

FOREWORD

The most basic goal of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) is to preserve and enhance the quality of water resources in the San Diego Region for the benefit of present and future generations. The federal Clean Water Act and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act require that the Regional Board adopt a water quality control plan to guide and coordinate the management of water quality in the Region. The purpose of the plan is to: (1) designate beneficial uses of the Region's surface and ground waters; (2) designate water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of those uses; and (3) establish an implementation plan to achieve the objectives. In conformance with this legislative mandate, the Regional Board adopted the *Comprehensive Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin* (Basin Plan) in 1975. The Regional Board subsequently adopted numerous amendments modifying specific Basin Plan water quality standards and policies to reflect current water quality conditions and priorities.

Over twenty years have passed since the Basin Plan was published in 1975. In the ensuing years the San Diego Region population has continued to grow and approaches to water quality management have changed. Water quality management has become a complex mix of public input, environmental legislation and regulations, regulatory programs, research, and litigation. Pollution from point source discharges such as sewage treatment plants and industry has largely been controlled through stringent pollution control laws and the efforts of the Regional Board and other agencies. The focus of the Regional Board's regulatory efforts in the coming years will be surface water bottom sediment contamination, ground water contamination and nonpoint sources of pollution. These concerns are the greatest remaining threats to water quality. To address these remaining challenges, pollution prevention needs to be emphasized and the cumulative effects of pollution on entire watersheds must be considered. These changes in the complexity and emphasis of the Regional Board's water quality program have resulted in the need for a major update and rewrite of the 1975 Basin Plan.

This Basin Plan, the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin* (9) was adopted by the Regional Board on September 8, 1994. It

supersedes the previous 1975 Basin Plan and its amendments. Public involvement was extensive in the development and adoption of this Basin Plan. The Regional Board held several public hearings and workshops to allow interested persons, organizations, and governmental agencies an opportunity to comment on the content and adequacy of the Basin Plan prior to its adoption. All comments were responded to in writing and the Regional Board carefully considered them in developing the final Basin Plan. The Regional Board appreciates the efforts of all those who contributed a substantial amount of time and effort in commenting on the earlier administrative drafts.

The six chapters of this Basin Plan together comprise the "*blueprint*" plan the Regional Board will use for water quality management and control in the San Diego Region. Chapter 1 provides a summary overview of the physical features of the San Diego Region, the functions of the State and Regional Board, and the legal basis and authority for the Basin Plan. Chapter 2 designates the beneficial uses of surface and ground waters to be protected. Chapter 3 designates the water quality objectives necessary to ensure the reasonable protection of the beneficial uses. Chapter 4 describes the implementation plan for achieving and maintaining the beneficial uses and water quality objectives. The implementation plan describes the key Regional Board regulatory programs and policies the Board uses to manage and control water quality. The implementation plan also designates certain conditions and areas where waste discharges are prohibited. Chapter 5 describes applicable statewide water quality policies and plans developed by the State Water Resources Control Board. Finally, Chapter 6 provides a summary description of the Regional Board water quality monitoring and surveillance program.

This Basin Plan is a dynamic rather than fixed document and is always subject to modification based on changing needs and circumstances. Accordingly, the Regional Board will periodically consider changes to this Basin Plan as necessary and at a minimum of every three years. The Regional Board will continue to place a high priority on keeping the Basin Plan current with respect to applicable laws, policies, technologies, water quality conditions, and priorities in the Region.