

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
MAY 13, 2026**

ITEM 8

SUBJECT

Groundwork USA San Diego-Chollas Creek (Groundwork San Diego) Chollas Blue Green Vision (*Nicholas White*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational item only. No staff recommendations.

KEY ISSUES

This item informs the San Diego Water Board of the collaborative efforts to plan, design, and implement community endorsed blue green projects in the Chollas Creek watershed. The Chollas Creek watershed is heavily urbanized, much of the creek is channelized or concrete-lined, and Total Maximum Daily Loads were adopted for indicator bacteria, copper, lead and zinc, and the pesticide diazinon. Community endorsed blue green projects in the Chollas Creek watershed will contribute to addressing urban stressors in the watershed restoring aquatic habitat and recreational beneficial uses.

PRACTICAL VISION

In alignment with our [Practical Vision](#), this item furthers [Practical Vision Chapter 8: Provide Effective Community Engagement and Communication](#) to improve communication, share information with our communities, foster collaboration on developing mutually beneficial solutions to water quality issues, and inform the public about the goals of the Practical Vision. This item informs the San Diego Water Board and public of the collaborative efforts to develop and implement blue green solutions that improve water quality and community health.

- Advances the Practical Vision by enhancing communication between the San Diego Water Board and the public about ongoing collaborative projects in the Chollas Creek watershed.
- Supports community engagement by sharing information on blue-green infrastructure efforts that address water quality and public health, aligning with Practical Vision Chapter 8: Provide Effective Community Engagement and Communication.
- Promotes collaboration among residents, agencies, and stakeholders to develop community-endorsed solutions for water quality challenges, embodying the Practical Vision's focus on mutually beneficial partnerships.
- Educates the public about both the goals of the Practical Vision and the concrete actions being undertaken to achieve improved water quality and community resilience.

DISCUSSION

In 2024, Groundwork San Diego convened a group of Chollas Creek residents, landowners, City of San Diego planning agencies, regulators, developers, and industry leaders to collaborate and create a comprehensive blue green infrastructure plan that enshrines the community's preferred benefits for the Chollas Creek watershed and guides public decision-makers in capital project development. The resulting [Chollas Blue Green Vision](#) outlines strategic directions and community endorsed project typologies for water quality, water management improvements, and community resilience initiatives. Endorsed project typologies that offer a range of solutions for managing stormwater, reducing urban heat, and creating vibrant and multi-functional public spaces include stream restorations, parks and recreational spaces, green schoolyards, green alleys, floodable parks, and green streets.

President of Groundwork San Diego's Board of Directors will present on their organization's mission, progress towards realizing the Chollas Blue Green Vision, and examples of successful completed projects and planned blue green infrastructure projects. The City of San Diego will also present their ongoing efforts in the watershed to advance capital improvement projects that achieve the desired community benefits of the Chollas Creek Blue Green Vision.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The San Diego Water Board included this item in its notice and agenda for the May 13, 2026, Board meeting. The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website and sent to subscribers to the email list for Board meetings. This satisfies the *Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act* requirements to publish the meeting notice and agenda.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None