

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

SAN DIEGO REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R9-2015-0085

**SUPPORTING AN ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE PRACTICAL
VISION AND OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015**

WHEREAS:

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) staff developed a Practical Vision to guide efforts toward addressing the highest priority projects.
2. The San Diego Water Board endorsed the Practical Vision in November 2013 through adoption of Resolution No. R9-2013-0153.
3. The Practical Vision identifies 40 projects in 7 areas for development over the 7 year period, beginning in Calendar Year (CY) 2014.
4. The Operational Plan for 2015 commits to advancing 21 Practical Vision Projects; while identifying an additional 15 major core program projects under way.
5. The Operational Plan commits 66 percent of available staff resources to Practical Vision and Core Program Projects in 2015 (Attachment 1 to this Resolution). The remaining staffing will be used on minor tasks, administrative duties and exist as a contingency reserve for unforeseen circumstances.
6. The Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board usually has final allocation authority on the distribution of staffing resources throughout the State and Regional Water Boards. Occasionally, the State budget and/or Governor will directly specify the board(s) to which additional resources are to be assigned.
7. There were 1,862.8 Personnel Years and \$543,430,235 available for the State and Regional Water Boards for Fiscal Year 2014-15. Of this, the San Diego Water Board was allocated 62 Personnel Years (3 percent of the Water Board total) of staffing resources, with an annual budget of \$11,394,096 (2 percent of the Water Board total). Roughly, each Personnel Year at the San Diego Water Board is worth approximately \$180,000.
8. Regional water boards' budgets are allotted in programmatic areas, making it difficult for the San Diego Water Board to link budget dollars to the desired outcomes of the Practical Vision. The annual Operational Plan represents an effort to enrich budget and performance integration. The State Water Board has initiated efforts to evaluate the fees collected and Water Board expenditures, and to align Water Board resources, priorities, and workload outputs statewide through the Resource Alignment Project.

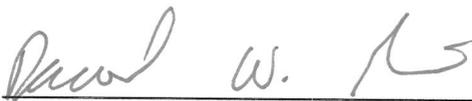
9. The State and Regional Water Boards annually engage in a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) process to recommend new positions for legislative authorization.
10. The Practical Vision and Operational Plan identify goals and actions that are critical to the success of the mission of the San Diego Water Board. In doing so, they also identify critical underfunded needs to achieve those goals. The most critical projects for the CY 2015 Operational Plan, for which the Water Board does not have dedicated funding, include the regulation of irrigated lands, restoration of wetlands, and public outreach and communication (especially for efforts along the U.S. / Mexico Border), each of which require sustained effort over multiple years to achieve their goals. The most critical, long-term work for achieving success of the Practical Vision includes leveraging community-based partnerships to generate collaboration. These are more fully described in *Priority Opportunities for the San Diego Water Board* and were vetted at the April 2015 Board Meeting.
11. Despite a lack of dedicated personnel staffing, the San Diego Water Board is doing the following:
 - a. Drafting Waste Discharge Requirements for Irrigated Lands. Three workshops are scheduled for this summer, with adoption consideration scheduled for November 2015;
 - b. Advancing the restoration of wetlands through initiating a statewide effort to identify three potential restoration projects in each region;
 - c. Continuing to lead the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and engaging interested stakeholders by convening workshops on high priority issues, and through directed outreach to non-traditional partners.
12. The level of effort dedicated in the Operational Plan to the work identified under paragraphs 10 and 11 above is a minimum effort and tenuous. Should higher priority work demand, the level of effort on these projects would necessarily decrease, if not stop altogether. The resources available to the San Diego Water Board to work on these tasks are also needed for many other programs. As such, work in the following areas has slowed considerably:
 - a. Review and amendment of waste discharge requirements;
 - b. Issuance of new waste discharge requirements;
 - c. Issuance of Clean Water Section 401 water quality certifications;
 - d. Development of traditional Total Maximum Daily Load Basin Plan Amendments;
 - e. Inspections and follow-up compliance assurance; and

- f. Basin Plan amendments to update the Basin Plan to reflect current policies and regulations (including but not limited to Basin Plan Amendments for Salt and Nutrient Management Plans).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The San Diego Water Board endorses the use of an Operational Plan to implement the Practical Vision to prioritize work. Attachment 1 lists the staff resources necessary to implement the Practical Vision and the board's priorities, while continuing to meet core regulatory requirements.
2. The San Diego Water Board endorses aligning staff resources with its priorities in order to advance both the highest priority Practical Vision projects and the Core Programmatic work.
3. Board Members request the Executive Officer continue to explore all available resources in order to move forward high priority projects, including but not limited to advancing the regulation of irrigated lands, the restoration of wetlands, and the full engagement of interested persons. The Executive Officer should coordinate these efforts with the State Water Board's Resource Alignment Project as appropriate, and continue to work within the BCP process.
4. Board Members will also seek ways to augment the efforts of the Executive Officer to implement the Practical Vision such as exploring opportunities for partnerships and ways to leverage existing resources.

I, David W. Gibson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, on June 24, 2015.



David W. Gibson
Executive Officer