

**LAKE MEAD WATER QUALITY FORUM**  
**October 14, 2009**  
**Meeting Summary**

**I. Introductions – Forum members and participating audience members introduced themselves.**

**II. Status Reports:**

**1. Perchlorate Update w/ Q & A – Brian Rakvika (NDEP – Las Vegas)**

Mr. Brian Rakvika reported the following updates for perchlorate:

**LV Wash:**

- The perchlorate mass loading passing Northshore Road for over the last year has been shown to range between ~50 to ~70 lbs/day (April 2008 – April 2009) The average perchlorate loading for last quarter was ~55 lbs/day.
- This is approximately 90% reduction from pre-remediation values when the mass loading at Northshore Road was approximately 900 to 1,000 lbs/day.

**Willow Beach:**

- The perchlorate concentrations measured at Willow Beach in the Colorado River system continue to remain approximately 2 ppb since September 2008 and have been measured at < 4 parts per billion (ppb) since June 2004.

**Colorado River:**

- MWD has reported perchlorate concentrations <2.5 ppd for all samples collected between October 2005 and July 2009.

**Tronox LLC (formerly Kerr-McGee):**

- The Fluidized Bed Reactor (FBR) perchlorate treatment system continues to operate. Perchlorate concentrations in the treated water discharge are routinely < 18 ppb.
- Perchlorate removal rates for the Tronox remediation system now are typically reported between approximately 1,500 and 2,000 lbs per day. Tronox reported ~ 1,650 lbs/day removal rate for September 2009.
- Removal of perchlorate from the environment through September 30, 2009:
  - ~2,944 tons total: 406 tons from the seep area
  - 946 tons from Athens Road
  - 1,592 tons from the on-site system

## **AMPAC:**

- AMPAC has completed the installation of a groundwater injection trench at the re-injection well field near Las Vegas Wash. Additional groundwater monitoring wells and tracer testing will be conducted.
- AMPAC continuing modeling efforts in the area south of Warm Springs. Model will be used to help determine remediation options closer to the source area.

## **Nationally:**

- August 19, 2009: EPA releases Federal Register Announcement for Perchlorate Supplemental Request for Comments. NDEP submitted comments to the EPA by the September 18, 2009 deadline. Metropolitan Water District, Tronox, and AMPAC were also among those that provided comments to EPA. An extension was also granted for this request and NDEP submitted additional comments.

### **2. Quagga Mussels (NDOW)**

An NDOW speaker was not available for discussion on quagga mussels.

### **3. Selenium Subcommittee**

Kathy Sertic mentioned that the previous Selenium Subcommittee meeting was held July 15<sup>th</sup> after the last Lake Mead Water Quality Forum. At that meeting Lynn Orphan provided a detailed overview of the Selenium Management Plan. The draft of the Plan has been approved by the Core Management Team. It was also recommended to continue to work on developing a communication plan. Also at that meeting, Peggy Roefer presented a final report on the Selenium Treatment Study which she was also going to present during the Forum. UNLV reported that a journal article is being prepared on the study of selenium in the aquatic food chain within the Clark County Park Nature Preserve. Water Quality sampling continues to be performed in the preserve and in the newly constructed Ducks Unlimited. Selenium data is being collected in the mainstream wash and the tributaries. Beginning in July the sampling frequency for the Wash has been increased from monthly to bi-monthly. The Subcommittee has a meeting scheduled after the Lake Mead Water Quality Forum. There will be a discussion during that meeting regarding the future direction of the Selenium Subcommittee and they are also going to select a new Chairman or Chairwoman. The outcome will be discussed at the next Lake Mead Water Quality Forum.

#### **4. Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee**

Ms. Debbie VanDooremolen reported on the following: The Research and Environmental Study Team met on October 7, 2009. The Administrative Study Team meeting was cancelled and their next meeting is scheduled for January 2010. The next Operations Study Team meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2009. The group will be discussing the Wash CIP. The Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee met on October 13, 2009. The committee received draft annual operating plans from SNWA, CWC and CCRFCD and discussed and approved the research and studies budget of the project team. Ducks Unlimited Wetlands No. 1 Weir should be going to bid soon and the Lower Narrows and Homestead Weirs project is scheduled to go to bid on October 29, 2009.

Threatened and endangered bird species monitoring is complete for 2009 and reporting is currently under way. Water quality sampling is being re-evaluated by SNWA. Carol Lane is reviewing all of the studies being conducted on the Wash and tributaries by all parties in order to decide on recommendations for partnerships and increased efficiencies. Ms. Lane is contacting everyone to discuss their sampling programs, so expect to receive a phone call from her, if not already. The SNWA is grateful to the Bureau of Reclamation for their funding and assistance that they provide. Their assistance to the Wash project and helping make several studies possible reduces the budgetary burden of local member agencies.

### **III. Presentations**

1. “1956 - 2009 Data Summary, Las Vegas Wash, Las Vegas Bay and Lake Mead”  
Douglas D. Drury, Ph.D.  
Director of Water Quality, Research and Technical Services  
Clark County Water Reclamation District
  
2. “Selenium Treatment Study”  
Peggy Roefer  
Regional Water Quality Program Manager  
Southern Nevada Water Authority
  
3. “Weir Construction in the Las Vegas Wash”  
Southern Nevada Water Authority

These presentations are available on the NDEP website at [ndep.nv.gov/forum](http://ndep.nv.gov/forum)

#### **IV. Other Issues**

Debbie VanDooremolen discussed information regarding the upcoming Green-Up. The next Wash Green-Up will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2009. She stated that it would be their largest event ever with 28 acres that need to be planted. They planned to have up to 1200 volunteers for the event.

#### **V. Next Forum Meeting**

The next Lake Mead Water Quality Forum meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2010.

#### **VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am