Los Angeles River Watershed Temperature Project

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #3
December 3, 2024 – 1:00 – 3:00
NOTES

1. **Meeting Participants**

Annie Chen - LASAN
Belle Zheng - Council for Watershed Health
Bensch, Erika - LACSD
Chris Minton - LWA
Cuevas, Veronica – LA Waterboards
Daryanto, Stefani – LA Waterboards
David Vilas - LWA
Edward Linden – Richard Slade Assoc on behalf of ULARA Waterkeeper
El Jack, Ziad - LACSD
Eric Stein - SCCWRP
Ham, Ryan – LA Waterboards
Janet Samala - LASAN
Karina Gonzalez - LASAN
Katie Irving - SCCWRP
Kris Taniguchi-Quan - SCCWRP
Stephen Opot - LASAN
Lim, Jeong-Hee – LA Waterboards
Marjanovic, Katie - LACSD
Mas Dojiri - LASAN
Mitch Mysliwiec - LWA
Nate Butler – Stillwater Sciences
Robinson, Danielle – LA Waterboards
Romberger, Christian - CDFW
Ronald Mayuyu - LASAN
Roswell, Elizabeth - LACSD
Ryan Thiha - LASAN
Tania Pineda Enriquez – Heal the Bay
Tsai, Don – LA Waterboards
Walker, Stephen – City of Burbank, Public Works
Wendy Katagi – Stillwater Sciences
Yareli Sanchez - USACE

2. **Background on the project**
    a. Compliance schedule and overall objectives were presented. Meeting materials are now available on the project web site: https://www.sccwrp.org/la-rivers-temperature-effects-study/la-river

3. **Project Status**

a. Update on the addition of City of Burbank to the Temperature Study (working collaboratively with the City of LA), and revision of the workplan to incorporate sites in Burbank Western Channel and at its confluence with the LA River.
b. Update on the monitoring completed during the past season.

4. Scenario Development process

a. Discussed that models implement full energy balances and can differentiate between the effects of air temperature, solar radiation, effluent discharge, etc. Models can hold air temperature constant and evaluate just effects of effluent or can look at the effects of multiple parameters to see the resulting temperatures downstream.
b. Suggestions that the models should account for
    i. Diurnal effects and day vs. night management actions (e.g., changes in flow). In addition, the impacts from increased use of recycled water should be considered.
    ii. Effect of lakes and other retention that may cool water
    iii. Ability to use subsurface cooling to reduce temperatures prior to river discharge
c. This phase of the modeling will focus on evaluating how management actions affect instream water temperature. The practicality or feasibility of management actions will need to be evaluated as a subsequent analysis. This includes cost, feasibility and time necessary to see benefits (relative to the compliance schedule)
d. Implementing management actions are potentially limited by the other beneficial uses of the river:
    i. Potential reduction in flow scenarios (to achieve temperature targets) would be bounded by maintaining REC uses (e.g., kayaking). Previous relationships developed through the LA River flows study can be used to help evaluate this.
    ii. The position of potential tree planting (as part of the shading scenario) would be bounded by the need to maintain flood control capacity in the river.
e. Clarified that model will be able to account for a variety of potential changes in variable amounts of management action integration – model will not just evaluate changes independently.
f. Clarified that there is temperature monitoring in the lakes so that the models can include consideration of the cooling effects of water retention in the lakes
g. Temperature effects will be evaluated relative to potential effects on bioassessment indicators (benthic invertebrates and algae) as well as focal vertebrate spp (e.g., fish). The biological analysis will occur as part of the next phase.
h. CWH was asked to extend temperature monitoring and BMI data for another year.

5. Wrap up and next steps

a. Scenarios (and the bookends) will be refined iteratively based on the initial modeling. The project team will provide updates to the TAC so that they can be part of the iterative process.
b. The team will present the results of the literature review of temperature tolerances of focal biological endpoints in a future TAC meeting. This will help the TAC determine if there is the potential for biological effects and whether addition analysis is needed.
c. Monitoring results will be presented at a future TAC meeting.
d. LWA will schedule a meeting with CWH to discuss monitoring sites for temperature and BMI for another year.