

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
APRIL 12, 2023**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

Public education, outreach, and tracking efforts used by regional municipalities to reduce discharges of bacteria and other pollutants in stormwater and to prevent non-stormwater discharges to protect receiving water quality and support beneficial uses. (*Jessica Taylor*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational item only; no recommendation.

KEY ISSUE

The Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit (Regional MS4 Permit) Copermittees responsible for compliance with the Bacteria Project 1 Twenty Beaches and Creeks Total Maximum Daily Load (Bacteria TMDL) (i.e., Responsible Copermittees) have developed and are implementing public education and outreach programs as required by the Regional MS4 Permit. During the February 2023 San Diego Water Board public workshop on Tentative Time Schedule Order (TSO) R9-2023-0006, Board Member Warren invited the Responsible Copermittees to give a presentation on the success of their Public Education and Outreach Program efforts to control sources of bacteria. To inform the Board, all Regional Municipal Stormwater Copermittees will present information regarding their public education and outreach programs' successes and challenges to effectively control pollutants in stormwater. Riverside County Copermittees will join in this presentation but are not Responsible Permittees to comply with Bacteria TMDL.

PRACTICAL VISION

Chapter 8 of the 2021 Practical Vision¹: Provide Effective Community Engagement and Communication, is focused on implementing the core values of leadership, communication, and transparency. This item provides an opportunity for the San Diego Water Board and the public to learn about public education, outreach, and tracking efforts implemented by the Regional MS4 Copermittees to reduce or eliminate pollutants in stormwater and non-stormwater to protect beneficial uses and specifically control sources of bacteria as a means to comply with the Bacteria TMDL.

DISCUSSION

The San Diego Water Board regulates discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems in the San Diego region under the Regional MS4 Permit. The Regional MS4 Permit includes Provision E.7, Public Education and Participation requirements. Provision E.7 requires that each Copermittee implement, individually or with other permittees, a public education and participation program to promote and encourage the development of programs, management practices, and behaviors that reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater, prevent controllable non-stormwater discharges from entering the MS4,

¹ [Practical Vision | San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board](#)

and protect water quality standards in receiving waters. Included below are some of the Public Education and Outreach Programs for stormwater pollutant control in the San Diego Region:

The Riverside County Watershed Protection Program is a partnership of 27 cities, the County of Riverside, the Coachella Valley Water District, and the Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District which manages the Program Watershed Protection Program.

<https://rcwatershed.org/>

H2OC Stormwater Management Program is a cooperative stormwater program which includes the County of Orange, the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD), and all 34 cities in Orange County.

<https://h2oc.org/>

The County of San Diego's Watershed Protection Program offers educational handouts and training videos as a resource on how to implement best management practices for specific pollutant generating activities.

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds.html>

Think Blue San Diego is the City of San Diego's primary source of outreach in the San Diego Region. Think Blue San Diego seeks to educate residents, businesses, and industry about the causes of storm water pollution and about pollution prevention behaviors that can help improve water quality.

<https://www.thinkblue.org/>

The Port of San Diego's award-winning Environmental Education Program (EEP) was developed as a pro-active way to educate students, teachers, and community members about pollution prevention, environmental championship, healthy ecosystems, and natural resources connected with the San Diego Bay.

<https://www.portofsandiego.org/environment/environmental-conservation/environmental-education-community-outreach>

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.