

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
MARCH 16, 2015

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: **Tentative Resolution No. R9-2015-0035: Tentative Resolution Endorsing the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Five-Year Action Plan, Dated March 2015**
(Melissa Valdovinos)

PURPOSE: To consider adoption of Tentative Resolution No. R9-2015-0035, which strongly endorses and encourages immediate implementation of the Five-Year Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Tentative Resolution No. R9-2015-0035

KEY ISSUES: None

PRACTICAL VISION: The Five-Year Action Plan CAA Project implements several chapters of the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision. It advances the Chapter 1 goal of achieving healthy waters through strategic and effective government actions. It contributes to the Chapter 3 goals of improving physical and biological integrity in naturally occurring wetlands and restoring natural floodplains and habitats. Because Recovery Team efforts are a consensus-based collaboration representing a broad cross-section of stakeholders, these efforts are also consistent with Chapter 4 in maintaining proactive outreach that provides the public with easily understood information and pathways to communicate recommendations for improving conditions in the Tijuana River Valley. In addition, the Plan is in line with San Diego Water Board Resolution No. R9-2015-0020 as it benefits Disadvantaged Communities along the U.S.-Mexico border while promoting water quality and habitat restoration.

DISCUSSION:

Tentative Resolution No. R9-2015-0035 (Supporting Document No. 1) endorses the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team) Five-Year Action Plan (Supporting Document No. 2) with the purpose of maintaining collaborative momentum and implementing priority projects in the Tijuana River Valley.

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. Since 2011, work on a sediment and trash total maximum daily load (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. 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, Tijuana River 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 Tijuana River Valley.

The Plan is based on priorities established in the Recovery Team's 2012 Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy (Supporting Document No. 3) and describes specific projects the Recovery Team aspires to accomplish over the next five years to continue advancing its goal to reduce impacts from sediment and trash in the Tijuana River Valley. Since tasks, deliverables, resources needed, schedules for achieving project milestones, and processes for monitoring progress are all variables that can change over the course of a project, the Plan should be updated regularly. Project locations and recent photos of debris deposited by cross-border flows are included as Supporting Document No. 4. Recovery Team Steering Committee members have expressed their commitment to the Plan in letters from their respective agencies/organizations (Supporting Document No. 5).

The Tentative Resolution directs the Executive Officer to assist the Recovery Team in implementing the Plan, to revise and update the Plan as necessary, to periodically update the Board on the Plan's progress, to recommend potential Board actions to further implement the Plan, if appropriate, and to recommend to the Board alternative courses of action should the Recovery Team approach fail to attain applicable water quality standards in the Tijuana River Valley within a reasonable period of time.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Tentative Resolution No. R9-2015-0035
2. Five-Year Action Plan, dated March 2015
3. Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy
4. Tijuana River Watershed maps and photos
5. Recovery Team Commitment Letters

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice was provided via Lyris List on February 23, 2015 and in the agenda for the March 16, 2015 Board Meeting, which was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website.