

Natural Water Quality Committee  
Meeting notes, teleconference September 14, 2006, 10-12

Committee members in attendance on the telephone:

Steve Murray  
Burt Jones  
Andrew Dickson  
Pete Michael  
Rich Gossett  
Jim Allen  
Dominic Gregorio

Also in attendance:

Connie Anderson

Members absent:

Ken Schiff

1. Meeting notes were discussed. The meeting notes from the August 29 meeting were discussed and Andrew suggested some clarifications. Also, at the previous August 2006 meeting the minutes from the April 28 meeting were inadvertently not discussed. Dominic made changes to the August 29 meeting notes and agreed to send out the meeting notes again from both meetings for approval at the next meeting.
2. Pete stated that he is going to retire at the end of the year and that the Regional Board will need to provide another representative to the Committee.
3. Dominic provided a brief overview of the comments received at the August scoping meetings.
4. The draft monitoring proposal relative to storm water discharges into ASBS was discussed again. The monitoring issues were discussed both in a general context and in relation to the southern California mainland ASBS, particularly La Jolla and San Diego-Scripps ASBS and others in the San Diego Region. During the last (August '06) meeting the group concentrated on reference stream and storm drain monitoring issues. The emphasis of discussion this time related to monitoring in ocean waters/shoreline. Some areas of discussion were:
  - a. Water Quality Sampling
    - Where should sampling take place? Treatment (discharge sites) should be compared to reference sites. Much discussion revolved around selection of reference sites and there was general agreement that there may be no one reference site, but rather a group of reference conditions. It is important to identify the range of conditions (natural variability). We should take a look at what is already available (possibilities include USC Catalina ASBS reference info, existing State Board data, SCCWRP natural loadings data, possibly San

Nicolas Island data) and decide on some additional sampling (funding and resources allowing).

- Another spatial issue that was discussed related to at what point should sampling take place? Should samples be collected from shore, outside the surf zone, or from a vessel further out? Safety issues were mentioned. Also discussed was the occurrence of sediment in the samples resulting from shoreline sampling.
- When should sampling take place? Emphasis should be on wet weather, but when during a storm? There was a discussion of whether salinity or some temporal schedule. Should sampling occur at the beginning of the storm, which is logistically difficult (i.e., would sampling crews be ready)? The greatest impact is probably during the middle of the storm or shortly afterward, but safety issues were raised. It may be safer to sample after the storm has passed but while there is considerable runoff still; this may be logistically more acceptable as well. All seemed in agreement that more than one storm event at the same location would be valuable. Andrew agreed to provide some ideas and focus on this topic for our next meeting.
- What sampling and analytical methods should be used? The Ocean Plan objectives dictate minimum detection limits but SWAMP also has performance based QA requirements. Dominic agreed to provide existing guidance for presentation at the next meeting.

b. Biological Community and Bioaccumulation

- It is important to monitor the health of the marine biota since that is the key beneficial use in ASBS. State Board staff proposes to focus on intertidal communities as those are likely to experience immediate exposure to the highest concentrations of polluted storm water.
- Sandy beach community was discussed. There are a range of grain sizes and variability on sandy beaches. The group discussed sand crab bioaccumulation as an appropriate measure. Another potential measure that was discussed was grunion eggs, particularly in relation to PAH concentrations or developmental effects.
- The rocky intertidal community should be measured for impacts from storm water pollution. What protocols should be used at reference locations and provided as guidance to dischargers? The MARINE group (intertidal researchers including Steve) will be meeting in October. Steve and Dominic will discuss this issue with MARINE and report back.

c. Regional Monitoring

- The possibility of a synoptic approach was snapshot approach was discussed. An ASBS strata may be included in the Bight '08 regional monitoring effort. This would probably involve some randomized sampling with stressed and pristine strata.
- For central and northern California SWAMP funding may also be available for a consistent approach.

5. Next Meeting: All agreed that the next meeting would be in person. Dominic stated that he should provide the date and location on the State Board website. A tentative meeting date (Oct.25) was selected but Dominic agreed to confirm this in advance.