

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
DECEMBER 8, 2020**

ITEM 9

SUBJECT

Basin Plan Amendment: Consideration of a Proposed Resolution Adopting an Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin to Incorporate a Water Quality Objective for Biological Condition, Including Staff Report with Substitute Environmental Documentation (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2020-0234). (Chad Loflen)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of Tentative Resolution R9-2020-0234.

KEY ISSUES

The public hearing portion of this item was closed on November 18, 2020. The Board will deliberate and vote on this item during this meeting. If revisions are proposed to the November 18, 2020 hearing materials, the Board may allow limited oral comment related only to the revisions.

Key issues raised during the November 18, 2020 public hearing include:

1. Whether the proposed numerical objective could reasonably be achieved over time in all applicable soft-bottom modified channels.
2. Whether municipal agencies would be responsible for physical habitat restoration in channelized streams even if they comply with their discharge permit requirements.

PRACTICAL VISION

The Practical Vision rests on the ability to realize environmental outcomes from our actions. Biological water quality objectives are necessary to adequately evaluate, protect, and restore beneficial uses of water for aquatic ecosystems. The proposed numerical biological water quality objective for perennial and seasonal streams uses the best available science to produce accurate measurement of stream biological integrity for the region and provides a clear numerical threshold for the protection and restoration of beneficial uses. Implementation by the regulated community to achieve the proposed objective can be achieved with reasonable planning and management practices similar to those used for existing waste discharge requirements to achieve other water quality objectives. And having an objective that reflects actual biological integrity promotes the transparency and stewardship values of the Practical Vision.

DISCUSSION

Please see the Discussion section of the Executive Officer Summary Report provided for the November 18, 2020 item.¹ If San Diego Water Board staff propose any revisions to the materials presented at the November 18, 2020 hearing, the proposed revisions will be made available by e-mail notification to the Lyrus distribution list and provided on the San Diego Water Board website in advance of the December 8 meeting.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

N/A

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING

Notification of the November 18, 2020 public hearing was sent to known interested parties on October 2, 2020, via email subscription lists. Notice was also posted on the San Diego Water Board web page and published in local newspapers in San Diego, Riverside, and Orange Counties. At the November 18, 2020 public hearing, Chair Abarbanel announced that Board action on this item would be continued to the December 8, 2020 Board meeting. Notification of the Board's action today was also sent to known interested parties on November 23, 2020, via email subscription lists.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. November 2020 Executive Officer Summary Report for Item No. 9

¹ All previously provided documents related to the November 18, 2020 hearing are located on the following webpage:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_info/agendas/2020/nov/