

# Meeting Summary

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## ULARA Salt and Nutrient Management Plan

<b>Meeting:</b>	November 19, 2013 SNMP Stakeholder Kick-off Meeting
<b>Attendees:</b>	ULARA Stakeholders (see sign-in sheet)
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Miluska Propersi and Brian Dietrick
<b>Date/Time:</b>	November 19, 2013, 9:00 am – 11:00 am
<b>Location:</b>	LADWP Valley Center, 14401 Saticoy Street – Building 7, Van Nuys, CA 91405
<b>Handouts:</b>	Presentation Slides

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## 1. Purpose of Meeting

The main purpose of this meeting was to kick-off the Upper Los Angeles River Area (ULARA) Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) effort by providing informational background on the ULARA groundwater basins, an overview of the state SNMP program and information on the specific development of the ULARA SNMP.

The kickoff meeting consisted of three presentations:

- Richard Slade, the ULARA Watermaster, presented the background of the ULARA adjudication and its groundwater basins;
- Steve Rowe of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) presented an overview of the state SNMP program; and
- Anthony Hicke, assistant ULARA Watermaster, presented the approach and progress of the ULARA SNMP.

## 2. Discussion Summary

The presentation slides are posted on the ULARA SNMP website: [www.ularawatermaster.com/SNMP](http://www.ularawatermaster.com/SNMP).

### 2.1 ULARA and Its Groundwater Basins

Richard Slade, the ULARA Watermaster, presented background information on the ULARA groundwater basins. The ULARA area was adjudicated in January 1979, a process that included the identification of four distinct groundwater basins: the San Fernando, Sylmar, Verdugo, and Eagle Rock basins. The principal parties to the Judgment are: City of Burbank, City of Glendale, City of Los Angeles, City of San Fernando and Crescenta Valley Water District. The Judgment also established pumping rights for each party. Figures showing the ULARA boundary and each of the individual basins are included in the presentation slides.

The following additional comments were made in reference to the ULARA background slides:

- A. A correction was made on Slide 5. The total surface area of San Fernando, Sylmar, Verdugo and Eagle Rock Groundwater Basins is 122,800 acres.
- B. The groundwater basins are confined laterally and at the base by bedrock. The bedrock defines the lateral boundaries of each of the groundwater basins and is shown on Slide 7 as dark red colors.
- C. The ULARA groundwater basins are located at the upstream portion of the Los Angeles River watershed and drain to one outlet flow point at Gaging Station F-57C along the Los Angeles River at its confluence with the Arroyo Seco (Glendale Narrows). Groundwater flows and surface

water runoff then enter the Central Basin, south of the ULARA region. Slide 12 shows the groundwater elevation contours, as simulated by a computer for a recent Annual Report.

## **2.2 Overview of SNMP**

Steve Rowe (LARWQCB) presented an overview of the state SNMP program which was developed in the 2009 Recycled Water Policy. The Recycled Water Policy is intended to encourage the increased use of recycled water and other local water resources while protecting the groundwater basins from degradation. Every basin/sub-basin within the state of California is required to develop a SNMP by or during the period of 2014-2016. The SNMP program requires the following:

- Collaborative stakeholder process
- Address water quality concerns and monitoring programs basin-wide
- Develop an annual constituents of emerging concern (CEC) monitoring plan per the Recycled Water Policy amendment (April 2013)
- Identify existing and future projects within the basin (e.g., groundwater recharge)
- Identify water quality source loading to the basin and the basin's assimilative capacity. Assimilative capacity is the basin capacity for accepting salts and/or nutrients (i.e., the difference between the basin plan objective for a constituent and the average basin concentration of that constituent).
- Identify implementation strategies
- Conduct an antidegradation analysis where impacts to water quality occur
- Conduct a programmatic California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis

The RWQCB role is to provide regulatory assistance and technical and regulatory oversight, and will ultimately incorporate SNMPS into Water Quality Control Plans (i.e., Basin Plans). Once final SNMPS are submitted to the RWQCB, they perform a review and consider the SNMPS for potential Basin Plan Amendments.

The RWQCB organizes annual SNMP stakeholder workshops for groundwater basins in its area of influence (2013 workshop was held on November 6, 2013) at the RWQCB office in Los Angeles.

## **2.3 Development of ULARA SNMP**

Anthony Hicke (Assistant ULARA Watermaster) presented the technical team, the approach, the elements and the current status of the ULARA SNMP. The technical team includes the Parties to the Judgment (adjudication), the ULARA Watermaster, and the subconsultants retained to support the SNMP. The goal of the ULARA SNMP approach is to gain consensus and buy-in from all parties involved at key points throughout the process.

The ULARA SNMP will:

- Identify the water quality issues – define the “baseline” groundwater quality, characterize water quality for each individual source and define the constituents that will be managed. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and chromium are not constituents that will be managed as part of the SNMP as they are managed under other ongoing programs.
- Estimate changes in the salt and nutrient concentrations in the groundwater basins due to current practices and projects as well as planned/future practices and projects
- Define management and monitoring plans for salt and nutrients in the groundwater basins and define a monitoring plan for CECs

The technical subcommittee is collecting and reviewing data:

- Water quality data are being assembled. There are several challenges with the data collection and the “typical” historical period of 10 years may be readjusted.
- There are many different sources of Metropolitan Water District (MWD) supply and each has unique water quality characteristics. Anthony Hicke has contacted Kathy Kunysz of MWD to obtain imported water quality data.
- A spreadsheet model will be used (i.e., not a groundwater flow or transport model). Modeling input parameters will be taken from the 1969 ULARA “Report of Referee”, which is available on the ULARA SNMP website.

Public outreach is a key part of this effort. There are several ways to participate:

- A. ULARA SNMP distribution list - Send an email to [SNMP@ULARAwatermaster.com](mailto:SNMP@ULARAwatermaster.com) to be included.
- B. Project website ([www.wrd.saltnutrient.com](http://www.wrd.saltnutrient.com)) – will be updated regularly.
- C. Stakeholder meetings - Meeting announcements will be posted to website and emailed to the ULARA SNMP distribution list.
- D. Review of technical documents - Technical Memoranda (TMs) will be posted on the website for stakeholder review. Comments received may be incorporated into the Draft SNMP.

### **3. Next Meeting**

Information for the next meeting will be posted on the website and an announcement will be sent to the ULARA SNMP distribution list.

### **Action Items**

Task No.	Responsible Party		Due Date	Task/Action Item
	Organization	Name		
1	RMC	Miluska Propersi	11/22/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Send draft meeting minutes to ULARA Watermaster for review</li></ul>
2	ULARA Watermaster	Anthony Hicke Assistant Watermaster	11/26/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upload final meeting minutes, presentation and final sign in to website</li></ul>

### **Attachments**

- Sign-In Sheet
- Presentation Slides