

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

The water resource protection efforts of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the regional water quality control boards (RWQCBs) are guided by a five year **Strategic Plan** (which was updated in 1997). A key component of the **Strategic Plan** is a watershed management approach for water resources protection.

To protect water resources, point and nonpoint source discharges, ground and surface water interactions, and water quality / water quantity relationships must be considered within a watershed context. These complex relationships present considerable challenges to water resource protection programs. The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB), the other eight RWQCBs, and the SWRCB are responding to these challenges with the Watershed Management Initiative (WMI). The WMI is designed to integrate various surface and ground water regulatory programs while promoting cooperative, collaborative efforts within a watershed. It is also designed to focus limited resources on key issues.

Past SWRCB and RWQCB programs tended to focus on point sources of pollutants. This approach was reasonably effective insofar as water quality and beneficial use problems were attributable to pollution from point sources. However, the diffuse nature of nonpoint sources of pollutants necessitates a new regulatory strategy. The WMI uses a strategy to draw solutions from all interested parties within a watershed and to more effectively coordinate and implement measures to control both point and nonpoint sources.

This document, the **Watershed Management Approach for the San Diego Region**, is also referred to as the **SDRWQCB Watershed Management Chapter** or **SDRWQCB WMI Chapter**. Each RWQCB updates its WMI Chapter annually. The combined WMI Chapters of all nine RWQCBs (as well as that of the SWRCB, if/when the SWRCB updates its WMI Chapter) constitute the **Integrated Plan for Implementation of the WMI**.

The San Diego Region

The San Diego Region is located in the southwestern corner of California. Most of San Diego County and parts of Orange County and Riverside County are located within the region. The population of the region is, for the most part, concentrated near the coast. The region's natural water resources, which include coastal waters, inland surface waters, and ground waters, have a variety of beneficial uses. Most water supplied for domestic and municipal uses is imported. The region includes a number of relatively small watersheds, all of which drain to the Pacific Ocean or contiguous coastal waters. The region's hydrologic divisions are identified in **Table 1** and shown in **Figure 1**. For purposes of watershed management, the region has been divided into nine watershed

management areas. Features of these watershed management areas are identified in **Table 2** and described in **Appendix A**.

San Diego Region Water Quality / Beneficial Use Problems

Controls on discharges of wastes and pollutants have reduced or eliminated many water quality and beneficial use problems and threats in the region. Nevertheless, many such problems and threats remain. These problems and threats and typical sources and causes and stressors are summarized in **Tables 8 through 11**. Past water quality / beneficial use protection efforts have often focused on sources and causes other than those which are responsible for the current problems and threats. As **Table 11** suggests, some problems and threats are widespread, while others are conspicuous only in certain watershed management areas.

SDRWQCB Programs and Resources

Resources are typically allocated to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) for specific programs. In many cases, these programs, which are described in **Table 3**, are directed towards addressing a particular type of pollutant source and/or a particular type of receiving water. The SDRWQCB is obligated to use the resources available to it in accordance with the legal mandates, program requirements, and the conditions attached to funding sources. Unfortunately, resources allocated to various programs do not necessarily correspond to actual water quality or beneficial use problems or threats or to the level of effort necessary to address those problems or threats.

SDRWQCB Watershed Management Approach

The **Watershed Management Approach for the San Diego Region** is intended to ensure that, within the constraints mentioned above, available resources are efficiently used to effectively address current water quality problems and threats, regardless of their sources or causes. In order to accomplish this, the SDRWQCB is defining water quality / beneficial use goals, identifying and prioritizing problems and threats and their sources and causes, attempting to concentrate efforts on certain activities in certain watershed management areas, involving interested parties, coordinating with other agencies, pursuing non-regulatory (as well as regulatory) approaches, integrating programs, and seeking to obtain additional resources for programs and activities that are critical to addressing current problems and threats.

Information Sources

Additional information about SDRWQCB programs and activities may be obtained from the SDRWQCB Internet website at www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9 and the SWRCB Internet website at www.swrcb.ca.gov, by calling the SDRWQCB at (858) 467-2952, or by faxing the SDRWQCB at (858) 571-6972. Information about specific programs and activities may be obtained by contacting the SDRWQCB staff members listed below. (All telephone phone numbers are in area code 858. The CALNET prefix is 734. Phone

numbers and staff assignments are current as of the date of this document but are subject to change.)

<u>PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Basin Planning Program	Deborah Jayne	467-2972
Total Maximum Daily Load Program	Deborah Jayne	467-2972
Water Quality Assessment Program	Deborah Jayne & Linda Pardy & David Gibson & Greig Peters	467-2972 627-3932 467-4387 467-2976
Citizen Monitoring Activities	Linda Pardy	627-3932
NPDES Program (waste water) <i>(as related to sewage treatment plants)</i>	Brian Kelly	467-4254
Non Chapter 15 Program <i>(as related to sewage treatment plants)</i>	Brian Kelly	467-4254
NPDES Program (waste water) <i>(as related to industrial sources)</i>	John Phillips	627-3928
Non Chapter 15 Program <i>(as related to industrial sources)</i>	John Phillips	627-3928
NPDES Program (storm water) <i>(as related to industrial storm water)</i>	John Phillips	627-3928
Pretreatment Program	John Phillips	627-3928
Nonpoint Source Program <i>(northern watersheds*)</i>	Bob Morris	467-2962
NPDES Program (storm water) <i>(as related to municipal storm water)</i> <i>(northern watersheds*)</i>	Bob Morris	467-2962
NPDES Program (storm water) <i>(as related to construction storm water)</i> <i>(northern watersheds*)</i>	Bob Morris	467-2962
Non Chapter 15 Program <i>(as related to sources other than sewage treatment plants and industrial sources)</i> <i>(northern watersheds*)</i>	Bob Morris	467-2962
Water Quality Certification (Wetlands) Program <i>(northern watersheds*)</i>	Bob Morris	467-2962

Nonpoint Source Program <i>(southern watersheds*)</i>	Mark Alpert	467-2963
NPDES Program (storm water) <i>(as related to municipal storm water)</i> <i>(southern watersheds*)</i>	Mark Alpert	467-2963
NPDES Program (storm water) <i>(as related to construction storm water)</i> <i>(southern watersheds*)</i>	Mark Alpert	467-2963
Non Chapter 15 Program <i>(as related to sources other than sewage treatment plants and industrial sources)</i> <i>(southern watersheds*)</i>	Mark Alpert	467-2963
Water Quality Certification (Wetlands) Program <i>(southern watersheds*)</i>	Mark Alpert	467-2963
Chapter 15 Program	John Odermatt	637-5595
SLIC Program	John Anderson	467-2975
Department of Defense Program	John Anderson	467-2975
Underground Tanks Program	Julie Chan	627-3926
Above Ground Tanks Program	Julie Chan	627-3926
San Diego Bay Activities	Pete Michael	467-2990
Nonpoint Source Program <i>(general)</i>	Greig Peters	467-2976
Water Quality Certification (Wetlands) Program <i>(general)</i>	Greig Peters	467-2976
Watershed Management	Bruce Posthumus	467-2964

- * northern watersheds: Hydrologic Units 901, 902, 903 & 904
southern watersheds: Hydrologic Units 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910 & 911