Los Angeles River Temperature Study
Technical Advisory Group Meeting – May 21, 2025

Meeting Objectives

- Present initial findings from temperature and biology monitoring completed as part of the Study and next steps for data analysis
- Discuss preliminary analysis of management scenarios and next steps for modeling

Participants

Full Name	**Affiliation**
Stephen Walker	City of Burbank
Belle Zheng	Council for Watershed Health
Josh Cooper	Council for Watershed Health
Elizabeth Roswell	LACSD
Kristopher McGinnis	LACSD
Katie Marjanovic	LACSD
Don Tsai	LARWQCB
Veronica Cuevas	LARWQCB
Stefani Daryanto	LARWQCB
Danielle Robinson	LARWQCB
Steven Webb	LARWQCB
Jeong-Hee Lim	LARWQCB
Celine Gallon	LARWQCB
Annie Chen	LASAN
Karina Gonzalez	LASAN
Janet Samara,	LASAN
Tyler Linton	Great Lakes Environmental Center (part of the LWA Team)
David Vilas	LWA
Chris Minton	LWA
Wendy Katagi	McMillen
Brittany Struck	NOAA/NMFS
Eric Stein	SCCWRP
Katie Irving	SCCWRP
Kris Taniguchi-Quan	SCCWRP
Nate Butler	Stillwater Sciences
Anthony Hicke	ULARA Watermaster
Chris Medak	USFWS

Discussion Notes and Comments

Monitoring Results

Clarification that all the temperature data presented is from concrete lined or mixed bottom channels.

Anthony Hicke mentioned that some of the cooling observed below the LAG WRP in the Glendale Narrows may be due to groundwater upwelling in the narrows. –This is one of the factors the team will be looking into

Stephani Daryanto asked if the team will be trying to tease out the effects of flow and shading effects on temperature patterns – the team will try to do this empirically as part of the next phase of analysis

Stephen Webb asked if statistical analysis was done on the bioassessment data – none has been done yet due to the fact the most sampling data collected as part of the Study and presented during the meeting was only point in time, but more detailed analysis can be done once the historical data is included.

Chris Medak asked if we could compare bioassessment scores at sites with similar physical characteristics but where there is no effluent discharge – this can be done using the historical data sets from LA river watershed as well as from other streams in the region

Eric Stein pointed out that bioassessment scores upstream of the WRP discharges are already low, indicating that they are likely affected by other factors

Nate Butler – asked about river temperature preceding sampling events – temperature sensitive taxa may already have been impacted by higher temperatures prior to the sampling events. It will be important to analyze time lag effects between temperature and biological response as part of the next phase of the study.

Wendy Katagi – There are up to 80 proposed projects along the LA River. There is a need to incorporate factors that could affect the future without intervention conditions (i.e., restoration projects). We need to get a list of likely future projects and when they might occur along with their locations – Stillwater Sciences can provide information on some of the restoration projects being proposed on the river.

- The central Arroyo Seco soft bottom reach below Devil's Gate is much cooler and supportive of native aquatic species. Given the Corps is planning to naturalize the Arroyo Seco/LAR confluence, there should be consideration to these elements.
- There should also be consideration of the fish passage project near Main Street, which will include shading

Modeling

Josh Cooper – asked for clarification on how the bookends will be modeled- we discussed how the USBR modeling of pool would be scaled up by modeling temperature reduction associated with a single pool, and then estimating how many pools would be necessary to achieve a desired temperature reduction.

Chris Medak – asked about the contribution of Arroyo Seco to reducing temperature. It is thought that the Arroyo Seco has a minimal effect on the temperature because its volume is low relative to the flow already in the LA River.

Questions as to whether the convergence of temperature profiles below LAG could be due to groundwater effects? Could the effect of WRP discharge be buffered by the groundwater – we don't have temperature profile of the groundwater, but this would be helpful to tease out the relative effect of cooling from groundwater in future modeling.

In closing the TAC members can provide input on how to best address combinations of scenarios in the modeling as the team proceeds with that effort.

<u>Recommended Action Items</u>

- Revise river schematics to indicate on the arrow diagrams the concrete and mixed bottom portions of the channel are

- Show map of the river that includes the sample collection/monitoring points to provide spatial context
- Develop temperature-ecology relationships to help tease out effects of discharge vs. shading vs. flow, etc. and to account for time-lag effects of temperature on bioassessment scores

- Review the list of future projects on the river provided by TAC members and evaluate how these projects could affect temperature in the river to the extent it fits within the study objectives

- Describe how temperature effects associated with groundwater upwelling is handled in the HEC-RAS model

- Develop a schedule for when draft reports will be provided to the TAC (both monitoring/data and modeling reports)

- Present an explanation of the assumptions that go into the model development and the scenario analysis to help TAC members gauge the need for additional meetings/discussion on this topic