

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

Triennial Review High-Priority List Work Plan Fiscal Years 2024-2027

August 15, 2024



INTRODUCTION

The [Santa Ana Region](#) encompasses parts of southwestern San Bernardino County, western Riverside County, and northwestern Orange County. The [Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin](#) (Basin Plan) contains the basis for the Santa Ana Region's regulatory programs. The Basin Plan prescribes water quality standards for surface and ground waters in the region. Water quality standards as used in the federal Clean Water Act, include both the beneficial uses of specific waterbodies and the levels of water quality that must be met and maintained to protect those uses. The Basin Plan includes implementation plans/programs describing the actions by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board), necessary to achieve and maintain the water quality standards and protect designated beneficial uses.

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code section 13240) and the Clean Water Act both mandate the periodic review of basin plan(s) and the water quality standards contained therein. The purpose of the triennial review is to identify necessary updates and revisions to water quality standards to protect beneficial uses and other regulatory elements of the Basin Plan. Updates and revisions may be necessary due to changes in law, regulation, or policies, new/revised water quality criteria, or physical changes in the region, to name a few. The triennial review assists in identifying potential priority issues to address through subsequent Basin Plan amendment projects. These Basin Plan amendment projects are referred to as the Triennial Review High-Priority List.

Santa Ana Water Board staff developed a prioritized list of Basin Plan amendment projects to pursue during the upcoming three-year period. The Triennial Review High-Priority List provides prioritization based on multiple factors, including but not limited to Santa Ana Water Board's stated priorities, optimum use of available resources, stakeholder input, and anticipated project completion time. This work plan provides information about estimated project completion by fiscal year, and staff resources to complete the projects. The proposed priorities and schedules also reflect work that is already underway.

Triennial Review Work Plan High-Priority List

Project Number	Project	Estimated Fiscal Year ¹ Completion ²	Estimated Staff Resources Required	Stakeholder Assistance/ Program Staff
1.	Complete the Copper Total Maximum Daily Loads for Newport Bay	2024/2025	1 PY ³	TMDL ⁴ Staff
2.	Complete a Basin Plan Amendment to Revise the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Loads	2025/2026	1 PY	LE/CL ⁵ TMDL Taskforce/ TMDL Staff
3	Complete a Basin Plan Amendment for the Wet Winter Conditions Compliance Date Extension for the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Loads	2025/2026	1 PY	MSAR ⁶ TMDL Task Force/ TDML Staff
4.	Consider Separating the Shellfish Harvesting and Water Contact Recreation Uses from the Newport Bay Fecal Coliform Total Maximum Daily Loads	2026/2027	3 PY	OC TMDL Funding Partners ⁷ TMDL Task Force/ TMDL Staff
5.	Complete a Basin Plan Amendment to Incorporate all Statewide Objectives and other Statewide Plans and Policies	2025/2026	1 PY	Basin Planning Staff

¹ State Fiscal Year July 1st - June 30th

² Includes Regional Board, State Water Resources Control Board, USEPA, and Office of Administrative Law approval

³ Personnel Year = 2,080 hours

⁴ TMDL= Total Maximum Daily Loads

⁵ Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force

⁶ Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force

⁷ Orange County TMDL Funding Partners and Newport Bay Watershed Management Committee

Tentative Resolution R8-2024-0054
 Triennial Review High-Priority List Work Plan– Fiscal Years 2024-2027
 Attachment A

Project Number	Project	Estimated Fiscal Year ¹ Completion ²	Estimated Staff Resources Required	Stakeholder Assistance/ Program Staff
6.	Complete a Basin Plan Amendment to Revise and Clarify the Compliance with Salinity Objectives for Santa Ana River Reaches and Update the Frequency of Ambient Water Computation for Groundwater Management Zones with Maximum Benefit Program	2025/2026	1 PY	Basin Monitoring Program Task Force/ Basin Planning Staff
7.	Update the Total Dissolved Solids/Nitrogen Salt Management Plan for the Chino Basin Groundwater Management Zones	2026/2027	2 PY	Basin Monitoring Task Force/ Basin Planning Staff
8.	Consider Designation of the Commercial and Sport Fishing Beneficial Use	2026/2027	1 PY	Basin Planning Staff
9.	Consider Designation of the Tribal Tradition and Culture and Tribal Subsistence Fishing Beneficial Uses	2026/2027	1 PY	Basin Planning Staff
10.	Consider Reinstating the Minimum Lot Size Requirements for New Developments Using On-Site Septic Tank-Subsurface Leaching/Percolation Systems	2026/2027	1 PY	Wastewater Staff and Basin Planning Staff
11.	Consider a Site-Specific Objective for Shellfish Harvesting in Newport Bay	2026/2027	2 PY	TMDL Staff
12.	Add Adopted Basin Plan Amendments to the Online Basin Plan	Continuous	0.5 PY	Basin Planning Staff