

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
NOVEMBER 12, 2025**

ITEM NO. 7

SUBJECT

Manzanita Canyon Greening and Canyon Health Project (*Eric Becker*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational item only. No staff recommendations.

KEY ISSUES

This item will provide the San Diego Water Board with an opportunity to gain a better understanding of stream restoration work and the unique challenges faced by stream restoration in the urban environment like space limitations.

The Manzanita Canyon Greening and Canyon Health Project (Project) furthers the California Wetlands Conservation Policy (Executive Order W-59-93).¹ Commonly known as the “No Net Loss Policy” for wetlands, the Executive Order requires state agencies to “ensure no overall net loss [of wetlands] and achieve a long-term net gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetlands acreage and values in California in a manner that fosters creativity, stewardship and respect for private property.”

PRACTICAL VISION

This information item is consistent with the goals of the *Recover Stream, Wetland, and Riparian Areas* chapter of the *San Diego Water Board Practical Vision* (Practical Vision)² to achieve a meaningful net gain of wetlands, efficiently exercise regulatory discretion over proposed projects to dredge, fill or alter wetlands, stream, and riparian areas. San Diego Water Board regulation of activities that impact these habitats is critical to the recovery of wetland, stream, and riparian systems since these activities can have severe, long-term effects if not properly regulated and mitigated.

DISCUSSION

In conjunction with the City of San Diego, San Diego Canyonlands will implement the proposed Project. San Diego Canyonlands is a non-governmental organization dedicated to restoration and protection of San Diego’s open spaces. Christina Schaefer, President of Schaefer Ecological Services, will represent San Diego Canyonlands and provide a presentation on the Project.

¹ California Wetlands Conservation Policy, [Executive Order W-59-93](#).

² San Diego Water Board [Practical Vision: Healthy Waters, People, and Communities](#).

The Project proposes restoration of Manzanita Canyon and Creek to improve hydrological and biological functions and values lost as a result of disturbance from sewer infrastructure maintenance and hydromodification. The Project will restore and replace natural components of lost wetlands functions, water quality, and sensitive species breeding and nesting habitat by stabilizing stream channels, increasing urban runoff infiltration and improving water quality, and increasing native vegetation and wildlife habitat. The Project design will be compatible with existing utilities and trails. Manzanita Canyon and Creek are located within the City of San Diego near the intersection of Interstate 805 and Highway 15.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website and sent to subscribers to the email list for Board meetings. This satisfies the *Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act* requirements to publish the meeting notice and agenda.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None.