

**REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
MARCH 13, 2019**

ITEM 7

SUBJECT

Ocean Discovery Institute update. (*Henry Abarbanel*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item only.

KEY ISSUES

Today, many young people in our country live in poverty and lack opportunities to succeed. One of the opportunities that is glaringly absent is access to rigorous science education. Because of this, kids who grow up in underserved communities don't believe science is something they can do or that a scientist is someone they can be. This means that we are missing the chance for great discoveries by not including all young people.

Ocean Discovery Institute has a solution. By providing continuous science opportunities, paired with mentoring and the tools to overcome challenges – young people unlock their potential.

PRACTICAL VISION

Chapter 4 of the Practical Vision, *Proactive Public Outreach and Communication*, includes a project to develop an Outreach Strategy that includes traditional communication mechanisms as well as the concepts of community outreach, enhanced communication, enhanced public participation, and collaboration with partners.

As a learning organization, good communication not only allows our stakeholders to work with us to accomplish our goal of healthy waters, but it also leads directly to trust and transparency. Part of that communication is providing opportunities for community and educational organizations in our Region to inform and update the Board regarding their goals, aspirations, and progress.

DISCUSSION

Today, Ocean Discovery reaches 6,000 students in San Diego, CA. They provide tuition-free opportunities – in and out of the classroom. In California, a State that ranks second to last in science test scores, Ocean Discovery's in-school programs participants increase their science knowledge by 30 percent. Against a backdrop in which less than 10 percent of low-income, first-generation college students earn a degree, 70 percent of their after-school participants earn a college degree within six years.

Ocean Discovery students defy the odds.

Their students believe that a scientist is someone they can be. They think critically and they achieve because of it. They enter the fields of biotech, engineering, environmental consulting, fisheries, marine biology, education, and public policy. They are committed to making a difference.

More information can be found at their information video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xng1Kqp-gM8&t=2s>.

LEGAL CONCERNS

None.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Meeting Notice and Agenda for today's meeting was posted on the Board's website and sent to those who subscribed to the email list for Board Meetings

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None.