

San Diego Water Board-Draft  
**2017 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN UPDATED**  
To Improve Water Quality and Quality of Life in  
Environmental Justice Communities

*ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM – INTRODUCTION and PURPOSE*

The San Diego Water Board conducted its first Environmental Justice (EJ) Symposium in the environmental justice community of Barrio Logan, San Diego County on Saturday June 10, 2017.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the Symposium was to provide a unique opportunity for members of our local communities to voice their water quality concerns directly to the Water Board Members. Specifically, the Board was seeking community answers to the following three questions: (1) What are the most important water quality problems and needs in environmental justice communities? (2) What actions could the Water Board (in its traditional or nontraditional role) take to address these problems? and (3) What novel approaches could the Water Board and its partners undertake to support environmental justice communities (including possible legislative proposals and potential funding sources)?

In attendance to listen to members of the communities were all six members of the San Diego Water Board as well as twelve local, State, and federal elected officials; eight in person and four represented by staff members (**Attachment 1**). In total, 121 people attended the day-long “Listening Session”.

Upon review of all written and oral Symposium comments, staff identified the following five problem areas as most important for potential Water Board follow-up actions in 2018 and 2019:

- I. Tijuana River Valley Sewage, Trash and Sediment
- II. Homeless Encampments (and Hepatitis A)
- III. Trash and Dumping / Education and Outreach
- IV. Chollas Creek, Paradise Creek & Wetlands & Canyons Surrounding EJ Communities (South of I-8)
- V. “Other”

This Environmental Justice Action Plan briefly describes each of these five problem areas and recommends specific future actions the Water Board may wish to take to address each problem. Making progress on some or all of these problem areas, will move the San Diego Water Board closer to achieving its ultimate goal with respect to Environmental Justice, namely “to restore and protect waters in underserved areas and by doing so, make a positive difference in the health and lives of the local environmental justice community members”.

*“We too often think of water and air as monetary and forget that they are life itself”*  
Georgette Gomez, San Diego Councilmember, District 9

*“Your issues are our Issues”...Water Board’s message to environmental justice communities*  
Tomas Morales, San Diego Water Board Member

*“We want clean water, air, and soil...like everyone else”*  
Olympia Beltran, EJ Community Member

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<sup>1</sup> The day, time, and location were specifically selected to encourage as much participation from local environmental justice communities as possible. In addition to the listening session, a Water Board Open House was conducted in the adjacent room featuring participating NGO exhibits, a children’s activity station, and refreshments.

## **ACTION PLAN I TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY SEWAGE, TRASH, and SEDIMENT**

### ***PROBLEM***

The most common and passionate issue raised at the Environmental Justice Symposium was the need for the San Diego Water Board to do more to address the continuing cross border flows of sewage, trash, and sediment into the Tijuana River Valley. Although the majority of sewage is now treated to secondary standards on the U.S. side, significant overflows of untreated sewage into the Tijuana River Valley are still common, largely due to failures of Mexican infrastructure or U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (U.S. IBWC) canyon interceptors/collectors. Because of ongoing sewage, trash, and sediment discharges, the health, property, and quality of life of Tijuana River Valley residents is chronically threatened. In addition, adjacent coastal beaches are frequently closed due to bacterial levels greatly exceeding recreational contact standards.

### ***RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO TAKE IN 2018 and 2019***

**1. Provide Update on Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Five Year Action Plan**

Update the Water Board and public on current Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team (TRVRT) efforts and on implementation of its Five Year Action Plan, including the investigation results of significant raw sewage discharges last winter. A comprehensive update was provided by both Board staff and TRVRT members at the Water Board's regularly scheduled meeting on June 21, 2017. Periodic updates will continue to be provided until significant progress is made to end cross border flows of sewage, trash, and sediment.

**2. Conduct Outreach with Elected Officials and South San Diego NGOs at Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve**

Conduct an outreach meeting with elected officials and south San Diego County non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and stakeholders to discuss the problem of cross-border discharges and potential actions to address the problem. An initial outreach meeting for this purpose was conducted on June 15, 2017 at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR) and was attended by representatives of U.S. Senators Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris, U.S. Representative Juan Vargas, State Assembly Members Todd Gloria and Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher and San Diego Councilmember David Alvarez, as well as Executive Officer Gibson, Board Members Warren and Strawn, and seven local NGOs and stakeholders.

**3. Investigate Extent and Magnitude of Contamination Throughout Tijuana River Valley**

Investigate the extent and magnitude of the following in water and sediment throughout the Tijuana River Valley: bacteria/pathogens; toxins; and trash. Make investigation results publically available to inform health warning posting decisions and TMDL development (see recommendation 4 below).

**4. Develop Total Maximum Daily Loads for (1) Pathogens/Contaminated Water and (2) Trash/Solid Waste in Tijuana River Valley Pursuant to Anticipated 2018 Triennial Review Tier 1 Priorities**

In accordance with the anticipated 2018 Triennial Review Tier 1 Priorities,<sup>2</sup> develop and adopt two total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the Tijuana River Valley; one for pathogens/contaminated water; and a second for trash/solid waste. Also develop the tentative Basin Plan Amendment to incorporate the TMDLs into the Basin Plan. Direct virtually all of the Region's TMDL and Basin Planning resources at

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<sup>2</sup> Although the 2018 Triennial Review has not yet begun, based on past priorities, the development of TMDLs for the Tijuana River Valley will likely rank within the Tier 1 Priorities.

the Tijuana River Valley TMDL effort. Establish the target date for Board adoption of the TMDLs and Basin Plan amendment as approximately 18 months following adoption of the Triennial Review workplan.

**5. Refocus Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Efforts**

Refocus the TRVRT on the development and implementation of management measures to be located on the U.S. side of the border. Continue participation with IBWC in the Minute 320 Working Groups tasked with the development of source controls for Mexico and management measures for the U.S. Update the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy and make mid-course corrections to Five Year Action Plan as needed.

**6. Keep Elected Officials Informed on Status of Tijuana River Valley Issues**

Continue and enhance ongoing communication with federal, State, and local elected officials to keep them informed on the current status of sewage, trash, and sediment cross border flows into the Tijuana River Valley. Participate in legislative committee hearings as requested.

## ACTION PLAN II HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS (and HEPATITIS A)

### *PROBLEM*

On September 1, 2017, the San Diego County Public Health Officer declared a local public health emergency due to the ongoing Hepatitis A virus outbreak. As of September 26, 2017, the County reported that the virus killed 17 people, hospitalized 315, and afflicted a total of 461 persons since last fall (**Attachment 3**).<sup>3</sup> The majority, but not all, of the victims have been homeless or illicit drug users. Hepatitis A is a highly contagious virus that causes liver disease and is often, but not always, associated with significant gastro-intestinal symptoms. Hepatitis A can be fatal. Without access to restrooms, homeless persons use sidewalks, public rights of way, and rivers and creeks, etc. as toilets. The virus is spread when a person consumes food or drink that has been contaminated by the feces of an infected person. Experts report that the Hepatitis A virus has a remarkable ability to survive in the environment and for that reason, sanitation and vaccinations are key to turning the tide on the outbreak (**Attachments 4a-4e**).

According to the Union Tribune, the 2017 count of homeless people in San Diego County was 9,116, the fourth largest count in the nation, and a 5 percent increase from 2016. While the county-wide population increased by 5 percent, the number of people living on the streets of downtown San Diego spiked by 27 percent. Of the 9,116 homeless, 5,621 are “unsheltered”, a 14 percent increase over 2016 (**Attachment 5**).

### *RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO TAKE IN 2018 and 2019*

#### **1. Meet with Sister State Agencies**

Meet with local State agencies to (1) request they actively manage and maintain their properties and rights of way free of homeless encampments; and (2) advise them that due to the water quality impacts and increasing public health threat, the Water Board will consider enforcement action if encampments persist. A meeting for this purpose was conducted at the Water Board office on August 11, 2017 and attended by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (South Coast Region), California Department of Transportation District 11 (San Diego County), and the San Diego River Conservancy. Future meetings will be planned with Caltrans Districts 12 and 8 (Orange and Riverside Counties, respectively).

#### **2. Conduct Outreach with San Diego County NGOs**

Continue and enhance communication with San Diego County NGOs on homeless encampment issues. On June 13, 2017, Executive Officer Gibson and Board Member Strawn met with seven NGOs and stakeholders to discuss the impacts, and cleanup, of homeless encampments in the San Diego Riverbed. The meeting was held at the San Diego River Park Foundation office.

#### **3. Conduct Outreach with Riverside County Elected Officials/NGOs**

Continue and enhance communication with Riverside County elected officials and NGOs on homeless encampment issues. Homeless encampments and associated water quality and human health impacts were the focus of the outreach meeting held on July 18, 2017 in Temecula. Discussions also included the findings of the recent Surfer Health Study, the draft Cost Benefit Analysis for Bacteria TMDLs, and the need for large societal solutions to the homeless problem. The meeting was attended by representatives from the office of Senator Jeff Stone, City of Temecula, Riverside County, Rancho

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<sup>3</sup> These counts do not include all reported cases in the county; only those that are local-outbreak related.

California Water District, City of Murrieta, Riverside Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and Water Board Executive Officer Gibson and Board Members Abarbanel and Strawn.

4. **Agendize and Discuss Homeless Encampments at Water Board Meetings**

Continue to provide the Water Board and public with information and the opportunity to discuss homeless encampment issues and progress at Water Board meetings. The impacts of homeless encampments on Santa Margarita River water quality was the focus of an agenda item at the Water Board's September 13, 2017 meeting in Riverside. The agenda item was requested by the Riverside County municipalities and provided an opportunity for the first Board Member and public discourse on the topic. The item also featured a presentation by the City of Temecula on its three-pronged approach for dealing with the homeless problem. At the heart of Temecula's approach is a five-man Homeless Outreach Team who work closely with the homeless, as well as the city's non-profit partner, to "help the people who want help" get the resources they need to get out of their homeless situation (**Attachment 6**).

5. **Assist Municipal Emergency Sanitary Measures for Street Disinfection**

Continue to prioritize projects needing assistance from the Water Board for emergency sanitary measures. At the request of the City of San Diego, staff has reviewed the City's protocol for emergency sanitary power washing to disinfect City streets.

6. **Investigate Public Health Risk of Discharges from Homeless Population**

Investigate the public health risk associated with the human occupation of city streets, highways, rights of way, creeks and riverbeds. Identify the most effective management measures to reduce this risk.

7. **Engage and Collaborate with Municipalities to Reduce and Eliminate Human Sources of Wastes Associated with Homeless Persons and Encampments**

A large and growing population of homeless persons presents significant water quality threats through releases of trash and fecal wastes in and around homeless encampments in streets, storm drains, commercial properties, and river channels. In downtown San Diego, over 1,000 homeless people may be using City streets or storm drains as toilets on a daily basis creating a serious threat to water quality and public health. The ongoing Hepatitis A outbreak is an example of the critical need to abate the human sources of dangerous fecal wastes that threaten human and environmental health, by providing better sanitation and permanent housing measures for homeless persons. A continuing public health crisis at the onset of the rainy season presents almost unthinkable water quality compliance and public health risk.

The Surfer Health Study and Cost-Benefit Analysis San Diego Region Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads Report identified abatement of human sources of fecal waste to storm drains as among the most controllable and most affordable measure to achieve compliance with the Beaches and Creeks Bacterial Indicators TMDLs and protect human and environmental health. The Water Board will investigate human fecal or pathogen sources that may impair water quality and endanger human health in receiving waters and communities. The assistance of the Water Board may be necessary to facilitate or authorize certain temporary municipal treatment measures and emergency clean-up efforts to protect human health from highly contagious viral pathogens in fecal waste occurring in and around homeless encampments, whether in river bottoms or city streets.

**ACTION PLAN III  
CHOLLAS CREEK, PARADISE CREEK, and the WETLANDS and  
CANYONS SURROUNDING EJ COMMUNITIES (SOUTH of I-8)**

*PROBLEM*

A prominent theme throughout the Symposium was the need for, but lack of funding to restore and protect Chollas Creek, Paradise Creek and the wetlands and canyons surrounding EJ communities (south of I-8).

*RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO TAKE IN 2018 and 2019*

**1. Prioritize Chollas Creek, Paradise Creek and the Wetlands and Canyons Surrounding EJ Communities (South of I-8) for Funding Opportunities**

Water Board funding opportunities primarily include Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) and requests for grants from the State's Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA). The San Diego Water Board will give high priority to any SEP or CAA project benefitting Chollas Creek, Paradise Creek and the wetlands and canyons surrounding EJ communities (South of I-8). The Water Board will also publically support and write letters of recommendation for any grant proposals (or other funding opportunities) involving these waterbodies or associated canyons.

**2. Prioritize Chollas Creek, Paradise Creek and the Wetlands and Canyons Surrounding EJ Communities (South of I-8) for Restoration Opportunities**

Similarly, the Water Board will support and give high priority to good restoration opportunities benefitting Chollas Creek, Paradise Creek and the wetlands and canyons surrounding EJ communities (South of I-8). Specifically, for the purpose of issuing Clean Water Act 401 Certifications, the Water Board will give high priority to good projects benefitting these waterbodies and canyons. This means the Board will make a concerted effort to streamline and expedite permitting for these projects to the extent possible.

**3. Support/Partner with Small Non-Profits Dedicated to Chollas Creek, Paradise Creek and the Wetlands and Canyons in EJ Communities (South of I-8)**

The San Diego Water Board would like to thank the Environmental Center of San Diego, the Sierra Club, the Paradise Creek Educational Park, San Diego Canyonlands and the Environmental Health Coalition for their contributions to our recent Environmental Justice Symposium.

Building on this initial working relationship, the Board will support and continue to partner with these and other small non-profits dedicated to the protection of Chollas Creek, Paradise Creek, and the wetlands and canyons surrounding environmental justice communities (South of I-8). Other key non-profits include GroundWorks San Diego/Chollas Creek and Ocean Connectors.



## **ACTION PLAN IV TRASH and DUMPING / EDUCATION and OUTREACH**

### **PROBLEM**

The second most commonly raised issue at the EJ Symposium was the abundance of trash and dumping that plagues local EJ communities. Symposium participants repeatedly spoke of the need for more household and public trash receptacles as well as the need for more frequent collection of trash in public parks and popular public areas. Profuse trash, over-flowing trash bins, and abandoned unwanted objects are common sights in EJ neighborhoods, waterbodies, parks, and canyons. Reasons cited for excessive trash and dumping in EJ communities include—the inadequacy of one trash bin for multiple or large extended families who live together in a single household; the need for timesaving convenient options since parents often work multiple jobs; education and income levels are relatively low, and language barriers exist. The following recommended actions are largely based on what was learned at the EJ Symposium from its participants.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO TAKE IN 2018 and 2019**

1. **Encourage Municipalities to Provide Additional Waste Disposal Services in EJ Communities**

The Water Board should strongly encourage Municipalities to support increased or enhanced proper waste disposal measures in EJ communities by making disposal options significantly more abundant, accessible, and convenient on an individual household and community-wide basis. The Water Board can provide this encouragement in multiple ways, for example by writing letters to applicable Municipal Storm Water Permit Copermittees directly making this request and identifying it as one of many requests made by EJ Symposium participants. Board staff can also provide this encouragement when commenting on municipal reports or pending decisions. Where appropriate, the Water Board can also audit municipal storm water programs and require updates to Water Quality Improvement Plans to better address trash and solid waste disposal issues in EJ communities. Specifically, Municipalities should consider the following:

Households:

- a. Ensure all EJ zip codes have at least one black, blue, and green waste receptacle;
- b. Offer, and upon request, provide additional trash, recycle, and green waste receptacles to any residence or business in an EJ community free of charge; and
- c. If feasible, offer curb side pickup of hazardous waste and bulky items.

Community-wide:

- d. Provide additional trash receptacles at parks and popular public areas;
- e. Increase frequency of trash collection at parks and popular public areas as needed to handle crowds, especially weekend crowds;
- f. Increase frequency of city sponsored collection events for all waste categories, particularly for hazardous materials and bulky items;
- g. If feasible, prioritize and take action to address disposal issues in EJ communities first;
- h. If feasible, reduce length of time between citizen's notification of a waste disposal problem and City action to address the problem (Symposium participants reported that it generally takes the City of San Diego more than two weeks to remove abandoned waste following citizen notification); and
- i. If feasible, consider designating a convenient disposal site/location in EJ communities for dumping unwanted wastes in between collection events (this may save costs over retrieving individually dumped objects in less accessible locations, such as neighborhood waterbodies and canyons).

**2. Encourage Municipal Copermittees to Provide Additional Education and Outreach to EJ Communities**

The Water Board should strongly encourage Municipal Copermittees to provide additional education and outreach targeted specifically to EJ communities about proper waste disposal and other EJ community relevant topics. In collaboration with NGOs, community leaders and school districts, develop fun educational campaigns, materials, and activities to promote stewardship including a new mascot. Consider outreach on the following specific topics:

- Proper waste disposal services, receptacles, and alternatives
  - What waste type goes in each colored receptacle and what does not (provide additional instructive signage on receptacles)?
  - How do I dispose of \_\_\_\_\_ (batteries, light bulbs, other common wastes)?
  - Why does proper waste disposal matter?
- How do I report waste disposal problems (e.g., location of abandoned objects, overflowing trash cans, etc.) to the City and request action?
  - “Get it Done” – City of San Diego’s new phone application that allows users to upload photos of the problem, record its GIS coordinates, and request City action
  - “Think Blue” or Storm Water hotlines and websites
- We all live in this watershed and why it matters
- Why my neighborhood creek is important, even when its dry
- Things I can do every day at home and school to protect my creek, the bay, and ocean
  - BMPs for do-it-yourself car mechanics and inoperable vehicles
- Opportunities for enjoying/recreating near my neighborhood creek (make community members aware of restored creek segments and associated amenities)
- Is it safe to swim in San Diego Bay?
- Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from San Diego Bay?
- Is my drinking water safe to drink?

**3. Encourage Municipal Copermittees to Request SDG&E to Provide Targeted Outreach to EJ Communities**

SDG&E has a few helpful services available to households in EJ communities including free household inspections and free needed upgrades to improve household energy efficiency. Ensure targeted audiences are aware of all such services, including pickup of used appliances and rebates on new energy efficient appliances.

**4. Ensure Municipal Copermittees Consider EJ When Implementing New Trash Amendments**

When providing guidance on how to implement the new Trash Amendments,<sup>4</sup> and especially when approving a Copermittees submitted plans for implementing Track 1 or Track 2, ensure that EJ factors are taken into account. Encourage Copermittees to consider designating EJ neighborhoods as high priority land uses that will receive full capture trash devices or the equivalent.

**5. Integrate EJ Considerations into Renewal of the Regional Municipal Storm Water Permit**

During upcoming renewal, integrate EJ considerations into the San Diego Regional Municipal Storm Water (MS4) Permit.

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<sup>4</sup>Trash amendments to the *Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California*, and the *Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California*. These amendments are implemented for Municipal Storm Water discharges in the San Diego Region pursuant to Order No. [R9-2017-0077](#)



## **ACTION PLAN V "OTHER"**

### *RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO TAKE or ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO TAKE IN 2018 and 2019*

Recommendations 1 through 9 below are actions the Water Board may wish to consider in its efforts to improve water quality and quality of life in EJ communities. Recommendation 10 below includes actions the Water Board may wish to encourage its partners or the Municipal Copermittees to take. General Note: the recommendations throughout this entire EJ Action Plan were largely made by EJ Symposium participants.

1. **Keep EJ Communities Informed and Engaged, and Continue Targeted Outreach**  
Strive to keep local EJ communities informed about upcoming Water Board actions that affect their communities and encourage community participation in the Board's meetings and public decision-making processes. Consider holding additional or follow-up EJ Symposiums in other parts of the San Diego Region to expand understanding of issues and build community trust.
2. **Keep Elected Officials Informed and Engaged, and Continue Targeted Outreach**  
Keep elected officials informed on the status of the problems raised at this EJ Symposium and continue to seek their suggestions and engagement on ways to better address these problems and to support local EJ communities. Also seek the assistance of elected officials in getting information about key issues out to their constituencies. For example, in an effort to increase awareness, Executive Officer Gibson recently sent a letter to Councilmember Alvarez and Port Commissioner Castellanos informing them about the pending closure of a cleanup site adjacent to Cesar Chavez Park in Barrio Logan (**Attachment 7**).
3. **Keep EJ Community Leaders Informed and Engaged**  
Working with elected officials and dedicated non-profits, strive to keep EJ communities' leaders informed on key issues in order to encourage broader awareness of the Water Board's activities and community engagement on issues that directly affect the EJ community.
4. **Support/Partner with Small Non-Profits Committed to Environmental Justice**  
In addition to those non-profits dedicated to Chollas Creek, Paradise Creek and the wetlands and canyons surrounding EJ communities, support and partner with small non-profits generally committed to environmental justice. As mentioned, the Water Board can provide limited financial support by giving preference to SEPs and CAA requests that benefit EJ communities, writing letters of support for grant proposals, and assisting with development of SEPs and grant proposals. The Board can also offer support for non-profits at public events and can participate in classroom or field instructions. Lastly, the Water Board should strongly encourage like-minded non-profits to work closely together to leverage efforts and resources.
5. **Communicate with Elected Officials and Copermittees on Drainage/Flooding Issues**  
A couple of notable drainage and flooding issues in EJ communities were raised at the Symposium, specifically involving Linden Road in the Los Coches neighborhood and in South Crest between National City and Barrio Logan. The Board will encourage elected officials and responsible Municipal Copermittees to address these long-standing issues. Municipal Copermittees could also develop a phone application like the City of San Diego's "Get It Done" which allows citizens to upload a photo to report a drainage problem and its coordinates, and to request that action be taken. The application also provides a mechanism by which the Municipality can report back to the citizen on the status and completion of the problem.

Executive Officer Gibson recently met with County Supervisor Diane Jacobs and, among other things, discussed the Linden Road / Los Coches issue and offered the Board's assistance. Water Board staff also participated in the City of San Diego's recent online survey and identified channels in EJ communities as high priorities for City cleanout/maintenance in 2018. Staff also wrote emails to the three EJ Symposium participants who spoke of drainage and flooding issues in their neighborhoods. The email provided information about a couple of online tools that could prove useful to them in their efforts to get their issues addressed (**Attachment 8**).

6. **When Developing Workplans for the Site Cleanup, 401 Certification, and Compliance Assurance Programs, Evaluate EJ Factors and Consider Giving High Priority to EJ Benefitting Projects**

Managers of the Water Board's Site Cleanup, 401 Certification, and Compliance Assurance Programs will evaluate EJ factors when developing program workplans and setting priorities, and should consider giving high priority to projects that benefit EJ communities.

7. **Initiate Collaboration with California Air Board on Issues that Impact EJ Communities**

Because air and water pollution are intrinsically linked, the Water Board should initiate and encourage greater coordination between itself and the Air Board. At a minimum, the Water and Air Boards should keep each other informed and collaborate on key projects, particularly those that may adversely affect EJ communities such as the Port's expansion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Marine Terminal. In addition to increasing both air emissions and water pollutants, projects of this nature also increase the health risk to surrounding EJ communities. The Water and Air Boards should assist and support one another. Collaboration could be initiated by asking each Board to identify a liaison to the other. The Water Board may also wish to request CalEPA to require greater collaboration between the two Boards.

8. **Support Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) Benefitting EJ Communities**

During the Water Board's recent SEP Solicitation, the Board made clear that it would give preference to SEPs providing benefits to EJ communities. Staff also offered assistance writing SEP proposals that benefit EJ communities. In providing comments to the State Water Board on its draft revised SEP Policy, the San Diego Water Board advocated to provide stronger incentives for dischargers to select EJ related SEPs. Finally, in the future the Water Board may consider conducting a separate solicitation event exclusively for SEPs that benefit EJ communities.

9. **Encourage School Districts/Colleges to Give Course Credit for Cleanups and Other NGO Events**

As suggested by Symposium participants, the Water Board should encourage local school districts and colleges to consider providing academic credit to students who support cleanup events and other non-profit activities.

10. **Other Suggestions to Improve Water Quality and Quality of Life in EJ Communities**

- Plant vegetation everywhere possible to improve air and water quality and provide a limited visual and sound barrier between residential neighborhoods and industry
- Consider providing land with clean soil for EJ community gardens
- Provide owl and bat boxes for effective rodent and insect control (safe, fun, educational)
- Support a legislative ban on styrofoam
- Exchange styrofoam food packaging for paper packaging at local eateries
- Consider exchanging a bag of fresh produce for a bag of "collected" trash

## **Attachments**

1. Environmental Justice Symposium Minutes, June 10, 2017  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board\\_info/agendas/2017/Aug/item3/Item\\_3\\_SD2\\_Minutes\\_06102017.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_info/agendas/2017/Aug/item3/Item_3_SD2_Minutes_06102017.pdf)
2. UT News, Tijuana River Bill, HR 3795, Sept 19, 2017  
<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/environment/sd-me-issa-vargas-sewage-20170918-story.html>
3. San Diego Public Health Officer, Hepatitis A, Local Public Health Emergency, Sept 19, 2017  
[http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community\\_epidemiology/dc/Hepatitis\\_A.html#\\_blank](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/Hepatitis_A.html#_blank)
- 4a. UT News, Sept 12, 2017, Street Washing  
<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/politics/sd-me-street-washing-hepatitis-20170911-story.html>
- 4b. UT News, Sept 16, 2017, San Diego's Neighbors  
<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/homelessness/sd-me-homeless-region-20170914-story.html>
- 4c. UT News, Sept 16, 2017, Hepatitis Crisis  
<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/homelessness/sd-me-restrooms-homeless-20170916-story.html>
- 4d. UT News, Sept 19, 2017, Hepatitis Outbreak  
<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/health/sd-me-hepatitis-origins-20170918-story.html>
- 4e. UT News, April 21, 2017, Grand Jury Warns City re: Lack of 24/7 Public Restrooms  
<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/watchdog/sd-me-grand-jury-20170920-story.html>
5. UT News, April 20, 2017, San Diego Homeless Population Up 5%, Skyrockets Downtown  
<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/homelessness/sd-me-homeless-count-20170419-story.html>
6. Homeless Encampments, Executive Officer Summary Report, Sept 13, 2017, Agenda Item 9  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board\\_info/agendas/2017/Sep/item9/Item9\\_EOSR.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_info/agendas/2017/Sep/item9/Item9_EOSR.pdf)
7. Castellanos, Alvarez Letters: Aug 29, 2017, Closure of Cleanup Site Adjacent to Cesar Chavez Park,  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/press\\_room/community\\_outreach/docs/Letter\\_of\\_Closure\\_Castellanos.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/press_room/community_outreach/docs/Letter_of_Closure_Castellanos.pdf)  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/press\\_room/community\\_outreach/docs/Letter\\_of\\_Closure\\_Alvarez.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/press_room/community_outreach/docs/Letter_of_Closure_Alvarez.pdf)
8. Email to EJ Symposium Participants, Aug 24, 2017, Neighborhood Drainage / Flooding Issues  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/press\\_room/community\\_outreach/docs/3\\_FOLLOW-UP\\_EMAIL.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/press_room/community_outreach/docs/3_FOLLOW-UP_EMAIL.pdf)