

State of California  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
FEBRUARY 14, 2018

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Update on Implementation of the Practical Vision (David Gibson)

PURPOSE: To brief the Board Members on accomplishments and lessons learned from implementing the Practical Vision in 2017, on the Practical Vision Operational Plan for 2018, and to get feedback on regional priorities and goals for 2018.

RECOMMENDATION(S): Adoption of Tentative Resolution No. R9-2018-0013 is recommended.

KEY ISSUES: Identifies significant accomplishments from 2017 (Supporting Document No. 1);  
  
Identifies Practical Vision projects and major Core Regulatory Program projects for 2018 (Attachment 1 to Supporting Document No. 2);  
  
Provides an opportunity for the Board to formally endorse the allocation of staff resources to address the Practical Vision and Core Regulatory Program Projects (Supporting Document No. 2).

PRACTICAL VISION: This item provides a progress report on the fourth year of implementing the Practical Vision. This item also demonstrates the San Diego Water Board values of communication and transparency by reporting in an open meeting our major 2017 accomplishments, our regional priorities and goals for 2018, and the budget that supports our work. Through the Practical Vision, the Board and its staff exercise its leadership and stewardship values both locally and statewide.

DISCUSSION: This item is an opportunity to provide Board Members and the public with a more comprehensive report on the San Diego Water Board's accomplishments and to give Board members an opportunity to provide early input and direction on regional priorities and goals for 2018.

December 2017 saw the end of our fourth full calendar year of implementing the San Diego Water Board's 7-year strategic plan, the Practical Vision. The Practical Vision is a tool for culture change at the San Diego Water Board; the means to achieve healthy waters through a collaborative, outcome-based approach that relies on the latest science, prioritization of issues and actions, and prudent use of authorities in service to the people of California.

Annually, the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards report their principal accomplishments to the State Water Board. The State Water Board Accomplishments Report for 2017 is still under development. Our regional accomplishments are provided in Supporting Document 1.

For 2017, the fourth year of our 7-year strategy, we created a Practical Vision Operations Plan. In it, we carried forward our unfinished projects, added the next set of projects, identified staffing, resources, tasks, and milestones for each project, and tracked our progress through the year. In particular, we merged certain of our Core Regulatory workload (permit renewals, inspections, etc.) with the Practical Vision projects to improve management of the casework while also achieving the Practical Vision goals. In the interests of transparency and context, we are providing the San Diego Water Board's budget allocated by the State Board (Attachment 1 to Supporting Document 2).

Forty-eight projects were included in the 2017 Operations Plan. The Practical Vision projects from 2017 that I will highlight in my oral briefing are:

- Key beneficial uses and key areas
- Commercial Agriculture
- Chollas Water Effect Ratio

During the fourth year of implementing a formal Practical Vision Operations Plan, we continued to improve incorporation of next fiscal year's performances measures used in the California Water Boards' Annual Performance Report in our planning and tracking. The Performance Report for FY15-16 can be found at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about\\_us/performance\\_report\\_1516/index.shtml](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/performance_report_1516/index.shtml)

The 2018 Operational Plan takes this into account by including programmatic work that is linked to performance

targets and other work plan commitments made to the State Water Board that aren't specifically called out in the Practical Vision. This has required an extra degree of prioritizing, planning, and budgeting on the part of your managers to construct the Practical Vision Operations Plan and we are structuring this effort to enhance the Practical Vision and function as force multipliers rather than a "to-do" list. The Practical Vision Operations Plan for 2018 includes 49 projects. Some of the key projects I will present in this item are:

- Development of Biological Objectives
- Tijuana River Border pollution control and restoration
- Next generation monitoring
- Regional storm water permit

**LEGAL CONCERNS:**

None

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

1. Practical Vision and Program Accomplishments for 2017
2. Tentative Resolution R9-2019-0013, with San Diego Water Board Budget for FY17-18

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

This item was publicly noticed in the Meeting Notice and Agenda for the February 14, 2018 meeting.