

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
December 14, 2010

ITEM: 15

SUBJECT: Informational Item: San Diego Unified Port District A-8 Anchorage Marine Debris Removal Project (Eric Becker)

PURPOSE: To provide the San Diego Water Board with an update on the successful completion of the project that utilized funding from State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA).

PUBLIC NOTICE: This item was listed in the December 14, 2010 Board Meeting agenda notice that was mailed to the San Diego Water Board's agenda mail list of interested persons.

DISCUSSION: In February 2010, the San Diego Unified Port District (Port District) began the final phase of a three year effort to remove marine debris at the closed A-8 Anchorage located off the mouth of the Sweetwater Channel in the southern portion of San Diego Bay. The 130 acre A-8 anchorage was formerly used as a free anchorage area for over 100 vessels with live-a-boards in San Diego Bay. In June 2006, the Port District authorized closure of the A-8 Anchorage due to the high annual costs of removing abandoned or derelict vessels from the anchorage. In June 2007 the Port District embarked on the effort to cleanup marine debris left in the closed anchorage including sunken batteries, engines, fuel tanks, engine blocks and vessels. The marine debris posed both a navigational hazard and an environmental threat to wildlife living in the area.

The Port District obtained grants from several sources to fund the cleanup including \$200,000 from the State Water Board's CAA, \$100,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries and \$50,000 from the Port's Environmental Fund. The A-8 Anchorage cleanup work was completed in June 2010 and the Port District will be providing a presentation on the project at today's meeting.

The CAA receives funding from San Diego Water Board monetary assessment of administrative civil liabilities and settlements from enforcement actions. The San Diego Water Board and other Regional Water Boards can request that CAA funds for qualified cleanup projects within the regions. In March 2009, the San Diego Water Board secured \$200,000 from the CAA to help the Port District complete cleanup of the marine debris.

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS:

1. Project Vicinity Map

RECOMMENDATION:

Informational Item Only