

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
August 10, 2016

ITEM:	9
SUBJECT:	Information Item: Update on Progress to Develop the Water Quality Improvement Plan for the South Orange County Watershed Management Area (San Juan Hydrologic Unit) (<i>Erica Ryan</i>)
PURPOSE:	To provide information to the San Diego Water Board on progress made by the South Orange County Copermittees ¹ (Copermittees) to develop the South Orange County Watershed Management Area Water Quality Improvement Plan (South Orange County WMA Plan).
RECOMMENDATION:	This is an information item only. No action will be taken by the San Diego Water Board at today's meeting.
KEY ISSUES:	Development of the South Orange County WMA Plan is a key step towards achieving and restoring receiving water beneficial uses in the San Juan Hydrologic Unit because this planning process provides an adaptive management pathway for the Copermittees to select and address the highest priority water quality issues through an iterative process.
PRACTICAL VISION:	The Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permit (Order No. R9-2013-0001, as amended) directly implements several chapters of the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision. Specifically, the development of the South Orange County WMA Plan includes development and implementation of strategies to achieve healthy waters and recovery of stream,

¹ South Orange County Copermittees include County of Orange, Orange County Flood Control District and Cities of Aliso Viejo, Dana Point, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano

wetlands, and riparian ecosystems. These strategies implement an outcome-based approach, with a focus on achieving measureable reductions in MS4 pollutant discharges and improvements in receiving water quality.

DISCUSSION:

The Copermittees have been regulated by the Regional MS4 Permit since April 2015. A map showing the boundaries of these Copermittees and the San Diego Water Board's jurisdiction is provided in **Supporting Document No. 1**.

Provision B of the Regional MS4 Permit requires that the Copermittees develop a South Orange County WMA Plan. Copermittees are to submit the Plan in three separate deliverables: 1) draft priority conditions and potential strategies, 2) draft water quality goals, strategies, and schedules; and 3) a final draft Water Quality Improvement Plan incorporating all required information pursuant to the Regional MS4 Permit. Copermittees submitted the first deliverable, *Draft South Orange County (San Juan Hydrologic Unit) Water Quality Improvement Plan Priority Conditions and Potential Strategies*² on April 1, 2016. The public review and comment period on this first deliverable was completed May 5, 2016. The second deliverable is due by October 1, 2016, and the final draft Water Quality Improvement Plan is due by April 1, 2017.

San Diego Water Board staff participates on the Consultation Panel for the development of the South Orange County WMA Plan. During the January 25, 2016, and March 14, 2016, Consultation Panel meetings San Diego Water Board staff shared experiences gained during the development process of the Water Quality Improvement Plans in San Diego County and provided input to increase transparency and

²Draft South Orange County (San Juan Hydrologic Unit) Water Quality Improvement Plan Priority Conditions and Potential: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/stormwater/wqip.shtml

understanding on what is required in a compliant plan.

During this item the Copermittees will discuss their efforts to develop the South Orange County WMA Plan describing methodologies for determining priorities, important aspects of the Plan, and the process by which they expect to complete the Plan.

South Orange County Copermittees are the second county-wide group of copermittees to go through the development of a Water Quality Improvement Plan. Water Quality Improvement Plans in eight of the nine WMAs in San Diego County have been accepted by the San Diego Water Board Executive Officer and San Diego Copermittees are currently implementing the strategies described in the Plans. The Second Revised Carlsbad WMA Water Quality Improvement Plan was submitted to the San Diego Water Board on June 29, 2016, and is currently available for public review and comment. The public review and comment period ends August 18, 2016.

Riverside County Copermittees³ are the third and final county-wide group to prepare a Water Quality Improvement Plan. They have begun the process to develop their Consultation Panel and are in the initial stages of developing the Santa Margarita River WMA Water Quality Improvement Plan.

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Map of South Orange County Watershed Management Area

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES:

None

³ Riverside County Copermittees include County of Riverside, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the Cities of Murrieta, Temecula, and Wildomar

COMPLIANCE RECORD:

The South Orange County WMA Plan is in development. A determination of compliance with the Regional MS4 Permit has not yet been completed.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was publicly noticed in the Meeting Notice and Agenda for the June 22, 2016, meeting. The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board website and sent to those subscribed to the email list for Board meetings.