

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
February 10, 2010

- ITEM: 7
- SUBJECT: Information Item: Presentation by Chris Beegan, State Water Resources Control Board, and Steve Bay, Southern California Coastal Water Research Program on the State Water Board's development and adoption of marine sediment quality objectives for enclosed bays and estuaries. *(Chris Beegan – SWRCB and Steve Bay – SCCWRP / Julie Chan)*
- PURPOSE: To brief the Regional Board and the Public on the development and adoption of the sediment quality objectives prescribed in the *Water Quality Control Plan for Enclosed Bays and Estuaries – Part 1 Sediment Quality*.
- PUBLIC NOTICE: The item was publicly noticed in the agenda for the February 10, 2010 Regional Board meeting. Since this is an information item, there are no noticing requirements.
- DISCUSSION: California Water Code section 13393 requires the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to develop sediment quality objectives for toxic pollutants for California's enclosed bays and estuaries. To comply with section 13393, the State Water Board developed narrative sediment quality objectives to protect benthic communities through an approach based upon multiple lines of evidence. Narrative sediment quality objectives also protect human health from exposure to contaminants in fish tissue. The sediment quality objectives, the beneficial uses they're designed to protect, and their plan of implementation are contained in the *Water Quality Control Plan for Enclosed Bays and Estuaries – Part 1 Sediment Quality* (Bays and Estuaries Plan). The Bays and Estuaries Plan was recently approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- The second phase of the sediment quality objectives program includes extensive sediment sampling in the Delta; further development of the estuarine chemistry, sediment toxicity, and benthic community indicators; and completion of

a more prescriptive framework to address human health and exposure to contaminants in fish tissue. The tools, indicators, and framework developed under this second phase of work will be adopted into the Bays and Estuaries Plan.

Phase 3 of the sediment quality program is proposed as the development, within available resources, of a framework to protect fish and/or wildlife from the effects of pollutants in sediment. During Phases 2 and 3, the tools developed during the initial phase and the implementation language will continue to be evaluated and developed further.

Although the agenda notice indicated that Steve Bay would co-present this item, he will not be able to attend the meeting. Chris Beegan will be the sole speaker.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: None

RECOMMENDATION(S): None. This is an information item only. The Regional Board will take no action on this item.