

DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY ASSURANCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE *CERIODAPHNIA DUBIA* TOXICITY TEST

Stakeholder Advisory Committee

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting #9

Held remotely Tuesday January 17, 2023, 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM PDT

List of Participants:

Facilitators:

- Ken Schiff (SCCWRP)

Stakeholder Committee members:

- State Water Board - Katie Fong (SWRCB)
- Regional Water Quality Control Boards - Veronica Cuevas (RWQCB4)
- Wastewater Agencies - Mitch Mysliwiec (Larry Walker Assoc/CASA)
- Stormwater Agencies - Jian Peng (Orange County Public Works/CASQA)
- Agriculture Organizations - Sarah Lopez (Central Coast Water Quality Preservation Inc)
- Private Laboratories - Peter Arth (Enthalpy Laboratories)
- Public Laboratories - Josh Westfall (Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts)
- Non-Governmental Agencies - Annelisa Moe (Heal the Bay)

There were 34 online attendees.

Agenda Item #1 - Opening Remarks and Review of the Agenda

The meeting began with roundtable introductions of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (Committee). Ken Schiff stated the meeting goal: to review the Science Panel's initial findings and recommendations from Baseline Intercalibration Study Plan and to reach consensus on options to recommend to the Science Panel for the next steps in the study.

The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting held on May 24 and December 21, 2022.

Agenda Item #2 – Progress to date

Ken provided a very brief summary of the project tasks including:

- Task 1- Identify potential sources of variability within and among laboratories including historical data and a baseline laboratory intercalibration,
- Task 2- For potentially largest sources of variability, optimize test conditions and QA parameters to minimize variability,
- Task 3- Evaluate efficacy of test conditions and QA refinements utilizing a second intercalibration.

Task 1 was complete and today's discussion focused on recommendations to the Science Panel for tasks 2 and 3.

Agenda Item #3 – Response to the findings and recommendations from the Science Panel on December 21, 2022

Ken showed a few of the key slides from the Science Panel's presentation on the baseline intercalibration findings and recommendations.

The Committee responded to the Science Panel's remarks by repeatedly highlighting their recommendation that additional time be given to conduct more data analysis from the baseline intercalibration. Suggestions for additional work revolved around suggestions provided to SCCWRP during the closed session preceding the public meeting and to explore metadata by contrasting techniques used by consistently performing labs compared to labs that were less consistent.

Individuals on the Committee addressed specific findings such as the relationship between average neonates per female vs. age of female used to initiate the test, suggesting that more data analysis will be required before final conclusions should be drawn.

Agenda Item #4 – Preliminary scoping for the next phase of the study

Ken initiated this agenda item by proposing two options for moving forward:

Option #1: Focus on laboratory training and education regarding culturing and testing

Option #2: Focus on the one variable that came out of the first intercalibration - Age of female at test initiation

This generated much discussion, which revolved around the need to choose both options. The primary issue to doing both options was timing since the project is scheduled to end June 30, 2023 and the final implementation of the *Ceriodaphnia dubia* test to occur January 1, 2024. The Committee universally agreed that more time for the study should occur, but not extend so long as to interfere with the January 1, 2024 implementation date.

The second issue discussed was funding to make sure both options could occur. Representative Mysliwicz suggested CASA could fund the remaining testing.

The third issue was how to identify the lab techniques to focus on for either option 1 or 2. This included digging into more data, more data analysis, evaluating metadata, and parsing data from laboratories not meeting test acceptability criteria.

The fourth issue was prioritizing options, and the Committee was leaning towards option 1 if a choice must be made, but still preferred both.

A final recommendation to the Science Panel was proposed and agreed upon by the Committee:

- A) Conduct additional data analysis
- B) Simultaneously begin curriculum development for the educational and training for option 1

- C) If a clear lab technique arises from the data analysis as a source of variability, then concurrently test while doing the laboratory education and training.
- D) Conduct the second intercalibration employing both the educational material from option 1 and the testing from option 2 (if applicable).

Agenda item #5 – Public comment

Ken addressed public comments provided online. These included both questions and comments regarding details of the baseline testing including why labs did not meet test acceptability criteria, clarifications regarding the age of female relationships, laboratory capacity, and that TST (test of significant toxicity) testing was not part of the current design for the baseline intercalibration.

Agenda item #6 – Summary and next steps

Ken suggested that the next step was to summarize the Committee's recommendation and present it to the Science Panel, which he is currently scheduling on a monthly basis through the end of the study.