

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
AUGUST 14, 2019**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

Informational Item: Annual Update on the Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay
(*Wayne Chiu and John Anderson*).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational item only; no recommendation.

KEY ISSUES

To protect and restore the health of San Diego Bay, the Board needs to identify and then focus its staff and resources on what is most important. Priorities and goals for a healthy San Diego Bay have been refined based on findings from recent assessments of key beneficial uses. By focusing on priorities, the Board is able to realign work to achieve goals that will improve and restore the key beneficial uses of the Bay.

PRACTICAL VISION

Implementation of the [Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay](#) (Strategy) is an important part of Chapter 1 (Strategizing for Healthy Waters) of the Practical Vision. The Strategy helps the Board focus on the highest priorities and align its work toward achieving the most important goals for San Diego Bay. The Strategy also implements Chapter 2 (Monitoring and Assessment) of the Practical Vision. The Strategy includes developing and implementing a water body oriented monitoring framework for the applicable key beneficial uses for San Diego Bay, which are recreation, fish and shellfish consumption, and habitats and ecosystems.

DISCUSSION

San Diego Bay is a high priority water body in the San Diego region due to its ecological value and because it supports fishing, recreation, tourism, and a variety of maritime, commercial, and military uses. At its June 2015 meeting, the Board endorsed the Strategy, which guides the Board and its staff in the most efficient and effective use of our time and resources when taking actions to protect and restore the health of the Bay.

Since the endorsement of the Strategy, staff has identified the key beneficial uses of the Bay and reviewed available data to assess the conditions of the Bay for the key beneficial uses. The findings from the assessments are being used to inform the Board's priorities, goals, and work to restore and protect the key beneficial uses of the Bay.

Restoring the fish and shellfish consumption key beneficial use is a very high priority for San Diego Bay. Advisories have been issued for the Bay because of contaminant levels found in several aquatic species that may be consumed. The advisories recommend limits on the amount of several aquatic species that can be consumed safely for the protection of human health. There are several disadvantaged and environmental justice communities located very close to the Bay. Available data and information indicate members of these communities are consuming fish and shellfish from the Bay on a regular basis, which may

disproportionally impact the health of these communities. Therefore, restoring this key beneficial use is very important for the protection of human health, especially for these disadvantaged and environmental justice communities.

Board staff have started realigning work based on findings from the recent fish and shellfish key beneficial use assessment. This informational item will summarize for the Board the sediment investigation and remediation work the Site Restoration and Groundwater Protection Branch has implemented and is planning to implement to help restore the fish and shellfish consumption key beneficial use. In addition, the Board will be provided an update on the progress being made to develop a unified monitoring program that can provide data about the conditions of the Bay and the effectiveness of Board actions toward the restoration of the fish and shellfish consumption key beneficial use.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Meeting Notice and Agenda for the August 14, 2019 meeting was posted on the Board's website and sent to those who subscribed to the email list for Board Meetings

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None