California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

RESOLUTION NO. R8 – 2006 - 0085

Adoption of Prioritized List of Issues to be Addressed
in the Basin Plan Triennial Review

WHEREAS:

1. Section 303 (c) of the Clean Water Act requires that states hold public hearings for review of water quality standards (beneficial uses, water quality objectives and antidegradation policy) at least once every three years.

2. California Water Code Section 13240 requires that water quality control plans be periodically reviewed. Water quality control plans specify the state's water quality standards.

3. An updated Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan) was adopted by the Regional Board on March 11, 1994, and approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on July 21, 1994. The updated Basin Plan was approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and became effective on January 24, 1995. The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (USEPA) has approved most of the 1994 Basin Plan but has reserved action on certain water quality standards.

4. On April 18, 1997, the Regional Board adopted an amendment to the Basin Plan deleting the bacterial quality objectives specified for ocean waters. This amendment became effective upon approval by the SWRCB and OAL and has been approved by the USEPA.

5. On May 19, 2000, the Regional Board adopted another amendment to the Basin Plan to incorporate language authorizing the inclusion of compliance schedules in NPDES permits. The SWRCB , OAL and USEPA have approved this amendment, which became effective on July 15, 2002.

6. On January 22, 2004, the Regional Board adopted amendments to the Basin Plan to incorporate an updated total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrogen management plan, including revised groundwater subbasin boundaries and TDS and nitrate-nitrogen objectives, revised surface water quality objectives for certain waters, and revised waste load allocations for TDS and nitrogen. The surface water standards changes are awaiting USEPA approval, while other components of these amendments became effective upon approval by the SWRCB and OAL.

7. To comply with the federal and state requirements for review of water quality standards/basin plans, Regional Board staff prepared a proposed list of issues to be addressed in the current triennial review of the Basin Plan. The issues on this list were prioritized, by fiscal year, to reflect both water quality concerns and the availability of needed resources.

8. Copies of the proposed list were distributed to all interested parties for their review and comment.

9. Regional Board staff conducted public meetings with interested stakeholders on June 6, 2006 and September 13, 2006, to consider the proposed prioritized list of Basin Planning Issues to be addressed in the next three years. Notice of the public workshop was given to all interested parties.

10. The Regional Board conducted a public hearing on December 1, 2006, to consider the adoption of staff's prioritized list. Notice of the public hearing was given to all interested parties and published in accordance with Water Code Section 13244.

11. The Regional Board considered all testimony at the public hearing regarding the prioritized list of identified Basin Plan Triennial Review issues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, adopts staff's prioritized list of issues to be addressed in the current Triennial Review.

2. Areas of the Basin Plan not identified as needing investigation and possible revision are reaffirmed as adequate at the present time. The Basin Plan remains in effect until subsequent amendments are adopted and approved.

3. The Executive Officer is directed to forward copies of this resolution to the State Water Resources Control Board in fulfillment of the requirement of Section 13245 of the Water Code.

I, Gerard J. Thibeault, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, on December 1, 2006

Gerard J. Thibeault
Executive Officer