

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
June 10, 2020**

**ITEM 6**

**SUBJECT**

Cannabis cultivation regulation and enforcement in Southern California. (*Eric Lindberg*)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Informational item only; no recommendation.

**KEY ISSUE**

This item provides an opportunity for the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) and members of the public to learn about the Water Boards Cannabis Cultivation Program and implementation of the State Water Resources Control Board *Cannabis Policy – Principals and Guidelines for Cannabis Cultivation* (Cannabis Policy).

**PRACTICAL VISION**

Chapter 4 of the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision, *Proactive Public Outreach and Communication* is focused on implementing the core values of leadership, communication and transparency. This item provides an opportunity for the San Diego Water Board and the public to learn about cannabis cultivation regulation and issues relevant to the protection of both water supply and water quality.

**DISCUSSION**

The State Water Resources Control Board updated the Cannabis Policy and it went into effect on April 16, 2019. The Policy established Regional Boundaries combining Regional Water Quality Control Board Regions 4, 8, and 9 to form the South Coast Cannabis Region.

Eric Lindberg, Senior Engineering Geologist and Chief of the Regional Cannabis Cultivation Regulatory Unit, leads our agency's efforts to regulate the legal cultivation of cannabis and investigate the water quality threat from illegal cannabis growing operations in the South Coast Cannabis Region.

This Item will update the Board on the implementation of the Cannabis Policy in the San Diego Region. The presentation includes the status of permitted and licensed commercial cultivation operations, as well as an overview of efforts the Regional Cannabis Cultivation Regulatory Unit has taken in the San Diego Region to protect beneficial uses and the Region's watersheds from discharges of waste at unlicensed illicit cultivation operations.

**LEGAL CONCERNS**

None.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board web site and sent to subscribers of the electronic mailing lists for Board meetings.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None.