

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
February 8, 2012

ITEM: 13

SUBJECT: Resolution Endorsing the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team's Recovery Strategy (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2012-0030) (Charles Cheng)

PURPOSE: To consider adoption of tentative Resolution No. R9-2012-0030 and endorsement of the Recovery Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt tentative Resolution No. R9-2012-0030.

KEY ISSUES: None.

DISCUSSION: Resolution No. R9-2012-0030 (Supporting Document No. 1) endorses the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team) Recovery Strategy (Supporting Document No. 2) as a collaborative process to promote timely recovery actions. The Resolution directs the Executive Officer to assist the Recovery Team in implementing the Recovery Strategy, to revise and update the Recovery Strategy as necessary, to periodically report on the status of recovery actions and progress, and to recommend to the Board alternative courses of action should this approach fail to attain applicable water quality standards within a reasonable period of time.

The Tijuana River Valley is degraded due to excessive sedimentation and trash from both U.S. and Mexican sources resulting in impairments of many beneficial uses in the Valley. The Tijuana River and Tijuana Estuary are listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list for numerous pollutants including sedimentation/siltation, solids, turbidity and trash.

Work on a sediment and trash TMDL has been suspended by the Executive Officer in favor of a collaborative, bi-national, stakeholder effort known as the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team). A traditional TMDL approach in the Tijuana River Valley faces challenges that may be better and more sustainably faced by the Recovery Team process.

The Recovery Team is a consensus-based collaboration of more than 30 federal, state and local government agencies, Valley stakeholders, environmental and science communities, other interested organizations, and members of the public from both sides of the border, organized to address sediment, trash, and associated environmental issues in the Valley.

Under the leadership of the San Diego Water Board, the Recovery Team developed consensus-based Vision and Mission that are consistent with the mission and goal of the San Diego Water Board. In 2011, the Recovery Team developed a Recovery Strategy that identifies problems and challenges, outlines collaborative processes and management priorities to cost-effectively address sediment and trash problems in the Valley while balancing the need for flood control, ecosystem management, recreational use, Navy and border security operations, agriculture, and other interests. The Recovery Strategy is a live document that provides guidance to the Recovery Team's effort and activities, and will be revised and updated as necessary to reflect any changes, new information, and new requirements.

Implementation of the Recovery Strategy will promote collaboration among stakeholders, enhance the likelihood of correcting sediment and trash impairments in the Valley, result in multiple benefits to stakeholders, and attain sustainable environmental and resource protection. If the Recovery Strategy fails to promote recovery of the water quality standards, a traditional TMDL will be required.

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Tentative Resolution No. R9-2012-0030
2. Recovery Strategy Dated November 22, 2011

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Notice was provided in the agenda for the February 8, 2012 Board Meeting, which was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website on January 18, 2012.