

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

ITEM:	9
SUBJECT:	Informational Item: Concerns Related to the Impacts on Receiving Waters from Homeless Populations in the Santa Margarita River Watershed (<i>Erica Ryan</i>)
PURPOSE:	To provide the San Diego Water Board and public with an overview of issues related to the impacts on receiving waters from homeless populations in the Santa Margarita River Watershed.
RECOMMENDATION:	This is an informational item only. The Board will not take an action.
KEY ISSUES:	Discharges of trash and human wastes from homeless encampments pose a water quality and public health threat in the Santa Margarita River Watershed.
PRACTICAL VISION:	This informational item addresses the outcome of a proactive community outreach effort consistent with the vision described in Chapter 4, <i>Proactive Public Outreach and Communication</i> , of the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision. Community outreach is a large part of the Board's continuing efforts to be a learning organization that considers the knowledge, expertise and insights of others in working towards the goal of healthy waters.
DISCUSSION:	At the July 18, 2017, Outreach Meeting in Temecula, participants from the San Diego Water Board, City of Temecula, Riverside County, Rancho California Water District, City of Murrieta, Riverside Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the office of Senator Jeff Stone discussed issues associated with homeless encampments. Local agencies are concerned for the health and safety of individuals living in unsafe and unsanitary encampments, impacts on businesses and residents in surrounding neighborhoods, and pollution from the direct discharge of trash and human waste into waterways. Discussions included municipal strategies and resources spent on removal of large amounts of trash, sanitary wastes, and other debris found in homeless encampments, and receiving water quality impairments

related to poor sanitary practices at homeless encampments. Local agencies face significant challenges in managing homeless populations. In particular, local agencies are concerned that regulatory protections for compensatory mitigation project areas located within homeless encampment sites may confound attempts to reduce or mitigate trash, fecal waste, and safety issues.

Discussions also included related recent findings of the Surfer Health Study and the draft Report on the Cost Benefit Analysis for the wet weather bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load indicating that homeless persons may create a significant impact on local water quality, human health and the environment in creeks, streams, and the ocean. A July 31, 2017, San Diego Union-Tribune newspaper article discusses these findings and sources of bacterial pollution in urban waterways (**Supporting Document No. 1**).

This item will allow public discussion on the very large social issues as well as the San Diego Water Board's role, if any, in assisting or guiding local efforts to abate the sources of waste associated with homeless populations in the San Diego Region.

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. *Surprise: storm runoff not main cause of illness from polluted beaches*, San Diego Union-Tribune, July 31, 2017

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was publicly noticed in the Meeting Notice and Agenda for the September 13, 2017 meeting.