

Environmental Cleanup Allocation Committee

**July 10, 2008
Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members Present:

Mark Adelson, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
John Bahorski, City of Cypress
Karen I. Baroldi, Orange County Sanitation District
Tim Casey, City of Laguna Niguel
Tony Olmos, City of Brea
Mary Anne Skorpanich, County of Orange-Watershed and Coastal Resources Program
Dick Wilson, City of Anaheim
Paul D. Jones, Irvine Ranch Water District
William Cooper, UCI
Hector B. Salas, Caltrans
Sat Tamaribuchi, The Irvine Company
James Smith, San Diego Water Quality Control Board

Committee Members Absent:

Garry Brown, Orange County Coast Keeper

Orange County Transportation Authority Staff Present:

Monte Ward
Ellen Burton
Hal McCutchan
Marissa Espino
Ryan Maloney

1. Welcome

Mary Anne Skorpanich began the meeting at 10:05 a.m. by welcoming the committee members.

2. Approval of June 2008 Minutes

The June minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Presentation Items – Caltrans BMP Technology Review Program

Hector Salas presented an overview of Caltrans department approved BMP devices and methods. Hector explained that Caltrans prefers to treat drainage off the highway for crew safety and presented a variety of filtration devices that Caltrans had evaluated.

Mary Anne asked if the underground trenches were lined with a filter fabric. Hector said that Caltrans used a variety of devices to ensure the trenches don't collapse. Hal McCutchan asked about the capacity of the device. Hector said the filter device is sized based on runoff volume as well as a consideration of the amount of trash in the area.

Hector said that covered screen on the filtration device kept out animals, but would not support the weight of vehicles.

Mark Adelson commented that the filtration devices could be could candidate to retrofit storm drain devices. Hector said that the devices were in use in Los Angeles to meet the city's TMDL.

Paul Jones commented that these filtration devices are effective but expensive. Hector commented that the installation of each filter was approximately \$100,000.

Paul Jones commented on another filtration alternative to retrofit storm drains. A system of mesh bags is attached to the walls of the storm channel. Mark asked about the needed maintenance of the mesh bags. Paul said that the bags were small and easy to remove by hand. The mesh does capture small items, including cigarette butts. Paul suggested that a later media filter, such as an Austin Sand Filter, could address heavy metals.

Hector discussed Caltrans BMP Retrofit Pilot Program, which evaluated available filtration options, system and installation costs, as well as system effectiveness. Many systems showed poor results due to an accumulation of storm trash and debris, which allowed most storm water to bypass the filtration system.

Tim Casey asked if Caltrans looked at bacteria counts in storm runoff. Hector said that bacteria is evaluated, but is not one of their major priorities as Caltrans doesn't create that many dry weather flows. Hector said that litter, car materials and heavy metals are the primary focus.

Hal asked about pesticide runoff control. Hector said that pesticides and herbicides are applied for fire control, but amount used in reduced on a yearly basis.

Mary Anne asked in the approved list of technologies included specific manufacturers. Hector said that listing the manufacturers or brand names would present a conflict to Caltrans.

Tim asked the committee members how to best use the Caltrans applied research in order to design a competitive program. Tim commented that the committee now had a list of approved or unapproved BMPs and now needed to have a focus for an orderly competition. Mary Anne suggested that the scoring system reflect the use of approved devices.

Tim asked if the committee would need technical assistance to evaluate devices as well as make use of available research.

Paul commented that the committee should consider how to implement these BMPs in the most cost effective manner. Caltrans focus is on small roadside devices, however, these devices are very labor intensive. In creating a regional approach, the committee

should ensure that the environmental program does not leave a legacy of high maintenance. Paul said that the committee should also consider devices with a larger footprint, capable of accepting additional regional water flows from roadside and residential areas.

Hector agreed that the committee should consider maintenance costs. Hector commented that there is existing research to identify the correct application and effectiveness of devices, including large footprint devices. The committee needs to be aware of issues and ensure devices are effective based on prior research.

Paul said that soil infiltration devices application can be complex based on soil types. He suggested the committee consider where devices would be most effective.

Tim asked if the committee should have a proactive role in looking at effectiveness and application issues, or if applicants should address these issues.

In response to a question from Tim, Mary Anne said that the County of Orange was looking at the major backbone of the drainage system.

Sat Tamaribuchi suggested the committee set aside a block of time to provide a detailed look at each watershed to identify specific problems. Sat asked if the committee was still considering regional as well as local funding, due to the cost effectiveness of regional facilities.

Mark said that some BMPs provide the best results with some degree of pretreatment, so pretreatment devices should be incorporated ahead of regional BMP efforts. Regional BMPs are better suited to dealing with pathogens, pesticides, oil and grease. The committee may need to consider both regional and pretreatment methods.

Paul provided the example of Quail Hill, which has a street network of catch basins, connected to storm drain collections with small upstream devices leading to regional treatment. Paul said the committee needed to consider the full spectrum.

John Bahorski said that based on his city's experience with insert filtration devices, the cleaning of devices frequently identified the sources of pollution which might present an opportunity for education programs. He said that streams cut down on maintenance aspect, but didn't filter metals.

Mary Anne said that regional water quality boards are moving to low impact developments rather than where infiltration can be used.

4. Major Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee

Monte Ward suggested the committee move item seven on the agenda.

Monte said that in order to allocate the proper time to approaching the capital project plan, the committee should set a workshop to look at the whole picture. Staff suggests

creating an ad hoc committee to address task planning and how to deal with portion of work plan projects. Mary Ann, Dick, Paul volunteered to be on the Ad Hoc Committee and most likely Garry.

5. Funding Guidelines, Scope of Work Update

Hal indicated that the tentative RFP for the Environmental Cleanup Program Funding Guidelines is to be released on July 14th with submittals due by August 25th.

Tim questioned if the background statement was accurate in describing an increasing number of beach closures and warnings.

John asked if the program requirements required OCTA Board approval. Monte confirmed that the program requirements would be presented to the Board.

6. Catch Basin Survey Update

Hal indicated that a presentation on the Program was made to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on June 25, 2008. The Program was described and the TAC was made aware that its input was needed on a possible initial prioritization for funding in scaling and scoping a potential catch basin system funding program. A questionnaire was disseminated in July 2008 to all cities within the County soliciting the number and type of catch basins in each jurisdiction, the extent of screens/filters already installed, any existing experience with equipment life cycles and maintenance intervals, and costs, as well as a sense of the level of interest and priority a catch basin system funding program would have for each jurisdiction. At a later time, a similar questionnaire will be disseminated for new capital and operation projects involving water quality improvements to determine a countywide interest.

Hal said the questionnaire results should be available at the next meeting. Monte said that while staff would send reminder e-mails, he asked committee members to encourage colleagues to complete the survey.

7. Consolidated Installation of Agreement Discussion

Mary Anne asked about consolidated unit installation. Monte said that in addition to a consolidated purchasing approach, Hal had suggested the committee may want to consider a consolidated approach to installation. Monte asked the committee members if there was any interest or concerns about consolidated installation. Monte commented that there were a number of issues to resolve, including the needed authority to do the work or subcontracting agreements with groups of individual cities.

Tim said cities may be able to use OCTA's installation contract directly, if it meets city requirements. Mary Anne asked if this consolidated installation had been done before with cities. Monte said it had not been done directly before for a comprehensive program.

Mark commented that there was an opportunity to reduce the cost by using a handful of contractors. Monte commented on the benefits of not having to replicate a procurement process.

Mark said that to maintain catch basins, several agencies would need to acquire vacuum equipment which could be expensive. He suggested that OCTA purchase the equipment and allow it to be used by all participating agencies. Monte said this would be considered.

8. Public Comments

Tim asked how the committee would replace Tony Parco. Monte said that Tony contacted him, and Monte had him prepare a letter to the committee chair and the city managers association. The city managers association will make a recommendation for a replacement.

John asked if the replacement would be done by district. Monte said that the appointments were done by district, but the OCTA Board had delegated this appointment to the managers association. The selection of the replacement is the decision of the managers association.

Joe Parco commented on Los Angeles County's catch basis screening program to remove trash.

Tim asked if there was a time that the county's consultant might be available to present some draft results to the committee. Mary Anne said she would try to arrange it.

Monte said that he will be preparing a report to the 2020 Committee and OCTA Board for August or September. He will provide a draft status report for committee input and then the report before the end of the calendar year. Monte said he would provide a schedule of specific meetings with the Board.

Mary Anne asked if there was any interest in having the Environmental Allocation Committee meet with the Environmental Oversight Committee. Monte said that there was some interest, particularly in confirming approval issues for open space acquisition.

Mark commented that water quality treatment wetlands did not have the same habitat value as biological wetlands, but there may be opportunities to do treatment and mitigation in proximate locations. Mary Anne said there may be a benefit to have these two areas nearby, in order to provide clean water to mitigation areas.

Paul commented that treatment wetlands are not counted as true wetlands and have only incidental habitat value, since the wetlands are removed and replanted every few years. In proximity to actual wetlands, they can be more effective.

Mark said that it was important to make a distinction in the program guidelines that a regional treatment site cannot be a mitigation site.

Monte said that the Environmental Oversight Committee was looking at acquisition criteria and they may consider the benefits of proximate sites. Mark said that a single site could be used for both, but would require a separately designed facility.

Monte suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair of each committee meet to discuss.

Mary Anne asked if there was anything that would come from the Allocation Committee that could benefit the transportation program. Monte said that any new facilities, road programs or state highway improvements with Caltrans do not have a collective approach for streets and roads. The criteria and benefits to be applied as advisory when improvement projects are being taken using Renewed Measure M funds.

9. Next Meeting – August 14, 2008

10. Committee Member Reports

There were no committee member reports.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.