

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
October 14, 2009

- ITEM: 14
- SUBJECT: Information Item: Regional Harbor Monitoring Program  
*(Bruce Posthumus)*
- PURPOSE: This is an information item.
- PUBLIC NOTICE: Information about this item was provided in the agenda mailing and posted on-line.
- DISCUSSION: The Regional Harbor Monitoring Program (RHMP) was initiated in response to a July 24, 2003 letter from the SDRWQCB Executive Officer. (See attached Supporting Document 1.) As that letter indicates, existing harbor monitoring efforts at the time did not provide information on overall water quality status and trends in individual harbors and did not provide the ability to compare water quality conditions between harbors or portions of harbors. The purpose of the RHMP, as that letter indicates, is to “identify the water quality status and trends and the ability of surface waters to support beneficial uses over the long term.” As that letter also indicates, the following questions, as a minimum, are to be addressed by the RHMP:
1. What are the contributions and spatial distributions of inputs of pollutants to harbors in the San Diego region and how do these inputs vary over the long term?
  2. Are the waters in harbors safe for body contact activities?
  3. Are fish in the harbors safe to eat?
  4. Do the waters and sediments in the harbors sustain healthy biota?
  5. What are the long-term trends in water quality for each harbor?

The water bodies to which the RHMP is intended to apply and the agencies with primary responsibility for managing those waters are as follows:

Dana Point Harbor	County of Orange
Del Mar Boat Basin	Marine Corps
Oceanside Harbor	City of Oceanside
Mission Bay	City of San Diego
San Diego Bay	San Diego Unified Port District

These agencies and the municipal storm water permittees with jurisdiction in the watersheds of these water bodies are responsible for implementing the RHMP. To date, the Marine Corps has not participated in the RHMP.

The RHMP includes both core monitoring and special studies. The core monitoring focuses on the following types of areas (or "strata"): freshwater influenced, marinas, industrial/port, shallow water, and deep water. A three-year pilot monitoring project was conducted by the RHMP starting in 2005. A report on the pilot project was submitted in May 2008. (See Executive Summary of that report in attached Supporting Document 2). Full RHMP monitoring was conducted for the first time in 2008, as part of the Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program (see <http://www.sccwrp.org/view.php?id=95>). A report of the results of the RHMP monitoring conducted in 2008 is scheduled for completion and submittal before the end of 2009.

KEY ISSUES: N/A

LEGAL CONCERNS: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Letter from SDRWQCB Executive Officer requesting development of RHMP
2. Executive summary of RHMP pilot project report

RECOMMENDATION(S): None. This is not an action item.