

# REPORT

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DATE: February 20, 2020

TO: Governing Board Delegates & Alternates

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC STUDY TO SUPPORT PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH THROUGH TARGETED REDUCTION OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION**

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Adopt Resolution 20-02 supporting the regional bacteria scientific study, with a reconsideration of the cost allocations as necessary pending support from the various Safe Clean Water watershed area steering committees and delay of the timeline of the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) analysis pending completion of the ULAR Load Reduction Strategy Adaptation to Address the LA River Bacteria TMDL, and support the Gateway Water Management Authority to serve as the contract administrator.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Safe Clean Water Program implements Measure W funding, providing a dedicated funding source to improve water quality. In December 2019, the Safe Clean Water Call for Projects for funding for fiscal year 2020-2021 projects was released. Regional funding is divided between Los Angeles County's watersheds, and a Watershed Area Steering Committee (WASC) for each of these watersheds is responsible for developing an annual stormwater investment plan (SIP) that will determine how funding is distributed.

The 2012 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit requires cities to comply with a number of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) to reduce the concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) discharged into the region's waterways. Meeting these bacteria TMDLs is extremely difficult and costly for watershed area groups, and various groups are studying how they can comply with them. For example, in December 2019, the SGVCOG also submitted an application to the Safe Clean Water Call for Projects on behalf of the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Management Group – made up of a variety of cities in the San Gabriel Valley – to help them adapt their Load Reduction Strategy (LRS) to address the Los River Bacteria TMDL.


In addition, a "Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution" was submitted to the Safe Clean Water Program Call for projects in order to more thoroughly study FIB, determine the specific sources of human health risk, and identify actions to more effectively address these sources. The Regional Study aims to identify actions that would address the sources of human health risk in a more efficient way and help to inform watershed area groups' watershed management plans (WMPs) and enhanced

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watershed management plans (EWMPs). Completion of this Regional Study could have important future impacts on bacteria TMDLs and how cities can meet their bacteria TMDLs. The proposed study was submitted for consideration by all WASCs, which will consider projects over the next several months.

At its January 2020 meeting, the Water Committee and Water TAC discussed the proposed Regional Study. With the important potential impacts that the study could have on cities' abilities to comply with their TMDLs, the Joint Committee recommended that the Governing Board support the Regional Scientific Study, with a reconsideration of cost allocations as necessary, pending support from the various Safe Clean Water Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs) and delay of the timeline of the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) analysis pending completion of the ULAR Load Reduction Strategy Adaptation to Address the LA River Bacteria TMDL, and support the Gateway Cities Water Management Authority serving as the administrator of the regional study.

Prepared by:   
Samantha Matthews  
Management Analyst

Approved by:   
Marisa Creter  
Executive Director

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Letter of Support  
Attachment B – Resolution 20-02



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Communities  
Fifth District, LA County  
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SGV Water Districts

February 20, 2020

Scoring Committee  
Safe Clean Water Program  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
900 S. Fremont Ave.  
Alhambra, CA 91803

**RE: Resolution 20-02: Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution**  
**Notice of Support**

Dear Mr. Reznik,

On February 20, the Governing Board of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) adopted Resolution 20-02 in support of the regional bacteria scientific study, with a reconsideration of cost allocations as necessary, pending support from the various Safe Clean Water Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs) and delay of the timeline of the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) analysis pending completion of the ULAR Load Reduction Strategy Adaptation to Address the LA River Bacteria TMDL.

The objective of the Study is to thoroughly study fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) in order to determine the sources of human health risk and to identify actions to more effectively address these sources. Meeting these bacteria TMDLs is difficult and costly for watershed area groups, so the study aims to identify actions that would address the sources of human health risk in a more efficient way and help to inform watershed area groups' watershed management plans (WMPs) and enhanced watershed management plans (EWMPs).

Given the positive impact that the results of the study could have on watershed area groups' WMPs and EWMPs, the Governing Board supports funding for this study and for Gateway Cities Water Management Authority to serve as contract administrator.

Resolution 20-02 further outlines the SGVCOG's position. Thank you for considering the perspective and views of the SGVCOG and our 30 member cities. If you have questions or would like to consult with our staff, please contact Samantha Matthews, Management Analyst, at [smatthews@sgvcog.org](mailto:smatthews@sgvcog.org) or at 626-457-1800.

Sincerely,

Marisa Creter  
Executive Director  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment B: Resolution 20-02

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-02**

**RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
(SGVCOG) SUPPORTING A REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC STUDY TO SUPPORT  
PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH THROUGH TARGETED REDUCTION OF  
BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the 2012 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit includes numerous total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) related to fecal indicator bacteria (FIB); and

**WHEREAS**, it is extremely complicated and costly for cities to meet with these TMDLs; and

**WHEREAS**, a “Regional Scientific Study to Support the Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution” was submitted to the Safe Clean Water Call for Projects, seeking funding from all watershed area steering committees (WASCs) for fiscal year 2020-2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Study would more thoroughly study fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) in order to determine the specific sources of human health risk and to identify actions to more effectively address these sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Study would identify actions that would address the sources of human health risk in a more efficient way; and

**WHEREAS**, the Study would help to inform TMDLs and how watershed area groups meet TMDLs in their watershed management plans (WMPs) and enhanced watershed management plans (EWMPs); and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Board of the SGVCOG supports the Regional Scientific Study to Support Protection of Human Health through Targeted Reduction of Bacteriological Pollution provided that the cost allocations between watershed groups be revisited pending support from the Safe Clean Water WASCs and that the study related to the Upper Los Angeles River (ULAR) Watershed Management Group be delayed pending completion of its bacteria study to support completion of their revised Load Reduction Strategy (LRS).

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, in the County of Los Angeles, State of California, on the 20th day of February, 2020.

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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Cynthia Sternquist, President

**Attest:**

I, Marisa Creter, Executive Director and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a special meeting of the Governing Board held on the 20th day of February, 2020, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

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Marisa Creter, Secretary