

State of California  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
August 12, 2015

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Information Item: San Diego Bay Habitats and Ecosystems (*Bruce Posthumus*)

PURPOSE: To provide Board members with information about:  
(a) the importance, characteristics, and condition of San Diego Bay habitats and ecosystems;  
and  
(b) protection and restoration of San Diego Bay habitats and ecosystems.

RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item; since there will not be a Board action on this item at today's meeting, there are no recommendations at this time.

KEY ISSUES: None

PRACTICAL VISION: This information item is directly related to implementation of the Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay, which the Board endorsed at its June 24, 2015 meeting. Implementation of that strategy is a key part of implementation of Practical Vision Chapter 1 (Strategizing for Healthy Waters) and Chapter 2 (Monitoring and Assessment).

This information item is also directly related to implementation of the Resolution to Support Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems in the San Diego Region (Resolution No. R9-2015-0041), which the Board adopted at its June 24, 2015 meeting. Implementation of that resolution is a key part of implementation of Practical Vision Chapter 1 (Strategizing for Healthy Waters) and Chapter 3 (Recovery of Stream, Wetlands, and Riparian Systems).

DISCUSSION:

As outlined in the Board's Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay, San Diego Bay can be considered healthy to the degree that:

- Bay water quality is suitable for recreational activities;
- Bay fish and shellfish are safe to eat; and
- Bay habitats and ecosystems are healthy.

This information item has to do with the third of these three aspects of the health of San Diego Bay; an information item about the second aspect was part of the August 13, 2014 Board meeting (item #8).

In order to make strategic and effective use of limited staff, funding, and other resources (in keeping with Practical Vision Chapter 1), it will be important to consider the following questions, among others:

1. Are San Diego Bay habitats and ecosystems healthy?
2. What things are most important to do to protect and restore San Diego Bay habitats and ecosystems?
3. What things are most important for the San Diego Water Board to do to protect and restore San Diego Bay habitats and ecosystems?

Invited speakers from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Bill Paznokas), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Andy Yuen), and National Marine Fisheries Service (Bryant Chesney) will make presentations and participate in a panel discussion. There will also be an opportunity for interested parties to address the Board.

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

None

PUBLIC NOTICE:

The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the Board's website and sent to those subscribed to the Email list for Board meetings.

Notification about this information item was sent to those subscribed to the Email list for "Healthy Waters: San Diego Bay."