

**State of California
California Regional Water Quality Control
Board Santa Ana Region**

July 30, 2021

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: Overview of the Statewide Racial Equity Initiative

DISCUSSION:

Last summer, as a result of the murder of George Floyd and ensuing race riots across the country, the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards established the Racial Equity Initiative to address systemic, institutional, and individual racism at the Water Boards and to address racial inequities in the communities we serve. As part of this Initiative, the Water Boards have established a **Racial Equity Steering Committee** and a **Racial Equity Working Group**. The Racial Equity Steering Committee and Working Group are developing a robust and inclusive outreach process that aims to ensure that the Water Boards programs and policies preserve, protect, and restore California's drinking water and water resources equitably for people of all races, and that we create a workplace that is diverse and inclusive, where all employees feel that they are equally contributing and are valued members of the organization. These diverse and active Racial Equity Committees have drafted a [State Water Resources Control Board Racial Equity Resolution](#) that was released to the public on June 24, 2021, discussed at a State Water Board workshop on July 7, 2021 and will be considered for adoption by the State Water Board later this fall.

Santa Ana Water Board staff will provide an overview of these current activities and discuss planned activities within the Region including development of actions to be undertaken to develop a region-specific Racial Equity resolution that is consistent with the State Water Board Resolution.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; no action will be taken by the Board. The Board may provide direction to staff related to the Racial Equity Initiative or development of a region-specific Racial Equity Resolution..