

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
JUNE 20, 2018**

ITEM 9

SUBJECT

Informational Item: Wetland Restoration/Flood Control Projects within the City of San Diego. (*Eric Becker*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item and the Board will not take an action.

KEY ISSUE

Many of the San Diego Region's aquatic ecosystems, including rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, enclosed bays, and estuaries, are home to sensitive beneficial uses and at-risk species. These aquatic ecosystems provide many services that have exceptional value to society. The structure, function, and biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems in the San Diego Region are threatened and vulnerable to disruption from increasing population growth, land development, sea level rise, and climate change. Proactive, restorative measures are needed to repair the functions, prevent further degradation and increase the resilience of aquatic ecosystems. Given the extent of historical loss and the limited opportunities remaining, restoration of aquatic ecosystems in Southern California is a high priority to increase the pace and ecological effectiveness of aquatic ecosystem recovery.

PRACTICAL VISION

Wetland restoration and flood control is consistent with the Recovery of Stream, Wetlands, and Riparian Systems chapter of the Practical Vision¹. The San Diego Water Board supports aquatic ecosystem restoration efforts that lead to a meaningful net gain in the quantity, quality, and acreage of aquatic resources in the San Diego Region.

DISCUSSION

A potential wetlands restoration effort is being considered in the Mission Valley area of the City of San Diego (City) along Alvarado Creek west of Mission Gorge Road and north of I-8 (**Supporting Document No. 1**). In August 2017, the Grantville Trolley Station/Alvarado Creek Revitalization Study (Study) (**Supporting Document No. 2**) was completed as a collaborative effort between the City of San Diego, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), the surrounding community, and other stakeholders to revitalize a 102-acre area around the Grantville Trolley Station. The Study outlines strategies to better control flooding, improve water quality, increase public access, and support development adjacent to the trolley station. These strategies include proposed changes to Alvarado Creek to restore the floodplain. A representative of the group that developed the Study will provide background and details on the potential water quality benefits and restoration opportunities.

As part of this item the City of San Diego may present information on other wetland restoration opportunities in the City which could play an essential role in the protection, enhancement, and recovery of aquatic system beneficial uses.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This item was publicly noticed in the Meeting Notice and Agenda for the June 20, 2018 meeting.

¹ The Practical Vision document is available on the San Diego Water Board website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/Practical_Vision/index.shtml

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Grantville Revitalization Study Area Map
2. Grantville Trolley Station/Alvarado Creek Revitalization Study