

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
February 12, 2020**

ITEM 7

SUBJECT

Consideration of Tentative Resolution No. R9-2020-0012, a Resolution approving an update to Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 305(b) Report to identify high quality waters of the State (Carey Nagoda).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of Tentative Resolution No. R9-2020-0012 (Tentative Resolution, **Supporting Document No. 1**).

KEY ISSUES

If the Tentative Resolution is approved, the 2018 Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 305(b) "Off-cycle" Report (Off-cycle Report) for the San Diego Region (**Supporting Document No. 2**) will include the addition of 24 streams and stream segments to the list of those in the Region that are supporting or partially supporting the WARM and/or COLD Beneficial Use.

PRACTICAL VISION

The Off-cycle Report is consistent with Chapters 1-3 of the Practical Vision. Biological data were assessed using an established performance metric (the California Stream Condition Index), which provides a meaningful evaluation for identifying waterbodies where aquatic life Beneficial Uses are supported or partially supported. This information will help strategize protection of high quality streams.

DISCUSSION

CWA section 305(b) requires each State to report biennially to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on the water quality conditions of its waters, and CWA 303(d) requires each State to report biennially to the USEPA a list of water bodies that are impaired or threatened. CWA 305(b) and 303(d) reports are typically combined into an "Integrated Report," which is released in cycles every two years in California and includes information regarding three of the nine Regional Water Boards per cycle. The San Diego Water Board is currently off-cycle for the 2018 Integrated Report but chose to conduct assessments on readily-available biological data because the previous Region 9 on-cycle (2016) Integrated Report did not include recent biological assessment (bioassessment) data.

As a result of the 2018 off-cycle assessments, the tentative Resolution proposes additions to the 305(b) Report for streams and stream segments where bioassessment data indicates the WARM and/or COLD Beneficial Use are being supported. No impairment listings or de-listings under CWA 303(d) are proposed. Recommended additions to the 305(b) Report include identifying 17 streams and stream segments as "Category 1" (at least one core beneficial use is supported, and none are known to be impaired) and seven

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as “Partially Supporting” (at least one, but not necessarily all, core beneficial use is supported).

The San Diego Water Board is on-cycle for the 2020 Integrated Report (data solicitation ended on June 14, 2019), when a more comprehensive assessment will be conducted and result in updates to both the section 305(b) and 303(d) Reports.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The San Diego Water Board provided a notice on November 22, 2019, of its intent to convene a public meeting at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 12, 2020. The notice included a 31-day opportunity for the public to comment on draft recommendations for the 2018 “Off-cycle” 305(b) Report (**Supporting Document No. 3**). No comments were received during the public comment period.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Tentative Resolution No. R9-2020-0012
2. CWA Section 305(b) 2018 “Off-cycle” Report
3. Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period