

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
MARCH 5, 2020**

**ITEM 6c**

**SUBJECT**

Tentative Resolution Adopting Non-Regulatory Updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2020-0036). (Michelle Santillan).

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend adoption of Tentative Resolution No. R9-2020-0036 (Supporting Document No. 1).

**KEY ISSUE**

The proposed changes to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan) add water quality standards that have been previously adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and therefore do not constitute a rule-making update.

**PRACTICAL VISION**

This project advances the goals of the Practical Vision in support of Chapter 4, Proactive Outreach and Communication. The proposed updates increase the readability of the Basin Plan and help effectively communicate regional and statewide plans, policies, and regulations.

**DISCUSSION**

The Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Region (Basin Plan) designates uses for water bodies in the San Diego Region and establishes water quality objectives, policies, and implementation plans to protect those beneficial uses. State and federal laws require periodic review of the Basin Plan. Because federal law requires review every three years, the Basin Plan review is also referred to as the “triennial review.”

The Basin Plan triennial review workplan adopted by the San Diego Water Board in October 2018 directed staff to complete two projects that required editorial, non-regulatory changes to the Basin Plan (see Projects 3 and 6 in the [2018 Staff Report and Prioritized List](#)). The proposed Basin Plan amendment focuses on non-regulatory changes to Chapters 2, 3, and 4 of the Basin Plan. Some of the changes include:

- An update of the Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance (BIOL) Beneficial Use;
- Incorporation of three new beneficial uses for Tribal Traditional Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB);
- An update of references to statewide plans and policies;
- Incorporation of newly adopted statewide bacteria water quality objectives; and

- General formatting changes that improve overall readability.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The proposed updates to Chapters 2, 3, and 4 (Supporting Documents 2-4) to the Basin Plan and Staff Report (Supporting Document No. 5) were made available to the public for review on December 5, 2019. Interested persons had an opportunity to submit written comments during a 47-day comment period which extended from December 5, 2019 through January 21, 2020 (Supporting Document No. 6). The San Diego Water Board received one comment letter from the County of San Diego on January 21, 2020 (Supporting Document No. 7). A Response to Comments Document is provided as Supporting Document No. 8. The Response to Comments Document contains San Diego Water Board responses to all timely received comments and describes actions taken to revise the Tentative Resolution in response to the comments.

This item was also publicly noticed in the Meeting Notice and Agenda for the March 5, 2020, San Diego Water Board meeting. The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board website and sent to subscribers to the Board meetings email list.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

1. Tentative Resolution No. R9-2020-0036
2. Proposed Chapter 2 Basin Plan Updates
3. Proposed Chapter 3 Basin Plan Updates
4. Proposed Chapter 4 Basin Plan Updates
5. Staff Report
6. Notice of Public Solicitation
7. County of San Diego letter dated January 21, 2020 with 4 attachments
8. Response to Comments Document