

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

February 4, 2022

ITEM: 13

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report

Santa Ana Water Board 2022 Priorities

The 2022 priorities for the Santa Ana Water Board are listed and briefly described below. This list is not exhaustive but represents priority staff activities or projects that will be presented to the Santa Ana Water Board for adoption consideration.

Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit

Anticipated Date: Public Hearing to be determined

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits regulate the discharge of pollutants in urban runoff discharged through storm sewer systems owned or operated by municipalities. Currently, there are three active MS4 Permits in the Santa Ana Region, delineated by County. The new draft of the MS4 Permit will reconcile the requirements from all three permits to create one MS4 Permit for all large municipalities within the Santa Ana Region. This Permit will encourage collaboration between the municipalities where necessary and beneficial, while minimizing the costs of developing mechanisms for collaboration such as legal and financial agreements. An administrative draft order has been prepared for the February 4, 2022 workshop. Staff is working with the permittees and other stakeholders to received informal comments on the administrative draft order prior to preparing the tentative order and association documents for formal public comment and hearing.

Oil Release from Pipeline off the Coast of Huntington Beach

Anticipated Date: Ongoing

On October 1, 2021, crude oil was released into federal waters from a crack in the pipeline that extends from the BETA Offshore Platform Elly to the city of Long Beach. BETA Offshore is a subsidiary of Amplify Energy. BETA Offshore has estimated that 24,696 gallons of crude oil was released from the broken pipeline. A Unified Command (UC) was formed, comprised of the US Coast Guard (USCG), California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (CDFW-OSPR), and BETA Offshore. Several sensitive areas along the Region's coast were impacted by the release. Cleanup of the visible oil and tar-balls occurred under the direction of the UC. At the end of December 2021, BETA Offshore completed their cleanup of the oil release that impacted the coastline from Orange County to the Mexican border. A natural resource damage assessment is being prepared and staff is reaching out to obtain the information from this effort.

Basin Plan Amendments for Newport Bay Copper Total Maximum Daily Loads

Anticipated Date: Spring 2022

Draft Basin Plan Amendments have been developed for Copper Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Newport Bay. These TMDLs are proposed to replace the TMDLs for copper promulgated in 2002 by USEPA. The largest source of copper to Newport Bay is copper antifouling paints used on boats. Recommended implementation strategies to address copper are included in the draft basin plan amendments. These documents were posted in August 2016, revised, and posted again in July 2018; many comments were received from stakeholders which raised numerous concerns. Meetings were held with the major responsible parties, and two public workshops were conducted in May 2019 to discuss stakeholders' comments and concerns. A workshop was held at the October 2021 Board Meeting, the Board directed staff to work with the dischargers to resolve several issues raised during the workshop. Staff is holding meetings with the dischargers to discuss their comments and concerns.

Protecting Drinking Water Resources within the Orange County North Basin

Superfund Site

Anticipated Date: Ongoing

Santa Ana Water Board staff has been working on the contaminant source sites (many of these being legacy industrial sites from the 1960s and 70s) within Orange County's North Basin regional plume for more than three decades. Since the U.S. EPA became the lead regulatory agency for the regional plume in 2016, we have coordinated our efforts on cleanup of the identified source sites with their Superfund Division. We have also been providing technical assistance to the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) in their grant award for an interim remedial investigation and feasibility study of the North Basin regional plume. The North Basin regional plume was formally placed on the EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) in September 2020.

Human Right to Water Resolution R8-2019-0078 Three-Year Work Plan

Commitments

Anticipated Date: Ongoing (Year 3: January to December 2022)

Multi-year program to begin to understand the current impacts within our region that should be addressed where water goals of the resolution are not being met. The third-year work plan includes 1) continued coordination with the Division of Drinking Water, Chino Basin Watermaster and others to identify potential impacts to private wells, 2) update of the GIS databases, 3) completion of the human right to water program assessments, 4) identification and engagement with disadvantaged communities and underserved communities, 5) identification of private wells and mapping of the drinking water supplies, and 6) coordination with State and local agency staff to identify water projects.

Quail Valley Septic to Sewer Task Force

Anticipated Date: Ongoing

As a follow-up to the revisions to the Basin Plan that modified the septic system discharge waste prohibition in Quail Valley, Eastern Municipal Water District and the Santa Ana Water Board formed the Quail Valley Septic to Sewer Funding Advocacy

Task Force. A kickoff meeting was held On October 13, 2021 to initiate the Task Force. The Task Force will address the funding limitations in providing a sewer system in Quail Valley, an ethnically diverse DAC of the City of Menifee. Vice-Chair Murray is the Santa Ana Water Board representative. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2022.

Water Boards Racial Equity Initiative

Anticipated Date: Ongoing

In response to the recent racial violence and protests 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. Celia Pazos, Engineering Geologist in the Coastal Storm Water Program, serves on the State's Working Group.

Soil/Groundwater Investigations for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Anticipated Date: Ongoing

When USEPA established Provisional Health Advisory Levels for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), the State responded with drinking water notification levels for these compounds. These emerging constituents (jointly called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS) are found in many products, such as non-stick cookware, packaging materials, waterproof and water repellant textiles, furniture, carpeting, and fire-fighting foams. These compounds have been discovered in groundwater basins, through the US EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Reporting program, above the US EPA Provisional Health Advisory Levels and the State's Notification Levels. In order to understand the possible sources of PFAS in the Santa Ana Region, groundwater monitoring for PFAS has been requested from landfills, airports, Department of Defense Facilities, Publicly Owned Treatment Works, metal finishing operations, bulk fuel terminals and refineries, and some potential surface water sources within the Region.