended for adoption.

Stakeholder Comment: One attendee asked if the City of San Diego or the Navy use diazinon and would like certification. Ruth said she would check regarding the City, and Len said he would check regarding the Navy. One attendee asked if the multiplier of the WER raises the bar so the amounts of metals are not seen as having as negative an effect. Ruth responded that the Environmental Protection Agency's protocol was followed in developing the WER. She also responded that the Bacteria TMDL is more stringent and will cover other pollutants like metals.

Post Meeting Follow up: The Navy has confirmed that it does not use diazinon. The City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department has confirmed that it does not use diazinon.

5. Wrap Up

Stakeholders were able to ask the dischargers questions and give comments. Bill Harris from the City of San Diego explained that feedback and comments are helpful in moving forward because a suite of options will be available moving into Phase II. Richard Watson announced the California Stormwater Quality Association transportation and water quality workshop at the Irvine Marriott on Nov. 10, 2011.

- One attendee said it would have been helpful to have a representative from the San Diego Unified School District present.
- One attendee asked for more information regarding jet fuel and natural gas lines and voiced concern about the natural gas lines running to Lindbergh Field.

Post Meeting Follow up: Information on the location of natural gas lines can be found at the following website: <https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer/composite.jsf>
Also, Chapter 3 of the San Diego Regional Energy Infrastructure Study provides information on natural gas lines and can be found at <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/energy/news/30yrstudy.shtml>. Page 3-8 is a map of San Diego County natural gas lines. Information regarding jet fuel lines is restricted for security reasons. For questions regarding jet fuel lines, contact Richard Gilb at the San Diego Airport Authority at 619-400-2790.