

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
February 8, 2012

ITEM: 11

SUBJECT: Information Item: Update on efforts by the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (David Gibson)

PURPOSE: To describe efforts and plans by the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team. This item also establishes support for items No. 12 and 13.

RECOMMENDATION: None.

KEY ISSUES: None.

DISCUSSION: The Tijuana River Valley (Valley) has a decades-long history of water quality challenges. Both the Tijuana River and the Tijuana Estuary are listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list for impairments from numerous pollutants including sedimentation/siltation, solids, turbidity and trash. Excessive sedimentation and trash from both sides of the border have significantly degraded the quality of water, property, and life for residents and visitors of the Valley.

Restoring the Valley from sediment and trash impairments and attaining designated beneficial uses is a high priority for the San Diego Water Board. However, two-thirds of the watershed is in Mexico and contributes a substantial amount of the sediment and trash in the Valley. Work on a sediment and trash TMDL has been suspended in favor of a collaborative, bi-national, stakeholder effort known as the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (Recovery Team) under leadership of the San Diego Water Board's Executive Officer. The Recovery Team was formed in 2008, and its members have since secured significant funding for projects to address water quality impairments. A list of source control projects initiated in Mexico is provided as Supporting Document No. 1. In 2011 the Recovery Team produced a Recovery Strategy that will drive efforts to restore the Valley's beneficial uses. If successful, the Recovery Team's efforts may obviate the need for traditional TMDL development in the Valley.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: 1. Summary of source control projects in Mexico.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice was provided in the agenda for the February 8, 2012 Board Meeting, which was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website on January 18, 2012.