



# California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment San Diego Advisory Committee Meeting 6 Notes

Friday, June 2, 2023

## Attendees

### Advisory Committee Members in attendance:

- Lisa Cumper, Jamul Indian Village
- Cristina Torres, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Tiffany Wolfe, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians
- Sherri Norris, California Indian Environmental Alliance's (CIEA)
- Jay Davis, California Water Quality Monitoring Council Safe to Eat Workgroup & San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI)
- Matt Lucero, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Wesley (Wes) Smith & Loren (Lori) Chumney, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)

### Advisory Committee members not in attendance:

- The Honorable Frederick (Bo) Mazzetti, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians & Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (SCTCA)
- Shasta Gaughen (or Heidi Brow), Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Jill Sherman-Warne, Native American Environmental Protection Coalition (NAEPC)
- José Bravo, Just Transition Alliance
- Ray Hiemstra, Orange County Coastkeeper
- Mitchell (Mitch) McKay, Citizens for Coastal Conservancy
- Matt O'Malley, San Diego Coast Keeper
- Anya Cross, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Peter Vroom, California Water Quality Monitoring Council & City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department
- Kirsten Winter, US Forest Service (USFS)
- Autumn Bonnema, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML)

### Invited guests in attendance:

- The Honorable Victor E. Woods, Vice Chairman, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Mia Gill & Brice Holmstead, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board

Realignment Team in attendance:

- Chad Loflen, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (R9)
- Ali Dunn, Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)
- Anna Holder, SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Lead
- Corey Clatterbuck, SWAMP
- Badhia Yunes Katz, SWAMP CivicSpark Fellow
- Mike Antos, Stantec

Realignment Team note in attendance:

- Melissa Corona, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (R9)

## **Welcome**

- The Honorable Victor E. Woods, Vice Chairman of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians opened the meeting with a welcome.
- Vice Chairman Woods noted the value of this group coming together and working on environmental issues and stressed the need for all of us to get information of what we're doing to protect and improve the quality of the environment out to the community.

## **Grounding**

- Members of the Realignment Team welcomed all to the sixth San Diego Advisory Committee Meeting, and thanked Vice Chairman Woods and the rest of the team at the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians for such a warm welcome and for hosting the in-person meeting.
- Advisory Committee Members reviewed meeting ground rules: be respectful to one another, be constructive, be engaged, and be respectful of each other's time. No additions or revisions were requested by Advisory Committee Members.

## **Advisory Committee Member Introductions**

- Advisory Committee Members and the Realignment Team introduced themselves and shared what they most want to see accomplished during the meeting or a reflection on the work this committee accomplished together over the last two years.
- Discussion of desired outcomes and accomplishments for the meeting included Advisory Committee Members' desires to:
  - Get newer Committee representatives caught up on what the Committee has been working on and accomplished over the past two years.
  - Get an update on the implementation of the monitoring plan and timelines for when we should expect to start seeing the actual data and results of monitoring efforts.
  - Discuss next steps, with a particular interest in communicating with the broader community.

## State Water Board Welcome & Reflection

- E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board thanked the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians for hosting the meeting and noted the tremendous value of the Committee's efforts and ability to form and strengthen relationships throughout this process.
- Chair Esquivel also noted the importance of this work in:
  - "connecting the drops" in our watershed and making connections between water quality, water quantity, community and tribal consumption and subsistence, and public health.
  - centering our conversations and decisions in the needs of communities, continuing to engage with and learn from one another, and bringing the data, information, and lessons we are learning together back to the community.

## Realignment Process Refresher

The Realignment Team presented a brief review of Realignment objectives, where we are in the process & where we are going, in the Region and Statewide.

## Realignment Monitoring and Results Summary

The Realignment Team presented a review of the monitoring that was able to take place in 2022, according to the priorities set in the [Monitoring and Analysis Workplan](#), and provided a summary of the tissue analysis process, anticipated timelines, and next steps.

- Sampling and collection of fish at all priority locations (6 coastal, 2 reservoirs, 2 rivers) has been completed, initial sample processing has been completed, and tissue analysis is underway (full results will be back in 6-12 months, depending on pollutant analyzed).
- Realignment monitoring efforts differed from SWAMP statewide Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program monitoring in key ways, a direct result of Committee guidance and priorities:
  - Realignment sample locations were selected by the Committee
  - Realignment sample collection included shellfish at coastal locations (oysters, mussels, lobster, crab)
  - Realignment analysis included PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances)
  - Species to be analyzed were selected by the Committee
- Next steps:
  - Analyze the results when we receive them and share a write up with the Committee

- San Diego Regional Board SWAMP will push for adding funding in FY 25/26 & FY 26/27 to continue this work, including sampling additional locations and species that were indicated as a priority by the Committee but could not be sampled due to resource constraints. Specifically, sampling at El Capitan Reservoir and collecting lobster at Dana Point and offshore.
- Advisory Committee Members discussed the desire to continue to provide guidance on priority locations, species, and pollutants during future monitoring, and interest in further discussion about how to coordinate these types of discussions in the future.
- *Decision & Action Items:*
  - The next meeting will include a Realignment Results Summary item, where we will discuss data we have received thus far, as well as more in depth discussion about how to collaborate and coordinate feedback on future monitoring efforts.

### **Communication and Outreach Plan Review & Discussion**

The Realignment Team presented an overview of Plan structure and the summary of action items. The Committee went through a consensus and articulated steps needed to finalize the Plan.

- Plan overview included a reminder of the Plan’s goals and objectives, and a review of each action in the Plan.
  - *Question:* Is it possible to embed data visualizations and dashboards into other websites?
    - *Response:* It is early enough in the process, so we can design them to enable that functionality.
- During the consensus process attendees agreed to publishing the Plan if two conditions were met:
  - That there is language in the document that makes clear that the Program did not speak to all tribes in the region, and that those tribes that did participate in the process are not claiming to speak for all tribes.
  - That there was language in the Plan that makes clear that it is a living document that may be updated and revised in the future.
- *Consensus Process Decision:* So long as the above conditions are met, attendees supported publishing the Plan.
- *Action Item:* The Realignment Team will review the language in the Plan to confirm language that satisfies the above conditions is included. If the Plan does not include adequate language, the Realignment Team will add additional language before publishing.

### **Advisory Committee Meeting 7 Reminder (Sep-Oct 2023 - TBD)**

The Realignment Team provided a brief reminder and high-level overview of what to expect for the seventh and final meeting of this Regional Realignment process.

- The San Diego Regional Water Board will host the meeting.

- Agenda topics will include: Monitoring data, results & reporting, Communication & Outreach Plan implementation update, Reflection & evaluation of process, and a deeper discussion about what future partnership will look like.

## Meeting Reflections

- Advisory Committee Members briefly discussed their reflections of the meeting, and shared initial thoughts about their interest in future engagement and partnership with the State Board and Regional Board:
  - Many attendees noted an interest in continuing to develop partnerships, with a particular interest in and focus on local efforts.
  - Meeting attendees indicated a need for and interest in learning about funding opportunities.
    - The Realignment Team and OEHHA noted that they may not be able to co-apply for grants with tribal or community partners, but they can provide letters of support and, depending on the grant and collaboration and partnership plan, grant applicants may be able to list Realignment Team monitoring efforts and resources as match funding.
  - Meeting attendees noted that continuing to meet outside of the formal Realignment process (i.e., after 2023) would be beneficial and proposed more frequent meetings (e.g., monthly).
    - The Realignment Team noted that this will be a key topic of discussion during the next meeting and is hopeful that we will be able to use that time to decide on a meeting frequency that folks will be able to commit to moving forward.
  - Meeting attendees noted that, during the next meeting, it will be important to clarify who the appropriate contacts will be moving forward.

## Next Steps & Review Action Items

### Realignment Team Action Items:

- Initiate compensation process for Advisory Committee members
- Write up meeting notes, share notes and slides with Advisory Committee for review and feedback
- Post finalized notes and Communication and Outreach Plan on the [Realignment Page](#)
- Send scheduling poll for Meeting 7; coordinate agenda, location, and logistics
- Draft Monitoring and Analysis Report

### Advisory Committee Member Action Items:

- Review meeting notes, provide feedback
- Complete Meeting 7 scheduling poll
- Respond to requests regarding coordinating final meeting logistics