

Water Quality Workgroup

Meeting Summary
October 16, 2013

Attendees:

John Burch, CRMWD

Chuck Brown, UCRA

ER Roberts, City of Robert Lee

Scott McWilliams, UCRA

Lauren Oertel, TCEQ TMDL

Faith Hambelton, TCEQ NPS

The group reviewed and discussed chloride, sulfate and TDS historical data and trends from 3 routine monitoring sites along segment 1426. Data reviewed covered a period from the late 1990's to present. Sites reviewed were Colorado River at Robert Lee (1426.18338), Colorado River at Ballinger (1426.13651) and Colorado River just above OH Ivie Reservoir (1426.17244).

Data indicated that once releases from EV Spence were halted in 2008, chloride levels in segment 1426 decreased while sulfate levels increased. This is most likely due to ground water seepage into the river. The ground water in the area is known to contain for high sulfate concentrations. Generally, water quality improves downstream through segment 1426, with stream standards routinely met at site 17244.

One area of concern was at site 18338. Significant increasing TDS levels in the river have warranted a thorough investigation of the area. UCRA will investigate this winter when ground water seeps will be easier to identify. City of Robert Lee will acquire permission for UCRA to sample private water wells in the area. UCRA will coordinate with Railroad Commission to identify oilfield activity in the immediate area.

The City of Robert Lee stated that nearly all of their effluent has been used to irrigate the golf course and that there were only a few days out of the year in which the city directly discharged into the Colorado River. TDS levels in the effluent are currently less than 1000 mg/L and it is not considered to be a source of increasing TDS levels at site 18338.

Although EV Spence water is of much better quality now that during the initial TMDL study, CRMWD representatives stated that it is very unlikely that future releases from EV Spence would occur, even if lake levels were to reach an elevation in which releases could be made. Therefore, the project should not identify reservoir releases as a BMP for segment 1426.

Current and proposed stream standards for segment 1426 are as follows:

| | <u>Current</u> | <u>Proposed</u> | <u>Assessment Average</u> |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Chlorides | 610 mg/L | 1000 mg/L | 617 mg/L |
| Sulfates | 980 mg/L | 1110 mg/L | 840 mg/L |
| TDS | 2000 mg/L | 1770 mg/L | 2225 mg/L |

The proposed standards have not been accepted by EPA. For the 2014 assessment, sulfates are supporting for segment 1426 while chlorides and TDS are non-support.

The next water quality workgroup meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2013 at 10 AM in the UCRA office.