

Senate Bill No. 1301

CHAPTER 368

An act to add Part 2.6 (commencing with Section 71107) to Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, relating to public resources.

[Approved by Governor September 30, 2020. Filed with
Secretary of State September 30, 2020.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1301, Hueso. Tijuana River Valley: watershed action plan.

Existing law establishes the California Environmental Protection Agency under the supervision of the Secretary for Environmental Protection, consisting of various departments, boards, and offices, and vests the agency with authority over various environmental matters.

Existing law establishes in the Natural Resources Agency the San Diego River Conservancy to, among other purposes, acquire and manage public lands within the San Diego River area, and to provide recreational opportunities, open space, wildlife habitat and species restoration and protection, wetland protection and restoration, protection of historical and cultural resources, and protection, maintenance, and improvements of the quality of the waters in the San Diego River and its watershed, its tributaries, and historic flumes emanating from the river for all beneficial uses, lands for educational uses within the area, and natural floodwater conveyance.

Existing law requires the conservancy to establish the Tijuana River Watershed Advisory Panel, as specified, and requires the panel to prepare a strategic plan with specified information relating to the Tijuana River watershed.

This bill would require, upon an appropriation by the Legislature, the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency to collaborate to create a Tijuana River Valley Watershed Action Plan, to be reviewed and updated on a 3-year cycle. The bill would require the plan to contain specified information. The bill would require, upon completion of the plan, the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency to consult with specified governmental entities to develop a common watershed action plan to address issues in the Tijuana River and its entire watershed, as provided.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Part 2.6 (commencing with Section 71107) is added to Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

PART 2.6. TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY WATERSHED ACTION PLAN

71107. (a) Upon an appropriation of funds from the Legislature for this purpose, the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency, including their subsidiary agencies, shall collaborate to create a Tijuana River Valley Watershed Action Plan, known as the Tijuana River Plan. The Tijuana River Plan shall be drawn from existing and ongoing watershed planning efforts in both the United States and Mexico. The Tijuana River Plan shall be reviewed and updated on a three-year cycle. The Tijuana River Plan shall include, to the extent practicable, all of the following:

(1) Identification of key stakeholders and partnerships for data collection and information sharing.

(2) Identification of issues of concern and potential projects that may be implemented in the Tijuana River Valley watershed in both the United States and Mexico.

(3) Identification of short-term and long-term goals and targets for projects that may be implemented through the plan.

(4) Methods and strategies to restore water quality or water supply in degraded areas and to protect overall watershed health.

(5) Methods and strategies to protect the public health and limit beach closures.

(6) Methods and strategies, including target dates or milestones, interagency or public/private partnerships, and binational collaboration, to ensure implementation of the plan in Mexico and the United States, to the extent feasible.

(b) Upon completion of the Tijuana River Plan described in subdivision (a), the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency shall consult with the governments for the United States, the County of San Diego, the City of San Diego, the City of Imperial Beach, Mexico, the State of Baja California, the City of Tijuana, and the City of Tecate to develop a common watershed action plan to address issues in the Tijuana River and its entire watershed, on both sides of the border, including, but not limited to, issues relating to water quality, wildlife and fishery habitat, stormwater management, riverside development and management, wastewater discharge, and water supply.

(c) This section shall not require the expenditure of state funding or the development of any specific project without an appropriation from the Legislature.