State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT August 10, 2016

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: Information Item: San Juan Basin Integrated Watershed Planning.

(Jeremy Haas)

PURPOSE: The San Juan Basin Authority (SJBA) will inform the Board of

plans for integrating water supply and storm water quality

management in the San Juan Creek watershed.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item only. The Board will not take an action.

KEY ISSUES:

1. The SJBA may identify Water Board permitting or water quality planning issues that present risks for storm water and/or

recycled water recharge projects within the SJBA's water

resource development plans.

 Water Board basin planning resources are committed to the <u>Triennial Review workplan projects</u> approved by the Board in May 2015. Resources to amend the Basin Plan to advance the SJBA projects would need to be redirected from existing

projects or from external parties.

PRACTICAL VISION: This project must balance two goals of the Practical

Vision: Chapter 5's sustainable local water supply and Chapter 3's

healthy stream, wetland, and riparian systems. Today's item allows the Board to obtain a sense of the challenges and

opportunities for the SJBA to create local water supply reliability, including options that involve alterations to stream and riparian areas and options that could conflict with existing Basin Plan water quality objectives. The Practical Vision stresses that solutions to potential or perceived conflicts be resolved through transparency, effective communication and collaboration, and reliance on the

latest science and data.

DISCUSSION: The SJBA was created in 1971 for the purpose of carrying out

water resources development of the San Juan Basin. The San Juan Basin has a drainage area of over 111,000 acres and includes San Juan Creek, Oso Creek, Trabuco Creek, Horno

Creek, Chiquita Canyon, Canada Gobernadora and Bell Canyon (Supporting Document no. 1). The SJBA member agencies are the Santa Margarita Water District, Moulton Niguel Water District, South Coast Water District, and the City of San Juan Capistrano.

To prepare for future water supply needs, the SJBA adopted a San Juan Basin Groundwater and Facilities Management Plan in 2014 (summarized in Supporting Document no. 2) and then, in March 2016, adopted the San Juan Basin Groundwater and Desalination Optimization Program Final Report (summarized in Supporting Document no. 3). (Both reports are available on-line here).

The recommended management alternative includes adaptive production management, in-stream storm water recharge, near-stream storm water recharge, recycled water recharge, and control of seawater intrusion.

In-stream recharge alternatives include levees as used by Orange County Water District on the Santa Ana River and/or rubber dams. Near or off-stream recharge alternatives include rubber dams, recharge basins, and infiltration galleries along San Juan Creek or Arroyo Trabuco.

Finally, to implement plans for storm water recharge, the SJBA may seek partnerships with the County of Orange and municipalities who manage storm water regulated by the Water Board (a.k.a. municipal storm water permittees).

LEGAL CONCERNS:

The Board or its Executive Officer may, in the near future, be asked to issue discretionary permits for certain actions associated with implementation of the SJBA's plans.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- 1. Map of the San Juan Basin
- 2. Fact Sheet with implementation plan for the San Juan Basin Groundwater and Facilities Management Plan (2014)
- 3. Executive summary from the San Juan Basin Authority
 Groundwater and Desalination Optimization Program (2016)

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was publicly noticed in the Meeting Notice and Agenda for the August 10, 2016 meeting. The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website and sent to those subscribed to the email list for Board meetings.