

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION
EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026
ITEM 4

SUBJECT

Tentative Resolution No. R9-2026-0084 endorsing the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Operation Plan (*David Gibson*)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of Tentative Resolution No. R9-2026-0084 (Supporting Document 1).

KEY ISSUES

- Identifies significant accomplishments from July 2025 – June 2026 (Supporting Document 2)
- Identifies priority projects that will help achieve the goals of the Practical Vision (Attachment 1 to Supporting Document 1)
- Provides an opportunity for the Board to formally endorse the allocation of staff resources to address the Priority Projects (Supporting Document 1)

PRACTICAL VISION

This item provides a progress report on the twelfth year of implementing the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision.¹ This item also demonstrates the San Diego Water Board values of communication and transparency by reporting in an open meeting our major accomplishments since the last update, our regional priorities and goals for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY 26-27), and the budget that supports our work. Through the Practical Vision, the Board and its staff exercise its leadership and stewardship values both locally and statewide.

DISCUSSION

This item is an opportunity to provide Board Members and the public with a more comprehensive report on the San Diego Water Board's accomplishments and to give Board members an opportunity to provide early input and direction on regional priorities and goals for FY 26-27.

June 2026 saw the end of our twelfth year of implementing the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision. The Practical Vision is a tool for ensuring we maintain the culture we built on our core values at the San Diego Water Board; the means to achieve healthy waters through a collaborative, outcome-based approach that relies on the latest science, prioritization of issues and actions, and prudent use of authorities in service to the people of California.

¹ The San Diego Water Board Practical Vision is available electronically on the following webpage:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/

Annually, the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards report their principal accomplishments to the State Water Board. The State Water Board collects annual performance data and displays it on its Annual Performance Report (Report) website. The Report measures and evaluates both what we do, how the environment is responding to our actions, and is part of our overall effort toward developing as a performance-based organization. The Reports can be found at the [State Water Board Performance Report Website](#). Supporting Document 2, Practical Vision and Program Accomplishments for 2025-2026, includes a discussion of our regional accomplishments over the last fiscal year.

In the interest of transparency and context, Tentative Resolution No. R9-2026-0084 includes information regarding the San Diego Water Board's budget allocated by the State Board (Supporting Document 1) and the list of San Diego Water Board Projects for FY 26-27 (Attachment 1 to Supporting Document 1) includes the staff personnel years assigned to the Operational Plan projects.

Twenty-six projects were included in the FY 25-26 Operational Plan. I will highlight the progress of following projects from the FY 25-26 Plan in my verbal briefing:

- Tijuana River Border Pollution Control Efforts: Adoption of Cease and Desist Order R9-2025-0139 and State Funding of Tijuana Estuary Sediment Quality Objectives Study and a full Border Water Quality Protection Unit
- Approval of the Biological Objectives Basin Plan Amendment
- Triennial Review of the San Diego Basin Plan
- Indicator Bacteria Public Dashboard
- Adoption of the East County Advanced Water Purification NPDES Permit
- Adoption of the Point Loma Ocean Outfall NPDES Permit
- Pine Hill Egg Ranch WDRs
- Adoption of Prima Deshecha Landfill WDRs
- Successful enforcement settlement actions for sanitary sewer overflows in City of San Diego and Moulton Niguel Municipal Water District
- Public engagement in Underground Storage Tank and military facilities and Basin Plan Triennial Review Projects to update Recreational Beneficial Uses TMDLs and Shelter Island Yacht Basin Copper TMDL

The FY 26-27 Operational Plan carries forward our continuing projects, adds new projects, identifies staffing, resources, tasks, and milestones for each project, and tracks our progress throughout the year. We include many of our core regulatory work projects (permit renewals, inspections, etc.) with the Practical Vision projects to improve management of the priority casework while also achieving the Practical Vision goals.

As discussed above, the San Diego Water Board's annual performance measure goals and accomplishments are used in the State Water Boards' Annual Performance Report. The FY 26-27 Operational Plan takes these performance measures into account by including priority programmatic work that is linked to the goals of the Practical Vision. This effort requires an extra degree of prioritizing, planning, and budgeting on the part of your managers during the preparation of the Operational Plan.

The FY 26-27 Operational Plan includes twenty-seven projects. Projects included in the FY 26-27 Operational Plan were selected considering the Key Beneficial Uses and Areas established in San Diego Water Board Resolution No. R9-2017-0030² (*A Resolution Supporting Use of the Key Beneficial Uses/Key Areas Concept to Help the San Diego Water Board Focus on What is Most Important*) and guidance from the Practical Vision Priority Setting Team. Some key projects and priorities I will discuss during this item are:

- Border Water Quality Protection Unit and First Biannual State of the Tijuana River Watershed Report
- Implementation of Border Pollution ARPs for Trash and Bacterial Indicators
 - Proposition 4 Border Pollution Grants and SB54 Plastics Grant Programs
 - Tijuana River Estuary Sediment Quality Objectives Assessment
 - Reissuance of U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant NPDES Permit
 - Expansion of USIBWC South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Clean Water Act sections 303(d) and 305(b) Integrated Report
- Review and Revision of Basin Plan Bacterial Indicators TMDL and Water Quality Objectives
- Reissuance of Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) NPDES Permit
- Commercial Agriculture Waste Discharge Requirements
- State Water Board Consideration of Biological Water Quality Objectives
- San Diego Bay Efforts
 - Internal San Diego Bay Workgroup
 - Maintain DIVOT Sediment Data to Track Pollutant Reductions
- Increasing Local Drinking Water Supply
 - Support Direct and Indirect Potable Reuse Projects
 - Review of Salt and Nutrient Management Plans
 - Revision and Issuance of Master Recycling Permits

² Resolution No. R9-2017-0030 is available electronically on the following webpage:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/key_areas/

- Tribal Beneficial Uses Water Body Designations
- Santa Margarita River Nutrients Advance Restoration Plan

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Meeting Notice and Agenda for today's meeting was posted on the Board's website and sent to those who subscribed to the email list for Board Meetings

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Tentative Resolution No. R9-2026-0084, with Attachment 1 – Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Operational Plan Projects
2. Practical Vision and Program Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2025-2026