

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025
ITEM 7

SUBJECT

Tentative Resolution No. R9-2025-0129 endorsing the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operation Plan (*David Gibson*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of Tentative Resolution No. R9-2025-0129 (Supporting Document No. 1).

KEY ISSUES

- Identifies significant accomplishments from July 2024 – June 2025 (Supporting Document No. 2)
- Identifies priority projects that will help achieve the goals of the Practical Vision (Attachment 1 to Supporting Document No. 1)
- Provides an opportunity for the Board to formally endorse the allocation of staff resources to address the Priority Projects (Supporting Document No. 1)

PRACTICAL VISION

This item provides a progress report on the eleventh year of implementing the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision.¹ This item also demonstrates the San Diego Water Board values of communication and transparency by reporting in an open meeting our major accomplishments since the last update, our regional priorities and goals for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY 25-26), 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 FY 25-26.

June 2025 saw the end of our eleventh year of implementing the San Diego Water Board's 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.

¹ The San Diego Water Board Practical Vision is available electronically on the following webpage:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/

Annually, the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards report their principal accomplishments to the State Water Board. The State Water Board collects annual performance data and displays it on its Annual Performance Report (Report) website. The Report measures and evaluates both what we do, how the environment is responding to our actions, and is part of our overall effort toward developing as a performance-based organization. The Reports can be found at the [State Water Board Performance Report Website](#). Supporting Document 2, Practical Vision and Program Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (FY 24-25), includes a discussion of our regional accomplishments over the last fiscal year.

In the interest of transparency and context, Tentative Resolution No. R9-2025-0129 includes information regarding the San Diego Water Board's budget allocated by the State Board (Supporting Document No. 1) and the list of San Diego Water Board Projects for FY 25-26 (Attachment 1 to Supporting Document No. 1) includes the staff personnel years assigned to the Operational Plan projects.

Twenty-one projects were included in the FY 24-25 Operational Plan. I will highlight the progress of following projects from the FY 24-25 Operational Plan in my verbal briefing:

- South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant Compliance
- Tijuana River Border Pollution Control Efforts: Adoption of Advanced Restoration Plans for Bacterial Indicators and Trash
- San Diego River Investigative Order Report
- Naval Air Station North Island Installation Restoration Site 9 Benthic Community Study
- Adoption of Salt and Nutrient Management Plans for San Juan Creek Groundwater Basin and Temecula Valley Groundwater Basins
- Climate Change Efforts
- Public Engagement Efforts
- Approval Of San Diego Local Agency Management Program

The FY 25-26 Operational Plan carries forward our continuing projects, adds new projects, identifies staffing, resources, tasks, and milestones for each project, and tracks our progress throughout the year. We include many of our core regulatory work projects (permit renewals, inspections, etc.) with the Practical Vision projects to improve management of the priority casework while also achieving the Practical Vision goals.

As discussed above, the San Diego Water Board's annual performance measure goals and accomplishments are used in the State Water Boards' Annual Performance Report. The FY 25-26 Operational Plan takes these performance measures into account by including priority programmatic work that is linked to the goals of the Practical Vision. This effort requires an extra degree of prioritizing, planning, and budgeting on the part of your managers during the preparation of each year's Operational Plan.

The FY 25-26 Operational Plan includes twenty-six projects. Projects included in the FY 25-26 Operational Plan were selected considering the Key Beneficial Uses and Areas established in San Diego Water Board Resolution No. R9-2017-0030² (*A Resolution Supporting Use of the Key Beneficial Uses/Key Areas Concept to Help the San Diego Water Board Focus on What is Most Important*) and guidance from the Practical Vision Priority Setting Team. Some key projects and priorities I will discuss during this item are:

- Border Water Quality Protection
 - US IBWC South Bay International Treatment Plant NPDES Permit Amendment
 - Tijuana River Watershed Advance Restoration Plans Implementation
- State Water Board Consideration of Biological Water Quality Objectives
- Regionwide Water Quality Data assessment: Clean Water Act sections 303d and 305b Integrated Report
- Contact Water Recreation (REC-1) Water Quality Objectives
 - Bacterial Indicators TMDL Update
 - Prevent and Reduce Impacts Caused by Unauthorized Discharges from Sanitary Sewer Collection Systems
 - Municipal Storm Water Permit Coordination
- San Diego Bay Efforts
 - Sediment Quality Objective Guidance for Regional Sediment Cleanup Sites
 - Internal San Diego Bay Workgroup
 - Maintain DIVOT Sediment Data to Track Pollutant Reductions
- Increasing Local Drinking Water Supply
 - Support Direct and Indirect Potable Reuse Projects
 - Review of Salt and Nutrient Management Plans
 - Revision and Issuance of Master Recycling Permits
- Preparation of the Regional Storm Water Permit for FY 26-27 Consideration
- US Navy General NPDES Permit for San Diego Bay and Outlying Facilities
- Tribal Beneficial Uses Water Body Designations
- Santa Margarita River Nutrients Advance Restoration Plan

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Meeting Notice and Agenda for today's meeting was posted on the Board's website and sent to those who subscribed to the email list for Board Meetings.

² Resolution No. R9-2017-0030 is available electronically on the following webpage:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/key_areas/

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Tentative Resolution No. R9-2025-0129, with Attachment 1 – Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operational Plan Projects
2. Practical Vision and Program Accomplishments for 2024-2025