

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
April 9, 2014

- ITEM: 7
- SUBJECT: Public Workshop: Workgroup Recommendation for a Unified Beach Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Program in South Orange County (*Bruce Posthumus*)
- PURPOSE: To provide information about and receive comments on a proposed unified beach water quality monitoring and assessment program (unified program) that is being developed for south Orange County
- RECOMMENDATION(S): There are no recommendations at this time because no action will be taken by the Board at today's meeting.
- KEY ISSUES:
1. What changes should be made to the proposed unified program outlined in the draft staff report (Supporting Document 1)?
 2. Recognizing that (a) Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) is responsible for meeting requirements of State law for beach water quality monitoring and related tasks and (b) those requirements are in effect only if the State provides sufficient funding for such work:
 - What language should be used to require implementation of a unified program?
 - Which mechanism(s) should be used to require implementation of a unified program?
- DISCUSSION: Background
At its April 11, 2012 meeting, the San Diego Water Board asked its staff to review beach water quality monitoring conducted in south Orange County. To assist in responding to that request, Board staff convened a workgroup consisting of individuals with a variety of responsibilities for and interests in beach water quality monitoring in south Orange County. The workgroup is developing a unified beach water quality monitoring program for south Orange County.

Several public agencies are responsible for meeting requirements for beach water quality monitoring and related tasks in south Orange County. The monitoring programs conducted by these agencies, which overlap temporally and spatially, are partially but not fully integrated. OCHCA conducts a beach water quality monitoring program in accordance with requirements of State law; those requirements are in effect only if the State provides sufficient funding for beach water quality monitoring and related tasks. Orange County Public Works (OCPW) conducts a beach water quality monitoring program in accordance with requirements of San Diego Water Board Order No. R9-2009-0002. South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) conducts beach water quality monitoring programs in accordance with requirements of San Diego Water Board Order Nos. R9-2012-0012 and R9-2012-0013.

Proposed Unified Program

The unified program is intended to be protective, reasonable, and equitable. It is also intended to be consistent with and to help implement the monitoring and assessment framework endorsed by the Board in December 2012 and the “Monitoring and Assessment” chapter of the “Practical Vision” endorsed by the Board in November 2013.

The primary purpose of the unified program would be to answer the question “Is beach water quality safe for water contact recreation?” The unified program would include triggers for public notification, additional sampling, and investigation that would apply to all sampling stations year-round.

The unified program would supersede the existing routine, ongoing beach water quality monitoring programs conducted in south Orange County and would eliminate duplicative monitoring. The unified program would meet or go beyond the requirements for beach water quality monitoring and related public notification and reporting established by State law and the California Ocean Plan.

Responsibility for implementation of the unified program would be shared by SOCWA, OCPW, and OCHCA. These three agencies would jointly make arrangements for implementation and would have the flexibility to jointly make short and/or long term changes in those arrangements.

The draft staff report outlines the workgroup's efforts to date, the unified program that is being developed by the workgroup, and the rationale for the elements and features of the unified program.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: 1. Draft staff report: "Workgroup Recommendation for a Unified Beach Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Program in South Orange County"
2. Workshop notice

PUBLIC NOTICE: The workshop notice (Supporting Document 2) was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website on March 10 and was sent via Email to a number of potentially interested parties, including those subscribed to the Email list for Board meetings. The agenda notice for today's meeting was also posted on the Board's website and sent to those subscribed to the Email list for Board meetings.