WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (hereinafter Regional Board), finds that:


2. The Basin Plan identifies ground and surface waters within the Santa Ana Region, designates beneficial uses for those waters, establishes water quality objectives for the protection of those uses, prescribes implementation plans whereby the objectives are to be achieved, and establishes monitoring and surveillance programs.

3. Designated beneficial uses of surface waters in the Basin Plan include Water Contact Recreation (REC1) and Non-contact Water Recreation (REC2). REC1 is essentially equivalent to "primary contact recreation", the terminology employed by many states and accepted and used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Similarly, REC2 is effectively equivalent to "secondary contact recreation", as this use is recognized and used by USEPA.

4. The 1975 Basin Plan established water quality objectives intended to protect both REC1 and REC2 uses of surface waters. Those water quality objectives were based on fecal coliform bacteria concentrations, where fecal coliform bacteria were used as a surrogate for the presence of pathogen, such as pathogens, that would impact the sanitary quality of recreational waters and potentially cause disease, primarily through the ingestion of water.

5. In 1986, USEPA published revised guidance ("Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Bacteria - 1986") regarding the surrogate pathogen indicator bacteria that States should employ to assure the protection of REC1. For freshwaters, the revised guidance recommends that States adopt objectives based on E. coli or enterococcus.

6. Waterbodies within the Middle Santa Ana River (MSAR) Watershed were listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list (303(d) list) in 1998 for bacterial contamination included: Santa Ana River, Reach 3; Chino Creek, Reach 1; Chino Creek, Reach 2; Mill Creek (Prado Area); Cucamonga Creek, Reach 1; and Prado Park Lake. The MSAR Bacterial Indicator Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), which were developed in response to the 303(d) listing, were approved by the Regional Board on August 26, 2005, by the SWRCB on May 15, 2006, by OAL on September 1, 2006 and by the US Environmental Protection Agency on May 16, 2007.
7. The MSAR Bacterial Indicator TMDLs were developed, adopted, and approved in accordance with Clean Water Act Section 303(d) and Water Code Section 13240 et seq. The amendment integrated the TMDLs into Chapter 5, "Implementation", of the Basin Plan.

8. Responsible agencies and dischargers in the MSAR watershed formed an MSAR Bacterial Indicator TMDL Task Force (TMDL Task Force). The TMDL Task Force members have been working jointly to implement requirements of the MSAR Bacterial Indicator TMDLs. TMDL Task Force members include the following agencies/parties: Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, San Bernardino County Flood Control District, County of Riverside, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Milk Producers Council, Chino Basin Watermaster Agricultural Pool, and the Cities of Chino Hills, Upland, Montclair, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Rialto, Chino, Fontana, Norco, Corona, and Riverside; and, as of 2013, the Cities of Claremont and Pomona.

9. In compliance with MSAR TMDL Task 3 and well in advance of the TMDL due date, the consultant for the TMDL Task Force submitted a proposed MSAR Water Quality Monitoring Plan, dated June 14, 2007, for Regional Board review and approval. The Regional Board approved the initial MSAR Water Quality Monitoring Plan at a duly noticed public hearing on June 29, 2007 (Resolution No. R8-2007-0046).

10. The TMDL Task Force revised the MSAR TMDL Water Quality Monitoring Plan to add activities and tasks designed to evaluate the performance of treatment BMPs in reducing bacterial indicator levels in surface waters. The TMDL Task Force submitted the revised MSAR TMDL Water Quality Monitoring Plan, dated April 3, 2008, for Regional Board review and approval. The Regional Board approved the revised MSAR Water Quality Monitoring Plan at a duly noticed public hearing on April 18, 2008 (Resolution No. R8-2008-0044).

11. MSAR TMDL requirements were incorporated in the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit updates for Riverside County (Order No. R8-2010-0033) and San Bernardino County (Order No. R8-2010-0036). Those MS4 permits required the development and implementation of Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plans (CBRPs) that resulted in revisions to the MSAR TMDL Water Quality Monitoring Plan. The Riverside County and San Bernardino County CBRPs were submitted by the respective County for Regional Board review and approval. The Regional Board approved the two CBRPs at a duly noticed public hearing on February 10, 2012 (Resolution Nos. R8-2012-0015 and R8-2012-0016).

12. The watershed of the MSAR includes urban drainages from portions of the cities of Claremont and Pomona. Those cities are located in the County of Los Angeles and are under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Regional Board. As the result of discussions between the two Regional Boards and the two Cities, on September 13, 2013, the Santa Ana Regional Board adopted National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for the
cities of Claremont and Pomona (Order No. R8-2013-0043, NPDES No. CA8000410). This Order required the development and implementation of CBRPs for the cities of Claremont and Pomona that resulted in revisions to the MSAR TMDL Water Quality Monitoring Plan. The Claremont and Pomona CBRPs were submitted by the respective City for Regional Board review and approval. The Regional Board approved the two CBRPs at a duly noticed public hearing on March 14, 2014 (Resolution Nos. R8-2014-0030 and R8-2014-0031).

13. Working with the Stormwater Quality Standards Task Force (SWQS Task Force), a group of dischargers and other regional stakeholders, Regional Board staff developed recommendations to: revise the Basin Plan fecal coliform objectives to implement USEPA's 1986 recommended criteria; revise the Basin Plan REC1 and REC2 beneficial use designations; and revise/develop implementation strategies, including requirements for the development and implementation of a comprehensive regional bacteria monitoring plan. The suite of recommended changes were identified as the REC STDs Basin Plan Amendments (BPA) and were adopted by the Regional Board at a duly noticed public hearing on June 15, 2012 (Resolution No. R8-2012-0001). The REC STDs BPA were approved by the SWRCB on January 21, 2014 (Resolution No. 2014-0005) and by the Office of Administrative Law on July 2, 2014. The amendments were largely approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on April 8, 2015, with a clarification on August 3, 2015.

14. The memberships of the SWQS Task Force and the TMDL Task Force have a significant overlap. The two Task Forces (in the form of a Joint Task Force) asked that bacterial indicator water quality monitoring requirements resulting from the MSAR TMDL and REC STDs BPA be combined into one monitoring plan. This plan, the Santa Ana River Watershed Bacteria Monitoring Program was prepared by the Joint Task Force with Regional Board staff serving in an advisory role. The Monitoring Program includes a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) in accordance with both MSAR TMDL and REC STDs BPA requirements. That QAPP has been reviewed and approved by SWRCB staff.

15. Regional Board staff have reviewed the proposed monitoring program and QAPP and find that they comply with the MSAR TMDL and the REC STDs BPA, as they are specified in the Basin Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Regional Board approves the Santa Ana Watershed Bacteria Monitoring Program and the Quality Assurance Project Plan, both submitted on behalf of the joint MSAR TMDL and REC STDs BPA Task Force members on February 8, 2016.

2. This Program and the QAPP comply with the respective requirements of the MSAR Bacterial Indicator TDMLs and the REC STDs BPA, as specified in the Basin Plan.
3. The current members of the MSAR Bacterial Indicator TMDL Task Force are in compliance with the MSAR Bacterial Indicator TMDLs.

4. The current members of the SWQS Task Force are in compliance with the REC STDs BPA.

5. This Program and schedule must be implemented upon Regional Board approval.

6. This Program must be reviewed, and revised as appropriate, every three years. The Regional Board's Executive Officer is hereby delegated authority to approve subsequent revisions to the plans and schedules. The updated Program shall be implemented upon approval by the Executive Officer.

I, Kurt V. Berchtold, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board- Santa Ana Region, on March 11, 2016.

Kurt V. Berchtold
Executive Officer