

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
DECEMBER 8, 2021**

ITEM 10

SUBJECT

Tentative Resolution Adopting the 2021 Triennial Review of the Basin Plan (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2021-0116). (*Michelle Santillan*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of Tentative Resolution No. R9-2021-0016. (Supporting Document No. 1)

KEY ISSUE

The number of potential Basin Plan amendments far outweigh resources available to update the Basin Plan. Both the large number of amendment projects and the lengthy administrative process required to prepare amendments limit what staff can achieve during each triennial review period. Projected resources available over the next three years are not enough to fully vet and complete all projects on the priority list (Supporting Document No. 2), however staff are working with interested stakeholders to develop additional resources where practicable.

PRACTICAL VISION

The proposed 2021 Triennial Review projects in Supporting Document No. 2 represent the highest priority basin planning items and implement the goals of the [Practical Vision](#) to achieve healthy waters through collaboration, reliance on the latest science, and prioritization of issues and actions.

DISCUSSION

The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses for water bodies in the San Diego Region and establishes water quality objectives and implementation plans to protect those beneficial uses. State and federal laws require periodic review of the Basin Plan. Because federal law requires a review every three years, this Basin Plan review is referred to as the “triennial review.”

The triennial review is the process used to identify revisions to water quality standards and other elements of the Basin Plan. The product of the review is a prioritized list of suggested projects, which may result in Basin Plan revisions, and that serve as the basis of a three-year work plan. The proposed prioritized list of Basin Planning projects is included in the Tentative Resolution and described in more detail in the staff report (Supporting Document No. 2).

Board staff initiated the 2021 triennial review of the Basin Plan on June 18, 2021, by providing a workshop notice and opening a 60-day public solicitation period that ended on August 17, 2021. Staff prepared a preliminary list of proposed Basin Plan projects for consideration and invited the public to comment on the preliminary list and submit their own ideas for potential basin planning projects. The preliminary projects were also presented during a public workshop on July 20, 2021, and a Tribal Summit on August 4, 2021.

Eleven comment letters (Supporting Documents Nos. 4-14) were received from interested stakeholders during the public comment period. A Response to Comments document has been prepared and included as Supporting Document No. 15.

After consideration of public comments from interested persons, staff developed a Staff Report and Prioritized List of Basin Planning projects. Given that the number of potential Basin Plan amendments identified exceeds expected available personnel resources, the prioritized project list is divided into priority categories. Resource allocations are based on a project's priority status, with Priority 1 and 2 projects receiving the highest ranking. Implementation of priority categories 3 and 4 are important, but subject to resource constraints.

The next Basin Plan Review will occur in 2024.

LEGAL CONCERNS

None.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Notice of Public Hearing was sent to interested parties by email and posted on the San Diego Water Board website on October 22, 2021. Additionally, a notice of public hearing was published in the San Diego Union Tribune, the Orange County Register, and the (Riverside) Press-Enterprise on October 22, 2021. 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

1. Tentative Resolution No. R9-2021-0116
2. 2021 Staff Report and Prioritized List of Basin Planning Projects
3. Notice of Public Hearing
4. Comment Letter from Mr. John Odermatt, M.Sc., PG
5. Comment Letter from USEPA
6. Comment Letter from San Diego Coastkeeper
7. Comment Letter from Mr. Barry S. Pulver
8. Comment Letter from Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
9. Comment Letter from Environmental Law Group LLP
10. Comment Letter from the County of San Diego
11. Comment Letter from the City of San Diego
12. Comment Letter from Orange County Public Works
13. Comment Letter from South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA)
14. Comment Letter from Santa Margarita Water District
15. Response to Comments Document