

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
AUGUST 11, 2021**

ITEM 6

SUBJECT

Proyecto Fronterizo de Educación Ambiental (PFEA) Binational Coastal Water Quality Monitoring Lab and Data. (*David Gibson*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational item only; no recommendation.

KEY ISSUE

This item is an opportunity for the San Diego Water Board and members of the public to hear from PFEA regarding border coastal water quality conditions.

PRACTICAL VISION

Chapter 4 of the Practical Vision, *Proactive Public Outreach and Communication* is focused on implementing the core values of leadership, communication and transparency. This item provides an excellent opportunity for the Board and the public to learn from PFEA regarding their water quality monitoring of the beaches in Tijuana and the steps they are taking to improve it.

DISCUSSION

Proyecto Fronterizo de Educacion Ambiental (PFEA) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1991, dedicated to influencing environmental policy and involving the community in actions that raise awareness and protect the integrity of coastal and riverine ecosystems of Tijuana.

PFEA's Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program has collected seven years of coastal water quality data for Tijuana beaches (attachment). PFEA is addressing the challenge of regional and cross-border environmental water quality issues and seeking to raise awareness across the border communities. Their primary concern is that polluted waters disproportionately affect the most vulnerable populations, who constitute most beachgoers in Tijuana.

Currently, PFEA is improving its capacity to perform water quality analysis using Standard Methods procedures. However, PFEA lacks a quality assurance/quality control certification that can demonstrate their technical abilities. To address this critical need, it is pursuing an ISO/IEC 17025 certification. This is an international standard that enables laboratories to demonstrate that they operate professionally using standardized quality assurance techniques and report valid data from their analyses. If this standard is achieved, PFEA could produce much needed water quality data compatible with the quality assurance standards used by local and state authorities in the border region shared by San Diego and Tijuana. In order to better document and communicate water quality conditions in the shared coastal waters from Rosarito to

Coronado, PFEA would like to ask for the partnership of the Water Board in support of its efforts to pursue certification and funding for additional binational monitoring and assessment.

LEGAL CONCERNS

None.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website and sent to subscribers to the email list for Board meetings. This satisfies the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements to publish the meeting notice and agenda.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None.