

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

RESOLUTION NO. R9-2012-0053

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD TO APPROVE FUNDING FROM THE STATE WATER
POLLUTION CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE SAN DIEGO
UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT A-8 ANCHORAGE MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL
PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (hereinafter, San Diego Water Board), finds that:

1. San Diego Bay has historically been subjected to waste discharges from both shore-side sources and from boats, vessels, and activities taking place on or over bay waters. Portions of San Diego Bay's open waters are difficult to cleanup since responsible parties are difficult to identify and compel to action. For this reason, the San Diego Unified Port District has adopted a policy to remove marine debris in specific open water areas using any available funding. Long term anchoring of numerous vessels in the A-8 Anchorage, a former free anchorage area near the mouth of the Sweetwater Channel in San Diego Bay, resulted in the accumulation of marine debris including batteries, engines, fuel tanks, and derelict vessels on the bay bottom.
2. Since 2006, the San Diego Unified Port District has spent over \$9,000,000 to aggressively remove derelict vessels and other marine debris from San Diego Bay. On October 1, 2008, the San Diego Unified Port District authorized closure of the A-8 Anchorage to vessels for long-term free anchoring due to the high annual costs of removing abandoned or derelict vessels from the anchorage. To assist the cleanup actions, the San Diego Unified Port District has secured funding from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service and \$200,000 from the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA). To date, 310 tons of marine debris, including 77 derelict vessels, has been removed from San Diego Bay.
3. In June 2011, the San Diego Unified Port District conducted another marine survey in and around the A-8 Anchorage. The survey found that over 900 marine debris items, including 11 derelict vessels, remain in the area. By letter dated January 31, 2012, the San Diego Unified Port District requested San Diego Water Board assistance in securing an additional \$99,500 from the CAA to support cleanup of the recently surveyed marine debris. The San Diego Unified Port District has also requested additional funding from NOAA to assist with this cleanup effort.

4. San Diego Bay is already impaired for multiple pollutants. The remaining marine debris poses both a navigational hazard and an environmental threat to wildlife living in the area. The San Diego Unified Port District's continued cleanup actions will further benefit and enhance the water quality and beneficial uses of San Diego Bay.
5. Water Code Section 13443 provides that the State Water Board may order moneys to be paid from the CAA to public agencies to assist the agencies in cleaning up waste or abating its effects on waters of the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the San Diego Water Board directs the Executive Officer to request that the State Water Board approve an allocation of \$99,500 from the CAA to the San Diego Unified Port District to continue the A-8 Anchorage marine debris removal project.

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 August 8, 2012.



David W. Gibson
Executive Officer