

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
September 11, 2019**

**ITEM 5**

**SUBJECT**

Informational Item: Update on Current Research by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). (David Barker)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

This is an informational item and the Board will not take an action.

**KEY ISSUE**

SCCWRP staff will provide the Board with an overview on the status of SCCWRP research on a variety of projects currently being worked on to improve management of aquatic systems in Southern California and beyond.

**PRACTICAL VISION**

San Diego Water Board engagement in the research being conducted by SCCWRP supports the Practical Vision<sup>1</sup>, by increasing the Board's expertise in the application of new technological approaches that are allowing advances in the efficiency, precision and reach of water quality management strategies and tools.

**DISCUSSION**

SCCWRP is a public research agency<sup>2</sup> that develops and applies next-generation science to improve management of aquatic systems in Southern California and beyond. Since its founding in 1969, SCCWRP has been developing strategies, tools and technologies that the region's water-quality management community relies on to more effectively protect and enhance the ecological health of Southern California's coastal ocean and watersheds.

SCCWRP annually prepares a Research Plan Executive Summary<sup>3</sup> to convey the broad thematic areas around which SCCWRP's research is focused, and to provide an overview of the major projects being worked on to advance those thematic areas. SCCWRP's presentation will include comments on a variety of research projects currently underway including:

1. Pinpointing sources of fecal contamination;
2. Rapid microbiological testing methods for measuring recreational water quality;
3. Antibiotic resistant bacteria in sewage effluent;
4. Causal assessment of biological health in streams;

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<sup>1</sup> The San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision is available at this website:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/practical\\_vision/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/)

<sup>2</sup> SCCWRP is governed by a 14-member board known as the SCCWRP Commission. The Commission is made up of senior managers from Southern California's largest wastewater treatment agencies, stormwater management agencies and water-quality regulatory agencies including the San Diego Water Board. The Commission represents the preeminent group of public agencies responsible for protecting Southern California's coastal ocean and the watersheds that drain to it.

<sup>3</sup> The Research Plan Executive Summary is available on the SCCWRP website at  
<http://www.sccwrp.org/about/research-areas/research-plan/>

5. Evaluating resiliency of coastal wetlands to sea level rise;
6. Assessing storm water best management practices (BMPs) effectiveness; and
7. Ocean model for predicting effects of ocean acidification and hypoxia.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This item was publicly noticed in the Meeting Notice and Agenda for the September 11, 2019 meeting. The Meeting Notice and Agenda was posted on the Board's website and sent to those who subscribed to the email list for Board Meetings.