

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

SAN DIEGO REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R9-2021-0162

**SUPPORTING AN ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE PRACTICAL
VISION AND OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022**

WHEREAS:

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) staff developed a Practical Vision to guide efforts toward addressing the highest priority projects.
2. The San Diego Water Board endorsed the Practical Vision in November 2013 through adoption of Resolution No. R9-2013-0153.
3. The Practical Vision identifies 40 projects in 7 areas for development over the 7-year period, beginning in Calendar Year (CY) 2014.
4. The Operational Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (FY 21-22) commits to advancing 41 projects, including Practical Vision and core program projects (Attachment 1 - Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operational Plan Projects).
5. Projects included in the FY 21-22 Operational Plan were selected considering the Key Beneficial Uses and Areas established in San Diego Water Board Resolution No. R9-2017-0030¹ and guidance from the Priority Setting Team that was established as proposed in Project 2 of Practical Vision Chapter 1, *Strategizing for Healthy Waters*.²
6. The Operational Plan commits 22 percent of available staff resources to Practical Vision and core program projects in fiscal year 21-22 (Attachment 1).
7. Section 13168 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act states that “[t]he state board shall allocate to the regional boards from funds appropriated to the state board such part thereof as may be necessary for the administrative expenses of such boards. The regional boards shall submit annual budgets to the state board.”
8. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has final allocation authority on the distribution of most staffing resources throughout the State and

¹ San Diego Water Board Resolution No. R9-2017-0030 can be accessed electronically at the following webpage: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/key_areas/

² San Diego Water Board Practical Vision Chapter 1, *Strategizing for Healthy Waters*, can be accessed electronically at the following webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/docs/PV_1_Strategizing_for_Healthy_Waters_Dec2013.pdf

Regional Water Boards. State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0061 delegates the authority to conduct and supervise the activities of the State Water Board to the Executive Director of the State Water Board. Subject to the direction of the State Water Board, the Executive Director oversees and approves the State Water Board's day-to-day budgeting and staff allocation. Occasionally, statutory requirements (such as Water Code section 13260, subdivision (d)(2)(B)), the State budget and/or the Governor will directly specify the board(s) that will be assigned additional resources.

9. The San Diego Water Board is allocated 68 Personnel Years of staffing resources in FY 21-22, with an annual budget of \$16,312,060.
10. Regional Water Board budgets are allotted in programmatic areas, making it difficult for the San Diego Water Board to link budget dollars to the desired outcomes of the Practical Vision. The annual Operational Plan represents an effort to enrich budget and performance integration. The State Water Board initiated efforts to evaluate the fees collected, Water Board expenditures, and align Water Board resources, priorities, and workload outputs statewide through the [Resource Alignment Project](#).
11. The State and Regional Water Boards annually engage in a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) process to recommend new positions for legislative authorization.
12. The Practical Vision and Operational Plan identify goals and actions that are critical to the success of the mission of the San Diego Water Board. In doing so, they also identify critical underfunded needs to achieve those goals. The most critical Fiscal Year 21-22 Operational Plan projects without sufficient funding continue to be the cleanup and restoration of the Tijuana River Valley, regulation of irrigated lands, restoration of wetlands, and public engagement (especially efforts involving Tribal Nations, environmental justice, and underrepresented communities). Each of these projects require a sustained level of effort over multiple years to achieve their goals. The most essential and long-term work for achieving success of the Practical Vision includes leveraging community-based partnerships to generate engagement and collaboration.
13. The level of effort dedicated in the Practical Vision Projects of the Operational Plan is a minimum effort and tenuous. Should higher priority work demand, the level of effort on these projects would necessarily decrease, if not stop altogether. The core work of the San Diego Water Board remains a priority. Should major adjustments to the Operational Plan become necessary, they will be discussed in the monthly Executive Officer's Report.
14. During FY 20-21 the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic resulted in all San Diego Water Board staff transitioning to full-time telework, a redirection of 5% of Board staff to assist with COVID-19 contact tracking and tracing, and a 9.23% reduction in staff hours. While staff hours have been restored and all but one of our contact tracing staff have returned, there is still uncertainty about how the pandemic may affect the timing and completion of some of the listed priorities and projects moving forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The San Diego Water Board endorses the use of an Operational Plan to implement the Practical Vision to prioritize work. Attachment 1 lists the staff resources necessary to implement the Practical Vision and the board's priorities, while continuing to meet core regulatory requirements.
2. The San Diego Water Board endorses aligning staff resources with its priorities in order to advance both the highest priority Practical Vision projects and the core programmatic work.
3. Board Members request the Executive Officer continue to explore all available resources in order to move forward high priority projects, including but not limited to advancing the regulation of irrigated lands, the restoration of wetlands, and the full engagement of interested persons. The Executive Officer should coordinate these efforts with the State Water Board's [Resource Alignment Project](#) as appropriate, and continue to work within the BCP process.
4. Board Members will also seek ways to augment the efforts of the Executive Officer to implement the Practical Vision such as exploring opportunities for partnerships and ways to leverage existing resources and statewide or multi-regional efforts.

I, David W. Gibson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, on August 11, 2021.

TENTATIVE

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer