

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

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #13

Meeting Minutes

Held on June 29, 2023, via Zoom

List of Participants:

Facilitators:

- Alvina Mehinto (SCCWRP)
- Ken Schiff (SCCWRP)

Stakeholder Committee members:

- State Water Board – Katie Fong (SWRCB)
- US Environmental Protection Agency – Amelia Whitson (EPA Region 9)
- Regional Water Quality Control Boards – Veronica Cuevas (RWQCB4)
- Wastewater Agencies – Paul Bedore (Robertson-Bryan, Inc.)
- Stormwater Agencies – Jian Peng (Orange County Public Works)
- 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)
- State Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program – Steve Boggs (SWRCB)

1- Opening remarks

Alvina Mehinto kicked off the meeting reviewing the agenda and Stakeholder Committee members providing self-introductions. She stated the goal of the meeting was to review the activities that SCCWRP and the Science Panel conducted over the last two months.

2- Approval of minutes from the last Stakeholder Committee meeting

Josh motioned to postpone approval of the minutes and requested edits to the minutes, specifically agenda item #4 CASA proposal. The motion was seconded by Paul. The Stakeholder Committee agreed to table the approval and submit their revisions by email by July 10. Approval will be done via email.

3- Update on Second Intercalibration

A summary of the second interlaboratory calibration study (ILS) design was provided, including number of participating labs (n=10; 9 participated in baseline ILS), test samples and instructions to laboratories. Three rounds of testing were performed between April and June 2023. All labs completed data submission by June 21 and SCCWRP finalized the QA audits by June 23. Overall,

SCCWRP received 96% of the data expected (one lab missed a round and one lab could not analyze one sample in round 2). Random audit checks led to 100% QA evaluation of over 80% of the data submitted.

The Committee reviewed the inventory of data collected for each lab and the plan for data analyses. Data analyses and comparisons to the baseline ILS are ongoing. However, one initial graphic was presented on comparisons of neonate production using Perrier and EPA moderately hard (MH) waters among labs. While comparability appears to have improved among labs, the Committee noted that high production alone was not sufficient to define good lab performance and results of the multivariate analyses are needed to assess improvement. It was also noted that talking to the labs having issues during the ILS is important to provide context and better understand reasons for improvements. The Stakeholder Committee discussed other data analyses needed (e.g., sample response relative to controls), all of which are consistent with SCCWRP's planned descriptive statistics and comparisons to the baseline ILS and historical data.

4- Development of Test Guidance

After an update of the Expert Panel's process to develop and document their recommendations, the Stakeholder Committee had extended discussion on the target audience, content of the technical report and supporting data used for the Panel's recommendations.

The Committee made the following suggestions for consideration by the Expert Science Panel:

- Include concerns of stakeholders in the background,
- Summarize responses to the specific study questions,
- Include a "qualification section" describing the limitations of the studies.

Members of the Stakeholder Committee pointed out that previous analyses did not identify specific sources of variability and the Panel had suggested it could be a combination of multiple factors. The Committee discussed the importance of recommending standardized practices while retaining an appropriate level of flexibility to test different sample types. The Committee also noted that some of the recommendations should not be finalized until data analyses of the second ILS are completed.

SCCWRP clarified the following:

- The target audience for the report is the State, testing labs and regulated parties/clients.
- The Science Panel is using a data-driven process to develop their recommendations.
- Recommendations will likely be in 4 categories: accreditation, best practices, training, and future investigations. Not all recommendations within these categories are based on the ILS data. Some are based on historical data and labs SOPs, site visits and the roundtable workshop.

- Report will have a robust technical assessment of all study data, including materials and methods, results, and discussion.

5- Questions from the Public

Questions and comments from the public were addressed as each agenda item was presented. Ken reminded the public of the charges to the Science Panel as presented by the SWRCB. The study is not a false positive study or about the TST. As such the study design used by the Science Panel cannot answer these questions.

Public comments included:

- Interest in comparisons between baseline and second ILS, which will be available end of July 2023.
- In support of including a qualifications section in the report.
- Trust in the Science Panel process and importance to focus on the study questions defined in the workplan.
- Multiple comments requesting assessment of EPAMH and Perrier samples with TST statistical tool.

6- Schedule and Next Steps

Alvina described the schedule and next steps in the study including:

- Expert Science Panel meeting on July 5.
 - The Committee will have until July 10 to provide written feedback.
- Draft executive summary and technical report by August 31.
 - The Committee will have until Sept 15 to provide written feedback.

The Stakeholder Committee requested another meeting to review the results from the second intercalibration data analyses and discuss any subsequent changes or refinements to the recommendations. SCCWRP will send a doodle poll to schedule a meeting for the end of July/early August 2023.