

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
June 24, 2015

ITEM: 10

SUBJECT: Tentative Resolution Supporting the Allocation of Resources to Implement the Practical Vision and Operational Plan. (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2015-0085, Supporting Document No. 1) (*Jimmy Smith*)

PURPOSE: To consider adoption of a resource allocation plan to fund the highest priority Practical Vision work of the San Diego Water Board, while continuing to meet core regulatory requirements.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Tentative Resolution No. R9-2015-0085.

KEY ISSUES: None

PRACTICAL VISION: The San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision values transparency, stewardship and communication. This item allows the board and the public to review the assignment of staff hours to the highest priority projects of the Practical Vision and of core programs.

DISCUSSION: The San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision, which sets a 7 year course to address the highest priority water quality issues, was developed by staff over a 2 year period and was formally endorsed by Board Members at the November 2013 meeting. In 2014, an operational plan was developed to implement select Practical Vision projects. The 2015 Operational Plan continues implementation of these projects, while adding numerous projects that address core program responsibilities.

Staff resources have been assigned to fulfill Operational Plan commitments and the Tentative Resolution endorses this resource allocation. Close to 10 personnel years (PYs, 1776 hours/PY) are assigned to advance Practical Vision work, while close to another 30 PYs are assigned to core program projects in calendar year 2015 (Attachment 1 to Supporting Document No. 1). This commits over 66 percent of available resources to the Operational Plan. The remaining approximately 20 available PYs are to be used for smaller projects, administrative duties and as a contingency for unexpected projects.

While the San Diego Water Board is authorized for 62 PYs, there was an average vacancy rate of about 3 PYs over the last 12 months. Each PY at the San Diego Water Board is worth about \$180,000. The distribution of PYs is usually assigned by the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on an annual basis, although occasionally the Governor will directly specify where resources are to be assigned. There are over 1,862 PYs authorized for the 9 Regional Water Boards and for the State Water Board. Each year, the Water Boards engage in the Budget Change Proposal (BCP) process in which requests are made for new position authorization. For fiscal year 2014/15, 60 new positions were authorized by the Legislature for the Water Boards. The San Diego Water Board received 1 (one) position to augment existing dredge and fill work.

The Practical Vision values stewardship, transparency, communication and leadership. Combining this ethos with the high priority projects identified by the Executive Officer and vetted at the April 2015 board meeting, presents a challenging opportunity to assign sufficient resources for the work most important to advancing the mission of the San Diego Water Board. Three important challenges exist that are not directly supported in the Water Board's budget:

1. Developing, adopting and implementing waste discharge requirements for irrigated lands;
2. Advancing the restoration of wetlands to realize a net-gain in both acres and value; and
3. Addressing the trash, sediment, and water quality issues from binational discharges in the Tijuana River Valley through leadership of stakeholders in the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team.

These projects present opportunities to improve water quality in both a protective and reasonable manner. They are more fully described in *Priority Opportunities for the San Diego Water Board* (Supporting Document No. 2).

Despite the shortfall of adequate, dedicated resources, work does continue in the three areas above. As a result, however, work in other areas that share the same pool of resources has slowed down. Areas of work that have slowed include the following:

1. Review and amendment of waste discharge requirements;
2. Issuance of new waste discharge requirement;
3. Issuance of Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certifications;

4. Traditional Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development;
5. Inspections and follow up compliance; and
6. Updates to the Basin Plan to reflect current policies and regulations (including but not limited to Basin Plan Amendments for Salt and Nutrient Management Plans).

The San Diego Water Board Executive Officer and the Board Members will continue to seek ways to augment existing resources. The BCP process will remain a high priority each year. Other opportunities for partnerships and ways to leverage existing resources will be explored.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SUPPORTING DOCS: 1. Tentative Resolution No. R9-2015-0085

- a. Including Attachment 1
  - i. *Practical Vision Projects*
  - ii. *Core Program Projects and Operational Plan Commitments*

2. Staff Report – *Priority Opportunities for the San Diego Water Board* (June 2015)

PUBLIC NOTICE: On June 2, 2015 a Notice of Public Meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board's web site.