

State of California  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
MARCH 9, 2016

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: Tentative Resolution Supporting the Allocation of Resources to Implement the Practical Vision and Operational Plan (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2016-0063). *(David Gibson)*

PURPOSE: To brief the board members on the status and progress of the Practical Vision and the Practical Vision Operational Plan for 2016, and to consider adoption of the 2016 priorities and resource allocation plan to support the Practical Vision work of the San Diego Water Board while continuing to meet core regulatory requirements.

RECOMMENDATION(S): Adopt Tentative Resolution No. R9-2016-0063.

KEY ISSUES: Identifies Practical Vision priorities for 2016;  
Identifies the priorities for the core regulatory programs for FY16-17;  
Provides an opportunity to solicit public perspective and Board support and direction on the priorities.

PRACTICAL VISION: This item provides a progress report on the second year of implementing the Practical Vision. This item also demonstrates the San Diego Water Board values of communication and transparency by reporting in an open meeting our 2015 accomplishments, and our regional priorities and goals for 2016 and the budget that supports our work. Through the Practical Vision, the Board and its staff exercise its leadership and stewardship values both locally and statewide.

DISCUSSION: This item is an opportunity to provide Board members and the public with a more comprehensive report on the San Diego Water Board's accomplishments and to give Board members an opportunity to provide early input and direction on regional priorities and goals for 2016. In the interests of transparency and context, we are providing the San Diego Water Board's budget allocated by the State Board and discuss how it supports our Practical Vision and Core

Regulatory work. The budget that endorses the spending necessary for this year's Operational Plan is attached to Tentative Resolution No. R9-2016-0063 (Supporting Document No. 1).

December 2015 saw the end of our second full calendar year of implementing the San Diego Water Board's 7-year strategic plan, the Practical Vision. The Practical Vision is a tool for culture change at the San Diego Water Board; the means to achieve healthy waters through a collaborative, outcome-based approach that relies on the latest science, prioritization of issues and actions, and prudent use of authorities in service to the people of California.

Annually, the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards report their principal accomplishments to the State Water Board. The State Water Board's Accomplishments Reports are available at

[http://waterboards.ca.gov/about\\_us/performance\\_report\\_1415/targets/71132\\_targets\\_wbs.shtml](http://waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/performance_report_1415/targets/71132_targets_wbs.shtml).

For 2015, the second year of our 7-year strategy, we created a Practical Vision Operations Plan. In it, we carried forward our unfinished 2014 projects, added the next set of projects, identified staffing, resources, tasks, and milestones for each project, and tracked our progress through the year. In particular, we merged certain of our Core Regulatory workload (permit renewals, inspections, etc.) with the Practical Vision projects to improve management of the casework while also achieving the Practical Vision goals. Thirty five projects were included in the 2015 Practical Vision Operations Plan. A summary of key accomplishments is provided as Supporting Document No. 2. The Practical Vision projects from 2015 that I will highlight in my oral briefing are:

- Completion of the Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay;
- The Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Five-Year Action Plan and approval of Treaty Minute 320;
- The establishment of the San Diego Water Board's approach for the Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems (wetlands and stream systems) in the San Diego Region;
- Adoption of an Amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9)* to Change the Nitrate Water Quality Objective for Ground Water

and to Incorporate the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Policy.

During the first year of implementing a formal Practical Vision Operations Plan, we found we needed to better incorporate the next fiscal year performances measures used in the California Water Boards' Annual Performance Report in our planning and tracking.

The 2016 Operational Plan takes this into account by including programmatic work that is linked to performance targets and other workplan commitments made to the State Water Board that aren't specifically called out in the Practical Vision. This has required an extra degree of prioritizing, planning, and budgeting on the part of your managers to craft the Practical Vision Operations Plan and we are structuring this effort to enhance the Practical Vision and function as force multipliers rather than a "to-do" list. The key Practical Vision Operations Plan projects for 2016 includes 42 projects. Some of the key projects I will present in this item are:

- San Diego Bay Comprehensive Monitoring and Assessment Program
- Santa Margarita Estuary TMDL
- Biological Objectives
- REC-1 Basin Planning Project
- Water Quality Assessment - Integrated Report
- Chollas Creek Water Effects Ratio Basin Plan Amendment
- Expansion of Recycled Water Production and Purveyance
- Statewide Priority Setting Effort
- Environmental Justice and Public Outreach Strategy
- Vapor Intrusion Risk Management at Clean Up Sites

The San Diego Water Board is budgeted to support 64 Personnel Years (PYs) for the remainder of FY 15-16 and we are planning on a similar budget for FY 16-17. Staff resources have been assigned to fulfill Operational Plan commitments and the Tentative Resolution endorses this resource allocation; 11.1 personnel years (PYs, 1776 hours/PY) are assigned to advance Practical Vision work, while 29.6 PYs are assigned to core program projects in calendar year 2016 (Attachment 1 to Supporting Document No. 1). This commits

approximately 66% of available resources to the Operational Plan. The remaining approximately 20 available PYs are to be used for smaller projects, administrative duties and as a contingency for unexpected needs.

The Tentative Resolution No. R9-2016-0063 endorses these priorities and resource direction.

**LEGAL CONCERNS:**

None

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

1. Tentative Resolution No. R9-2016-0063, with attachment
2. 2015 Accomplishments

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

This item was publicly noticed in the Meeting Notice and Agenda for the March 9, 2016 meeting.