

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**San Diego Region**

**David Gibson, Executive Officer**



**Executive Officer’s Report**

**March 15, 2017**

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The March report for the Tentative Schedule of Significant NPDES Permits, WDRs, and Actions; Agenda Items Requested by Board Members; and the attachments noted above are included at the end of this report.

## Part A – San Diego Region Staff Activities

### 1. Personnel Report

*Staff Contact: Lori Costa*

The Organizational Chart for the San Diego Water Board can be viewed at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about\\_us/org\\_charts/orgchart.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/org_charts/orgchart.pdf).

#### Recent Hires

Mireille Garcia began working as a Student Assistant Engineer in the Storm Water Management Unit on March 3, 2017. Her duties include program support, database management, and field work. Mireille is expected to receive her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering in 2019 from San Diego State University.

#### Departure

Faith Moore, a Scientific Aid in the Source Control Regulation Unit, left State service on February 28, 2017. She accepted an engineering internship and will be pursuing a Master's degree in Engineering in the fall. Faith began working for the San Diego Water Board in November 2015.

#### Recruitment

Hiring interviews for the Engineering Geologist vacancy in the Land Discharge Unit are complete. The recruitment process has begun to fill an Environmental Scientist vacancy in the Source Control Regulation Unit.

### 2. Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program Update (*Attachment A-2*)

*Staff Contact: Barry Pulver*

On November 9, 2016, the San Diego Water Board adopted the following General Agricultural Orders:

- [Order No. R9-2016-0004](#), *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers that are Members of a Third-Party Group in the San Diego Region* (Third-Party General Order)
- [Order No. R9-2016-0005](#), *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers Not Participating in a Third-Party Group in the San Diego Region* (Individual General Order)

The General Agricultural Orders require an estimated 6,000 commercial agricultural operations located on 70,000 acres of land in the San Diego Region to implement effective management practices to protect water quality. Commercial agricultural operations within the San Diego Region are required to enroll under either the Third-Party General Order or the Individual General Order by August 7, 2017.

The following is a summary of activities conducted by the San Diego Water Board's Commercial Agricultural Program since issuance of the February 2017 Executive Officer's Report:

### **Public Outreach**

Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program staff met with the City of Escondido's Water Utility Department, the Mission Resource Conservation District, and the [San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group](#) (SDRILG), a designated Third-Party Group administrator under the Third-Party General Order. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss outreach opportunities for commercial agricultural operations located within the San Diego Region to inform them about the recently adopted General Agricultural Orders.

SDRILG provided an overview of their planned activities to assist commercial agricultural operations with enrollment and compliance with the Third-Party General Order. SDRILG anticipates that up to 3,000 commercial agricultural operations, located within San Diego County, will apply for membership in the SDRILG and submit enrollment applications to the San Diego Water Board prior to the August 7, 2017 enrollment deadline.

### **Notification of Enrollment Deadline**

Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program staff in conjunction with the State Water Board's Office of Public Participation has developed a notification for distribution to commercial agricultural operations with summary information reminding them of the upcoming deadline to enroll under one of the General Agricultural Orders (Attachment A-2). The notification has been posted on the San Diego Water Board's webpage and distributed via the Commercial Agriculture email list and direct mailing. Several water districts are assisting in this effort by distributing the notification to their customers through newsletters and direct mailing.

### **First Annual Agricultural Water Summit**

On February 3, 2017, Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program staff members David Barker, Brandi Outwin-Beals, and Barry Pulver attended the First Annual Agricultural Water Summit hosted by the Rancho California Municipal Water District. Presentations on water supply and water quality issues related to agricultural operations in southern California were provided by representatives of the Rancho California Municipal Water District, Coachella Valley Water District, the Metropolitan Water District, the Department of Water Resources, the California Water Institute and Center for Irrigation Technology at California State University, Fresno, the California Farm Water Coalition, and growers from Southern California and the Central Valley. Staff had an opportunity to hear water resource issues affecting commercial agricultural operations within the San Diego Region. Staff also met with growers and provided them with information regarding the General Agricultural Orders, and discussed collaborative opportunities with representatives of agencies that may provide outreach assistance to the San Diego Water Board.

## Nonpoint Source Program Roundtable

On February 14 and 15, 2017, the San Diego Water Board hosted a statewide Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program Roundtable. Representatives from the State Water Board, all nine Regional Water Boards, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) attended the roundtable. The San Diego Water Board, the Mission Resource Conservation District, the County of San Diego, and the SDRILG gave presentations regarding commercial agriculture in the San Diego Region during the roundtable.

## Part B – Significant Regional Water Quality Issues

### 1. Status of Claude “Bud” Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant NPDES Permit Reissuance (*Attachment B-1*)

*Staff Contact: Ben Neill*

This report provides a monthly status update on the San Diego Water Board's review of [Poseidon Resources \(Channelside\) LLC's \(Poseidon\)](#) Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) application for reissuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the [Claude “Bud” Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant \(CDP\)](#) and the development of the draft NPDES permit.

Poseidon owns and operates the CDP subject to waste discharge requirements established by the San Diego Water Board in NPDES Permit No. CA0109223, Order No. R9-2006-0065. Order No. R9-2006-0065 expired in 2011, but remains in effect under an administrative extension until the reissued NPDES permit supersedes it.

The CDP is located adjacent to the Encina Power Station (owned by [NRG Energy](#)) on the southern shore of the [Agua Hedionda Lagoon](#) in Carlsbad, California. The CDP is the nation's largest seawater desalination plant. On November 9, 2015, the CDP began potable water production providing up to 50 million gallons of drinking water per day to customers within the [San Diego County Water Authority's](#) (SDCWA) service area. The CDP is currently designed to intake source water from Agua Hedionda Lagoon through the existing Encina Power Station intake structure.

The reissuance of the NPDES permit for the CDP is a high priority for the San Diego Water Board and the State Water Board (collectively referred to as Water Boards). Following are updates on key activities since the [previous Executive Officer Report](#) update<sup>1</sup>:

<sup>1</sup> Additional information regarding the CDP can be found in Executive Officer Reports for [February 2017](#), [December 2016](#), [November 2016](#), [October 2016](#), [September 2016](#), [August 2016](#), [May 2016](#), [December 2015](#), [September 2015](#), and [June 2015](#).

- By letter dated January 25, 2017 to Poseidon (see Attachment B-1), the San Diego Water Board summarized the information Poseidon must provide in order for the Board to complete development of the draft NPDES permit.
- On January 30, 2017, Poseidon submitted additional information addressing topics in the January 25 letter regarding the brine mixing zone (habitat assessment and mortality calculations), the zone of initial dilution, climate change, and intake alternatives marine life mortality comparisons. On February 21, 2017, Poseidon Resources submitted a revision to the zone of initial dilution calculations. All of this information is currently under review by Water Board staff. Submittal of information clarifying the proposed fish return system and surface water intake alternatives is anticipated from Poseidon in late March 2017.
- On January 31, 2017, Water Board staff met with representatives from the SDCWA and Poseidon to continue discussions on the technical information contained in the ROWD and the related appendices.
- A site visit by Water Board staff to the CDP to further discuss intake screening location issues with Poseidon was made on February 27, 2017 and a follow-up meeting convened on February 28, 2017 to continue discussions with Poseidon on the outstanding issues related to the development of the draft NPDES permit.

The San Diego Water Board has developed a dedicated website to inform the public about the NPDES permit reissuance for the CDP:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/regulatory/carlsbad\\_desalination.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/regulatory/carlsbad_desalination.shtml).

In addition, an email list is available for interested persons to subscribe to at this website:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/reg9\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg9_subscribe.shtml).

## 2. Where Does Your Trash Go, Southern Orange County?

*Staff Contacts: Amy Grove and John Odermatt*

If you live in San Juan Capistrano or a surrounding city, your trash likely goes to the Prima Deshecha Landfill (Figure 1). The San Diego Water Board recently approved the Design Report for the new Phase D expansion units (Figure 2). Once constructed, these units will allow the Prima Deshecha Landfill to continue operations for an additional 21 years.

The following table summarizes the volume/space, liner acreage for each unit in the Phase D area, and the estimated unit service life of Phase D.

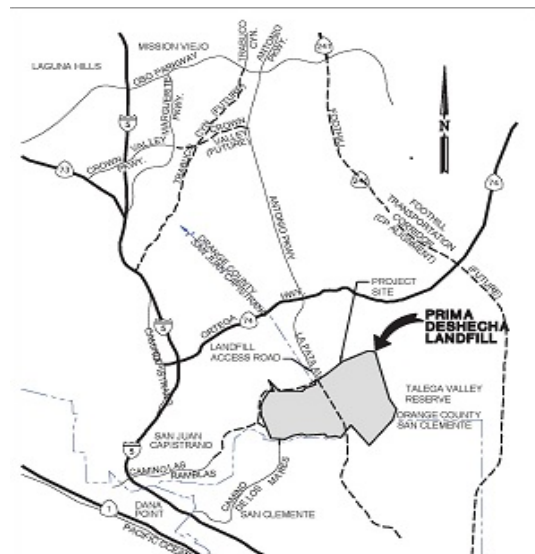


Figure 1 - Location (from Tetra-Tech, 2016)

Unit	Volume/Space (cubic yards)	Solid Waste Capacity (tons) <sup>2</sup>	Lined Area (acres)	Estimated Unit life (years) <sup>1</sup>
D1	9,008,000	6,305,600	35.5	13.9
D2	4,204,000	2,942,800	7.5	7.5
<b>Total=</b>	<b>13,212,500</b>	<b>9,248,750</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21.4</b>

1 = Assumes 1,200 tons per day inflow of wastes at 307 operating days per year.

2 = Assumes that 1 cubic yard is approximately 0.7 tons of solid waste.

The construction of Phase D units will require engineering solutions to solve many slope stability issues associated with a number of local landslides. Phase D has been designed to avoid a major landslide complex to the northeast. During mass excavation, the exposed subgrade of the Phase D area will be observed and mapped to verify geologic and geotechnical characteristics, to identify any adverse geologic conditions that might affect the integrity of the composite liner system, and to confirm suitable foundation conditions are achieved prior to placement of engineered fill and overlying liner and waste systems.



Figure 2 - Location Phase D Units, Prima Deshecha Landfill (Tetra-Tech, 2016)



### 3. 143 Million Gallons of Raw Sewage Released into Tijuana River (Attachment B-3)

*Staff Contacts: Cynthia Gorham and Melissa Valdovinos*

The U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) submitted a transboundary spill report on February 23, 2017 to the San Diego Water Board (Attachment B3a), reporting a raw sewage release of approximately 143 million gallons to the Alamar River, in Mexico, upstream of its confluence with the Tijuana River. The report estimates that the spill started on February 6 and was ongoing until February 23. After submitting the report, IBWC discovered that the release was due to a rupture in the sewage collection system, caused by excessive inflow and infiltration from a storm event.

Flows from the Tijuana River, including the raw sewage release, crossed into the Tijuana River valley, estuary, and the ocean. During the time of the release, several residents in the Tijuana River valley reported observations of raw sewage in the river, strong sewage odors, and health effects, such as headaches and nose and throat irritation. This spill has garnered significant attention from residents in the Tijuana River valley and the City of Imperial Beach and has been the subject of many recent press reports.

Photos of Tijuana River from March 1, 2017



A pump station in the City of Tijuana, near the international border, is intended to divert dry weather Tijuana River flows to a Pacific Ocean shoreline discharge point approximately five miles south of the border. However, the pump station cannot handle large flows. When the flow rate is over 1,000 liters per second, during storm events for example, the pump station is turned off. Due to recent storm events the pump station was turned off for part of December, all of January and February, and all of March to date.

Attachments B-3b, B-3c, and B-3d are copies of letters sent by Executive Officer David Gibson on March 2 to the commissioners of IBWC and its Mexican counterpart, Comisión Internacional

de Límites y Aguas (CILA); the Border Environment Cooperation Commission-North American Development Bank Board of Directors; and the Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Border Liaison Office. These letters expressed concern on behalf of the San Diego Water Board, Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team, and Border 2020 Tijuana River Watershed Task Force. The letters also requested 1) an investigation of the release, 2) improved binational communication, and 3) improved reliability of the collection and treatment of sewage generated in the City of Tijuana.

IBWC also released a press release on March 2 (Attachment B-3e) and held a Citizens Forum meeting that evening. The press release stated that the IBWC and CILA commissioners agreed to investigate the release to determine more specifics about the spill and to identify flaws in notification procedures. Cynthia Gorham, Senior Environmental Scientist, represented the San Diego Water Board at the meeting and briefly addressed the group to inform them of the three aforementioned letters that David Gibson had written; and of recommended measures to prevent or minimize the impact of sewage spills from Mexico in the future. The meeting room at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve was standing room only. Many concerned citizens, spoke of their outrage, health concerns, discomforts, and inconveniences the incident has caused. Community leaders and residents claimed that the sewage should have been recaptured and placed back into the treatment system rather than being allowed to enter the river and travel all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

IBWC agreed to carry out a binational investigation of this substantial sewage spill into the Tijuana River. Additionally, officials explained the circumstances to residents and answered their questions. Community leaders urged citizens to write letter to their congress members, requesting that specific actions be taken to resolve environmental and public health issues arising from sewage spills originating in Mexico.

#### **4. Enforcement Actions for January 2017 (Attachment B-4)**

*Staff Contact: Chiara Clemente*

During the month of January, the San Diego Water Board issued 8 Staff Enforcement Letters. A summary of each enforcement action taken is provided in the Table in Attachment B-4. The State Water Board's [Enforcement Policy](#) contains a brief description of the kinds of enforcement actions the Water Boards can take.

Additional information on violations, enforcement actions, and mandatory minimum penalties is available to the public from the following on-line sources:

State Water Board Office of Enforcement webpage:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/enforcement/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/).

California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS):  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ciwqs/publicreports.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/publicreports.shtml).

State Water Board GeoTracker database: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>.



## 5. Sanitary Sewer Overflows and Transboundary Flows from Mexico in the San Diego Region – December 2016 (*Attachment B-5*)

*Staff Contacts: Dat Quach and Joann Lim*

Sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) discharges from sewage collection systems and private laterals, and transboundary flows from Mexico into the San Diego Region, can contain high levels of suspended solids, pathogenic organisms, toxic pollutants, nutrients, oil, and grease. SSO discharges and transboundary flows can pollute surface and ground waters, threaten public health, adversely affect aquatic life, and impair the recreational use and aesthetic enjoyment of surface waters. Typical impacts of SSO discharges and transboundary flows include the closure of beaches and other recreational areas, inundated properties, and polluted rivers and streams.

The information below summarizes SSO spills and transboundary flows in the San Diego Region reported during **December 2016**:

Sewage Collection System SSO Spills	Private Lateral SSO Spills	Transboundary Flows from Mexico
<p>Six spills reported, totaling 4,385 gallons (1,985 gallons reached surface waters or a tributary storm drain).</p> <p>San Diego Water Board staff is not aware of any closures of beaches or other recreational areas due to these spills.</p>	<p>15 spills reported, totaling 4,220 gallons (760 gallons reached surface waters or a tributary storm drain).</p> <p>San Diego Water Board staff is not aware of any closures of beaches or other recreational areas due to these spills.</p>	<p>One dry weather transboundary flow event reported, totaling 920,000 gallons (875,000 gallons reached surface water).</p> <p>The transboundary flow, which started on October 26, 2016 and ended December 15, 2016, flooded Monument Road and contributed to the postponement of a surf contest.</p>

### Sanitary Sewage Overflows (SSOs)

State agencies, municipalities, counties, districts, and other entities (collectively referred to as public entities) that own or operate sewage collection systems report SSO spills through an on-line database system, the *California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS)*. These spill reports are required under the [Statewide General SSO Order](#),<sup>2</sup> the [San Diego Region-wide SSO Order](#),<sup>3</sup> and/or individual National

<sup>2</sup> State Water Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems* as amended by Order No. WQ 2013-0058-EXEC, *Amending Monitoring and Reporting Program for Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems*.

<sup>3</sup> San Diego Water Board Order No. R9-2007-0005, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Sewage Collection Agencies in the San Diego Region*.

Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. Some federal entities<sup>4</sup> report this information voluntarily. The SSO reports are available to the public on a real-time basis at the following State Water Board webpage:

[https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/readOnly/PublicReportSSOServlet?reportAction=criteria&reportId=sso\\_main](https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/readOnly/PublicReportSSOServlet?reportAction=criteria&reportId=sso_main).

Details on the reported SSOs are provided in the following attached tables (Attachment B-5) titled:

- Table 1: December 2016 - Summary of Public and Federal Sanitary Sewer Overflows in the San Diego Region.
- Table 2: December 2016 - Summary of Private Lateral Sewage Discharges in the San Diego Region.

Additional information about the San Diego Water Board sewage overflow regulatory program is available at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/sso/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/sso/index.shtml).

### **Transboundary Flows**

Water and wastewater in the Tijuana River and from a number of canyons located along the international border ultimately drain from Tijuana, Mexico into the U.S. The water and wastewater flows are collectively referred to as transboundary flows. The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has built canyon collectors to capture dry weather transboundary flows from some of the canyons for treatment at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP), an international wastewater treatment plant located in San Diego County at the U.S./Mexico border. Dry weather transboundary flows that are not captured by the canyon collectors for treatment at the SBIWTP, such as flows within the main channel of the Tijuana River, are reported by the USIBWC pursuant to [Order No. R9-2014-0009](#), the NPDES permit for the SBIWTP discharge. These uncaptured flows can enter waters of the U.S. and/or State, potentially polluting the Tijuana River Valley and Estuary, and south San Diego beach coastal waters.

Details on the reported transboundary flows are provided in the attached table (Attachment B-5) titled:

- Table 3: December 2016 - Summary of Transboundary Flows from Mexico into the San Diego Region.

According to the 1944 *Water Treaty for the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande* and stipulations established in [IBWC Minute No. 283](#), the USIBWC and the Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (CILA)<sup>5</sup> share responsibility for addressing border sanitation problems, including transboundary flows. The USIBWC and/or CILA have constructed and are operating several

<sup>4</sup> Marine Corp Base Camp Pendleton reports sewage spills to CIWQS as required by its individual NPDES permit, Order No. R9-2013-0112, NPDES Permit No. CA0109347, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Southern Regional Tertiary Treatment Plant and Advanced Water Treatment Plant, Discharge to the Pacific Ocean via the Oceanside Ocean Outfall*. The U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the U.S. Navy voluntarily report sewage spills through CIWQS.

<sup>5</sup> The Mexican section of the IBWC.

pump stations and treatment plants to reduce the frequency, volume, and pollutant levels of transboundary flows. This infrastructure includes but is not limited to the following:

- The SBIWTP, located just north of the U.S./Mexico border, which provides secondary treatment for a portion of the sewage from Tijuana, Mexico and dry weather runoff collected from a series of canyon collectors located in Smuggler Gulch, Goat Canyon, Canyon del Sol, Stewart's Drain, and Silva Drain. The secondary-treated wastewater is discharged to the Pacific Ocean through the South Bay Ocean Outfall, in accordance with Order No. R9-2014-0009, NPDES No. CA0108928.
- Several pump stations and wastewater treatment plants in Tijuana, Mexico.

The River Diversion Structure and Pump Station CILA divert dry weather flows from the Tijuana River at a point just south of the international border to the Pacific Ocean, at a point approximately 5.6 miles south of the U.S./Mexico border. The River Diversion Structure is not designed to collect wet weather flows and any flows over 1,000 liters per second (lps).

## **Part C – Statewide Issues of Importance to the San Diego Region**

### **1. Water Board Climate Change Resolutions: San Diego Water Board Tentative Resolution No. R9-2017-0035 and State Water Board Resolution No. 2017-TBD**

*Staff Contact: Jeremy Haas*

The climate is changing in ways that may directly and indirectly affect the State and Regional Water Boards' mission and responsibility to protect and restore uses of water for people and ecosystems. Consequently, both the State Water Board and the San Diego Water Board have separate Resolutions regarding climate change.

#### State Water Board

The State Water Board adopted a Resolution titled "[\*Comprehensive Response to Climate Change\*](#)" on March 7, 2017. This updates [Resolution No. 2007-0059](#) (*Approval to Develop Additional Information and Consider Actions Pertaining to Climate Change and Water Resources*) to give its staff clear direction on high priority topics that will support implementation of the State's key climate action priorities as identified in the [AB 32 Scoping Plan](#) (greenhouse gas reduction), [Safeguarding California Plan](#) (climate change adaptation), and [Water Action Plan](#) (sustainable water management). The Resolution directs specific actions be undertaken by various divisions and offices of the State Water Board, and it encourages the Regional Boards to undertake a variety of climate change related actions.

#### San Diego Water Board

At the April 12, 2017 meeting, the Board will consider Tentative Resolution No. R9-2017-0035, *Addressing Threats to Beneficial Uses from Climate Change*. A copy of the Tentative Resolution can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/climatechange/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/climatechange/).

The Tentative Resolution is a policy statement intended to (1) inform the public of the San Diego Water Board's intentions; (2) provide guidance to staff; and (3) respond to climate change-related directives of the Governor and Legislature.

Climate change may influence the ultimate outcome of many Practical Vision goals, such as [wetland, stream, and riparian recovery](#) and [sustainable local water supplies](#). The Board Chanheld a discussion of climate change issues at its [August 2015 Board meeting](#). During 2016, staff conducted an internal review of how programs are planning for various effects of climate change. The review found that to adequately meet the challenges, every Water Board program will need to account for some sort of potential effect of climate change. The Tentative Resolution would set the stage for staff to develop a detailed implementation plan that is responsive to the threats facing beneficial uses of water in the Region.

The Tentative Resolution does not change or create new permit conditions, water quality standards, or enforcement actions. Any such actions done in response to the Tentative Resolution will be subject to applicable public participation and/or adjudicatory or rulemaking procedures.

The Tentative Resolution was available for public comment from February 2 – February 23, 2017. Four written comments were received and will be provided in the Board's agenda materials at the April 12, 2017 meeting. Additional parties are expected to provide verbal comments at the Board meeting.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION

Significant NPDES Permits,  
WDRs, and Actions of the  
San Diego Water Board

March 15, 2017

APPENDED TO EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



DATE OF REPORT  
March 15, 2017

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE  
SIGNIFICANT NPDES PERMITS, WDRS, AND ACTIONS  
OF THE SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD

Action Agenda Item	Action Type	Draft Complete	Written Comments Due	Consent Item
<b>April 12, 2017</b> <i>San Diego Water Board</i>				
The California Ocean Science Trust Reports on the State of the California Coast ( <i>Gibson</i> )	Information Item	NA	NA	NA
Addressing Threats to Beneficial Uses From Climate Change ( <i>Haas</i> )	Tentative Resolution	100%	23-Feb-2017	No
NPDES Permit Reissuance for the Point Loma Waste Water Treatment Plant, Part Two of a Joint Hearing with USEPA ( <i>Lim</i> )	NPDES Permit Reissuance (adoption consideration hearing)	95%	21-Dec-2016	Maybe
Informational Workshop on the Use of Remote Monitoring Technologies to Assist the San Diego Water Board Mission ( <i>Mearon</i> )	Information Item	NA	NA	NA
Resolution Endorsing a Restoration Plan for Lake San Marcos ( <i>Mearon</i> )	Tentative Resolution	70%	TBD	No
San Diego Bay Fish Consumption Study ( <i>Alo</i> )	Information Item	NA	NA	No
<b>May 10, 2017</b> <i>No Meeting Scheduled</i>				
<b>June 21, 2017</b> <i>San Diego Water Board</i>				
Sweetwater Authority, Richard A Reynolds Desalination Facility, Brine Discharge to Lower Sweetwater Basin ( <i>Schwall</i> )	NPDES Permit Reissuance	50%	TBD	Yes
Resolution of Commitment to an Alternative Process for Achieving Water Quality Objectives for Biostimulatory Substances in Famosa Slough ( <i>Ebsen</i> )	TBD	50%	TBD	Likely
Update on the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team 5 Year Action Plan ( <i>Valdovinos</i> )	Information Item	NA	NA	NA

**Agenda Items Requested by Board Members**

<b>Requested Agenda Item</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>June 24, 2015</b>		
Workshop on low dissolved oxygen conditions in the San Diego River	Strawn	
Information Item regarding high levels of naturally occurring elements in groundwater when they interact with other issues.	Olson	
<b>August 12, 2015</b>		
Information item regarding data supporting Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives	Olson	
<b>December 16, 2015</b>		
San Diego River restoration and land acquisition workshop	Strawn	
<b>August 10, 2016</b>		
SCCWRP Flow Recovery Project Update	Strawn	
<b>November 9, 2016</b>		
Modern Monitoring Workshop	Abarbanel	To be held in Feb. or March 2017

## Attention Owners & Operators of Commercial Agricultural Operations

### An Announcement from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) reminds owners and/or operators of commercial agricultural operations that the deadline to enroll in one of the General Agricultural Orders is **August 7, 2017**. A commercial agricultural operation is a farm, orchard, greenhouse, or other agricultural business that grows crops with the intent to make a profit.

In November 2016, the San Diego Regional Water Board adopted two [General Agricultural Orders](#) that provide regulatory coverage for commercial agricultural operations. General Agricultural Order No. R9-2016-0004 provides regulatory coverage for commercial agricultural operations that enroll as **members of a Third-Party Group**, and General Agricultural Order No. R9-2016-005 provides regulatory coverage for commercial agricultural operations that enroll as **individuals**. Copies of the General Agricultural Orders may be found at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water\\_issues/programs/commercial\\_agriculture/commercial\\_ag\\_wdr.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water_issues/programs/commercial_agriculture/commercial_ag_wdr.shtml).

By enrolling, the owner/operator of the commercial agricultural operation agrees to:

- Use effective management practices to eliminate or reduce fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and sediment from leaving the agricultural operation and entering surface water and groundwater.
- Complete annual water quality training.
- Conduct monitoring and reporting activities.
- Pay an annual fee.
- Comply with all requirements of the General Agricultural Orders.

Many of these activities can be performed by a Third-Party Group on behalf of its members.

For more information visit

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/commercial\\_agriculture/commercial\\_ag.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/commercial_agriculture/commercial_ag.shtml), or contact Barry Pulver at (619) 521-3381, or [barry.pulver@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:barry.pulver@waterboards.ca.gov).

### Who is the San Diego Water Board?

The San Diego Water Board is a State agency that carries out Federal and State clean water laws, programs, and regulations applicable to commercial agricultural operations to protect and enhance the quality of California's waters within the boundaries of the San Diego Region. The watershed of the San Diego Region stretches along 85 miles of scenic coastline from Laguna Beach to the Mexican Border and extends 50 miles inland to the crest of the coastal mountains in San Diego County, Orange County, and Riverside County. Visit the San Diego Water Board's website at [www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego).



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

### ***Sent via Email Only***

January 25, 2017

Mr. Peter MacLaggan  
Vice President  
Poseidon Resources (Channelside) LP  
5780 Fleet St., Suite 140  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
[pmaclaggan@poseidonwater.com](mailto:pmaclaggan@poseidonwater.com)

**In reply refer to / attn:**  
640063:bneill

**Subject: Reissuance of Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for the Poseidon Resources (Channelside) LLC, Carlsbad Desalination Project, Discharge to the Pacific Ocean via the Encina Power Station Discharge Channel, Order No. R9-2006-0065, NPDES No. CA0109223**

Mr. MacLaggan:

Poseidon Resources (Channelside) LP (Poseidon) is currently permitted to discharge reverse osmosis concentrate and pretreatment backwash from the Carlsbad Desalination Project to the Pacific Ocean, pursuant to Order No. R9-2006-0065. Order No. R9-2006-0065 expired on October 1, 2011, but has been administratively extended. Order No. R9-2006-0065 will continue in effect until it is superseded by a reissued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The reissuance of the NPDES permit for the Carlsbad Desalination Project is a high priority for the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board).

The San Diego Water Board staff and State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff knowledgeable on Ocean Plan Desalination Amendment issues met with Poseidon most recently on November 2 and December 15, 2016 to review various information submittals by Poseidon and to discuss the outstanding issues related to the development of the draft NPDES Permit. The following listing summarizes the currently outstanding information items discussed at the meetings that Poseidon must provide in order for the San Diego Water Board to move forward with the development of the draft NPDES permit:

1. A corrected flow schematic for permanent stand-alone operations with respect to Figure 7 in the report of waste discharge (ROWD).
2. A revised proposal (including supporting information and rationale) for the zone of initial dilution.
3. A revised proposal (including supporting information and rationale) for the dilution ratio.

Mr. Peter MacLaggan  
Poseidon Resources (Channelside) LP

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January 25, 2017

4. A revised intake feasibility analysis that examines locating the intake screens at the edge of Agua Hedionda Lagoon with the pumps at the current proposed on-shore location such that Poseidon would not need to suspend operation of the Carlsbad Desalination Project while installing the intake screens.
5. If Poseidon is pursuing the proposal to locate the intake screens at an on-shore location, a comparison of the intake and mortality of marine life associated with both intake screening location alternatives.
6. A revised ROWD with all applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) application forms identifying the proposed fish return system's discharge location to Agua Hedionda Lagoon, and an antidegradation analysis for the fish return system's discharge to the Lagoon.
7. A more comprehensive explanation of the calculation of marine life impacts associated with an off-shore outfall with diffuser, including a comparison to marine life impacts associated with the current near-shore outfall.
8. A revised mitigation analysis for marine life impacts that includes 1) identification of the extent of rocky bottom habitat provided by the current outfall's discharge jetties; 2) a revised calculation (including the supporting rationale and justification) for the area of the brine mixing zone; 3) a revised proposal (including the supporting rationale and justification) for the mitigation ratio; and 4) proposed measures to mitigate for impacts associated with the operation of the Carlsbad Desalination Project prior to the completion of the approved mitigation project.
9. A detailed discussion of the impacts of climate change on the Carlsbad Desalination Project itself and any additional impacts that sea level rise is expected to have on marine life in relation to the operation of the Carlsbad Desalination Project.

The San Diego Water Board understands that Poseidon is planning to submit information regarding items 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 prior to the next meeting with the Water Boards on January 31.

As you know, preparation of the draft NPDES permit is underway and portions of the draft permit have been completed where possible using available information. Following submittal of a complete application, as determined by the San Diego Water Board, the timeframe for the development of the draft NPDES permit, the public review and comment process, and the San Diego Water Board proceedings to consider permit adoption could take up to nine months. Without the timely submittal of a complete application or if the information submitted is inadequate, the development of the draft NPDES permit will continue to be delayed.

Please feel free to contact Ben Neill with any questions or comments regarding this letter. Mr. Neill can be reached by phone at (619) 521-3376, or by email at [Ben.Neill@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ben.Neill@waterboards.ca.gov). In the subject line of any response, please include the reference number "640063:bneill".

Respectfully,



David Gibson  
Executive Officer

DG:jgs:dtb:bno:bin



Mr. Peter MacLaggan  
Poseidon Resources (Channelside) LP

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January 25, 2017

cc by email:

Josie McKinley, Poseidon Resources (Channelside), [JMcKinley@poseidon1.com](mailto:JMcKinley@poseidon1.com)  
 Michael Welch, Michael Welch Consulting, [mwelch1@san.rr.com](mailto:mwelch1@san.rr.com)  
 Robert Yamada, San Diego County Water Authority, [ryamada@sdcwa.org](mailto:ryamada@sdcwa.org)  
 Bill Kratz, Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, [Bill\\_Kratz@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:Bill_Kratz@feinstein.senate.gov)  
 Jamie Marincola, USEPA, [Marincola.Jamespaul@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Marincola.Jamespaul@epamail.epa.gov)  
 Karen Larsen, State Water Board, [Karen.Larsen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Karen.Larsen@waterboards.ca.gov)  
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 Marleigh Wood, State Water Board, [Marleigh.Wood@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Marleigh.Wood@waterboards.ca.gov)  
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 Renan Jauregui, State Water Board, [Renan.Jauregui@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Renan.Jauregui@waterboards.ca.gov)  
 Daniel Ellis, State Water Board, [Daniel.Ellis@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Ellis@waterboards.ca.gov)  
 Tom Luster, California Coastal Commission, [Tom.Luster@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Tom.Luster@coastal.ca.gov)  
 Elaine Lukey, City of Carlsbad, [elaine.lukey@carslabdca.gov](mailto:elaine.lukey@carslabdca.gov)  
 Dan Connally, PG Environmental, [dan.connally@pgenv.com](mailto:dan.connally@pgenv.com)

Tech Staff Info & Use	
Order No.	R9-2006-0065
Party ID	522151
WDID	9 000001429
NPDES No.	CA0109223
Reg. Measure ID	308381
Place ID	640063
Person ID	339921

Transboundary Spill NPDES CA0108928 Order No. R9-2014-0009, Amended by R9-2014-0094  
 Type  A  B (CAL OES 1-800-852-7550)

Name of Person Reporting Spill Steven Smullen

Telephone No. of Person Reporting 619-662-7601

Spill Location/Name Tijuana River at the International Border

GPS Coordinates 32.32.30 N, 117.2.18 W

Spill Reached:  Drainage Channel  Drainage Structure  Surface Water

Spill Reached:  MS4 MS4 Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Vol Spill to MS4 \_\_\_\_\_ Vol Recovered from MS4 \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate Spill Volume from All Sources Est 143 million gallons (MG)

Volume That Reached: Surface Water, Drainage Channel, Not Recovered from MS4 Est 143 MG

Total Recovered Volume 0

Number of Spill Appearance Points 1

Appearance Descriptions Strong raw sewage odor, cloudy, grey water

Spill Flow: Start Date Est 2/6/17 Start Time unk

Notification: Date 2/23/16 Time 1100

Operator Arrival: Date unk Time unk

Spill Flow: End Date Est 2/23/16 End Time unk

Cleanup Completed: Date N/A Time \_\_\_\_\_

Probable Cause of Spill Rehabilitation of major sewer collector near confluence of Rio Alamar and Rio Tijuana, central Tijuana, wastewater bypassed to Rio Tijuana

Notification of CAL OES Date 2/24/16 Time 1500

CAL OES Control Number 17-1682 Jennifer Gordon \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Spill Flow Destination Tijuana River Channel

Spill Flow Cause Rehab of collector and bypass

Spill Flow Failure Point Main collector, central Tijuana near confluence of Rios Alamar and Tijuana

Spill Flow Storm Event N/A

Spill Corrective Actions \_\_\_\_\_

Spill Flow Response Actions None

Spill Flow Completion Date \_\_\_\_\_

Investigation N/A Reasons \_\_\_\_\_ Completion Date \_\_\_\_\_

Health Warnings Posted  Yes  No

Name of Beaches Impacted:  None  Surface Water Impacted: Tijuana River

Location and No. Of Samples Collected (Type A) N/A Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parameters Tested N/A

Regulatory Agencies Receiving Results N/A

Methodology for Spill Volume Estimate based on estimated average daily flow of 300 lps

Amount of Spill Recovered None

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Certifying Official Steven Smullen Title Area Operations Manager Date 2/24/17

Signature 

March 2, 2017

Commissioner Edward Drusina  
International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section  
4171 North Mesa, Suite C100  
El Paso, Texas 79902-1441

Commissioner Roberto Salmón  
Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas, Sección Mexicana  
Ave. Universidad # 2180  
Zona El Chamizal  
Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua  
CP 32310

**SUBJECT: NEED FOR IMPROVED SEWER SYSTEM RELIABILITY AND  
INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION**

Dear Commissioners:

During the last several years, your leadership and our work together through organizations like the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and the Border 2020 program have led to promising improvements both in communication and process to implement environmental protection measures important to both our countries. Regrettably, the recent sewer system bypass into the Tijuana River, resulting in approximately 143 million gallons (541 million liters) of raw sewage flowing into the Tijuana River Valley and Estuary and affecting coastal water quality as far north as Coronado, has the serious potential to undermine our hard work and public confidence in the process you have initiated and led so well. I am deeply troubled by the lack of communication that has characterized this event and the extent to which present and potentially significant future failures may jeopardize our work together to serve and protect the human and environmental health of our communities.

I very respectfully request that we confer at your earliest convenience and, in particular, that you consider approaching the Border Environment Cooperation Commission and North American Development Bank as well as the state and local agencies in both countries to elevate the priority of improving sewer system reliability and interagency and binational communication. I am deeply concerned about the recent events and

discharges, and how they were handled by agencies in Mexico I know to be highly professional and committed to serving the public. Improvements in both communication and system performance would build on the investments already made in Tijuana. It is my opinion that improving wastewater management should be made a higher priority than the proposed NCS Agua/Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana (CESPT) desalination facility in Rosarito. In particular, I am very concerned that the capital costs and maintenance and operations expenses of such a costly facility, even in a public-private partnership, may burden CESPT with so much debt service obligations as to effectively limit or even preclude funding for sewer system improvements in coming years that will be all the more necessary if those systems are to receive still greater volumes of influent. Increased loading to what already appears to be a vulnerable sewage collection and treatment system without providing for their concomitant improvements would seem to portend more failures like those we recently saw in Tijuana. Such releases or spills directly threaten the health, lives, properties, and economies of communities in both Tijuana and San Diego and simply must be avoided.

In addition to public health and water quality, these sewage releases threaten public confidence and the perception of our agencies' shared efforts to craft a mutually beneficial partnership along the border. They also, however, present us with an opportunity to strengthen our ties and work together to make credible and durable improvements that prevent or minimize the impact of sewage spills in the future. Towards that end, I would like to ask that the appropriate government agencies, the Minute 320 Water Quality Work Group and the Binational Core Group consider the following measures:

- A detailed investigation of the breakdown in communications that resulted in an ongoing release of approximately 143 million gallons of sewage into the Tijuana River without any apparent attempt at diversion or public notification;
- The development of a binational public notification protocol for all sewage releases into storm water systems, the Tijuana River, or its tributaries. This would facilitate communication for public health agencies, landowners, and the press to provide timely information, enable a binational response to such events, and build public confidence in the efforts of agencies in both countries;
- A back-up IBWC pump station, located in San Ysidro, to complement the existing CILA pump station in Tijuana, that could, under special circumstances, divert emergency flows to the City of San Diego's Point Loma or South Bay wastewater treatment plants, or IBWC's wastewater treatment plant;

- Construction of a weir across the main channel of the Tijuana River to allow capture, retention, infiltration, or diversion of unexpected flows during the dry season to prevent or minimize impacts to the lower Tijuana River and Estuary and beaches in Tijuana, Imperial Beach, and Coronado; and
- An enhanced and binationally coordinated watershed and coastal waters monitoring program to develop information that would inform our efforts through Minute 320 to improve environmental quality in both countries.

I cannot emphasize enough how much I appreciate your efforts to surmount the often enormous efforts presented by wastewater, trash, and sediment issues along the border in Mexico and the United States. I strongly support the continued efforts to refine and advance the Minute 320 process as well as our working relationship to better manage the environmental issues and needs that concern our communities. Although the present circumstances may be an aberration or setback, we cannot work hard enough to prevent their recurrence if we are to serve and protect the well-being of the community members of Tijuana and San Diego, as they deserve.

Respectfully,



David W. Gibson  
Executive Officer



March 2, 2017

Border Environment Cooperation Commission  
P.O. Box 221648  
El Paso, Texas 79913

North American Development Bank  
203 South St. Mary's, Suite 300  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

**SUBJECT: NEED FOR IMPROVED WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN TIJUANA**

Dear BECC-NADB Board of Directors:

On behalf of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 9 (San Diego Water Board), I want to share with you my appreciation for the work you have supported to improve communities along the border. I would also like to express the San Diego Water Board's deep concern regarding the state of sewage collection and treatment in Tijuana, and the discharges of sewage into waters shared by Mexico and the United States. Although significant progress has been made during the last 20 years, in no small part due part to the efforts of BECC and NADB, it is abundantly clear from recent events that much more work remains to be done to improve sewer system reliability in order to protect our communities in Tijuana and San Diego, and the quality of the waters we all care about and depend upon. In particular, the recent release of approximately 143 million gallons of raw sewage into the Tijuana River demonstrates both how vulnerable the current sewer system in Tijuana is and how much work remains ahead of us to prevent and respond to planned and unplanned releases of sewage.

I would like to respectfully request that you consider the needs of the residents along the border, on both sides, for adequate sewer system reliability and that you consider making it a top priority, placing this extremely important need ahead of plans for the proposed NCS Agua/Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana (CESPT) desalination facility in Rosarito until such time as the reliability and performance of sewage collection, treatment and discharge systems in Tijuana and San Antonio de los Buenos treatment facility are functionally equivalent to the standards routinely achieved and maintained in comparably sized districts and municipalities in the San Diego region.



I sincerely appreciate the importance of safe, clean drinking water to the people of Tijuana, but I feel compelled by multiple recent discharges of raw sewage into drainages tributary to the Tijuana River Valley and the poor effluent quality of the San Antonio de los Buenos treatment plant to share with you the San Diego Water Board's concern regarding the serious threat to human and environmental health resulting from the condition and operation of these systems to communities in Tijuana and San Diego. Adding more influent to an already stressed system and an aging, poorly performing sewage treatment plant can only be expected to result in still more similar discharges. Moreover, the San Diego Water Board is concerned that the terms of the project to develop a desalination facility in Rosarito may be such that CESPT will be burdened with so much debt service as to be functionally precluded from making significant investments in its sewer system just as loadings to it are increasing.

I am respectfully requesting that you support a thorough and comprehensive review of the Tijuana region wastewater management needs that precedes the commitment of funding for desalination projects, and that you further consider ways of supporting the development of effective reuse of the wastewater in Tijuana to augment water supplies there as is being done by the cities of San Diego and Escondido, the Padre Dam Municipal Water District, and Orange County. I have previously commented on this regarding the proposed Rosarito project, but the nature of recent sewage failures makes the case I suggested in my previous communications even more consequential and I would ask that you add this communication to the public comment file on the proposed Rosarito desalination project that is pending before you.

Thank you very much again for your many years of hard work to improve our communities along the border through sound investment in important wastewater and water projects. Please consider taking or supporting the steps and measures necessary to improve sewer system reliability that would build upon the many successful projects supported and funded through your efforts.

Respectfully,



David W. Gibson  
Executive Officer

Enclosure: February 23, 2017 Transboundary Spill Report

Transboundary Spill NPDES CA0108928 Order No. R9-2014-0009, Amended by R9-2014-0094

Type  A  B

(CAL OES 1-800-852-7550)

Name of Person Reporting Spill Steven SmullenTelephone No. of Person Reporting 619-662-7601Spill Location/Name Tijuana River at the International BorderGPS Coordinates 32.32.30 N, 117.2.18 WSpill Reached:  Drainage Channel  Drainage Structure  Surface WaterSpill Reached:  MS4 MS4 Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Vol Spill to MS4 \_\_\_\_\_ Vol Recovered from MS4 \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate Spill Volume from All Sources Est 143 million gallons (MG) \_\_\_\_\_Volume That Reached: Surface Water, Drainage Channel, Not Recovered from MS4 Est 143 MG \_\_\_\_\_Total Recovered Volume 0 \_\_\_\_\_Number of Spill Appearance Points 1 \_\_\_\_\_Appearance Descriptions Strong raw sewage odor, cloudy, grey water \_\_\_\_\_Spill Flow: Start Date Est 2/6/17 Start Time unk \_\_\_\_\_Notification: Date 2/23/16 Time 1100 \_\_\_\_\_Operator Arrival: Date unk Time unk \_\_\_\_\_Spill Flow: End Date Est 2/23/16 End Time unk \_\_\_\_\_Cleanup Completed: Date N/A Time \_\_\_\_\_Probable Cause of Spill Rehabilitation of major sewer collector near confluence of Rio Alamar and Rio Tijuana, central Tijuana, wastewater bypassed to Rio Tijuana \_\_\_\_\_Notification of CAL OES Date 2/24/16 Time 1500 \_\_\_\_\_CAL OES Control Number 17-1682 Jennifer Gordon \_\_\_\_\_Description of Spill Flow Destination Tijuana River Channel \_\_\_\_\_Spill Flow Cause Rehab of collector and bypass \_\_\_\_\_Spill Flow Failure Point Main collector, central Tijuana near confluence of Rios Alamar and Tijuana \_\_\_\_\_Spill Flow Storm Event N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Spill Corrective Actions \_\_\_\_\_

Spill Flow Response Actions None \_\_\_\_\_

Spill Flow Completion Date \_\_\_\_\_

Investigation N/A Reasons \_\_\_\_\_ Completion Date \_\_\_\_\_Health Warnings Posted  Yes  NoName of Beaches Impacted: None Surface Water Impacted: Tijuana River \_\_\_\_\_Location and No. Of Samples Collected (Type A) N/A Number \_\_\_\_\_Parameters Tested N/A \_\_\_\_\_Regulatory Agencies Receiving Results N/A \_\_\_\_\_Methodology for Spill Volume Estimate based on estimated average daily flow of 300 lps \_\_\_\_\_Amount of Spill Recovered None \_\_\_\_\_

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Certifying Official Steven Smullen Title Area Operations Manager Date 2/24/17 \_\_\_\_\_Signature  \_\_\_\_\_

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNORMATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 2, 2017

Hector Aguirre  
San Diego Board Liaison Office  
610 West Ash street, Suite 905  
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Director Aguirre,

As you know, a very large sewage release of as much as 143,000,000 gallons occurred between February 6 and February 18 2017. Through the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) emergency spill report, I have been informed that this was very likely a planned public works project undertaken by CESPT. I am writing you both as Co-Chair of the Border 2020 Tijuana River Task Force and the Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 9 San Diego (Water Board).

I am requesting that US EPA conduct a thorough investigation of the event and CESPT's actions. In particular, I would like to know the extent to which Border 2020 or other binational funding instruments were involved in this event and the measures that were required as condition of such funding. I would also like to know what, if any measures were employed by the Mexican agency conducting the sewer work (CESPT) to contain or divert the waste water back into the sewer system.

Finally, it is deeply disappointing that after investing so much time and effort through Border 2020 and the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team with US EPA, IBWC and other 30 other organizations to improve Border cooperation and communications that no effort whatsoever was apparently made by the Mexican agencies or officials to notify or inform us of the planned release or accidental spill, if such it was. This failure to communicate deprives the Water Board and the public of confidence in the work of Border 2020, the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and IBWC's Minute 320 process. I would like to ask in the strongest possible terms that you lead an effort to create a formal binational public communication protocol to allow timely and useful sharing of information regarding similar events, spills, or releases that threaten human and environmental health.

Thank you very much for time and attention to this request and the efforts of the Border Liaison Office that has, despite this recent event, achieved many successes improving water quality, air quality and solid waste management in the Tijuana River Watershed.

Respectfully,

David W. Gibson  
Executive Officer

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 9, San Diego  
Co-Chair Tijuana Watershed Border 2020 Task Force



## International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release  
March 2, 2017

### **COMMISSIONERS CALL ON WORK GROUP TO INVESTIGATE TRANSBOUNDARY SEWAGE SPILL**

The United States and Mexican Commissioners of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, have agreed to investigate a transboundary sewage spill at San Diego, California-Tijuana, Baja California that was reported in February 2017. The investigation will determine when the spill occurred, quantify how much sewage spilled, specify the characteristics of the sewage, and identify problems in procedures to notify the Commission and the public.

U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina and Mexican Commissioner Roberto Salmon agreed on March 1 to ask the Commission's binational Water Quality Work Group to investigate the spill and submit a report within 30 days.

The Water Quality Work Group was established in 2016 in furtherance of Commission Minute No. 320, "General Framework for Binational Cooperation on Transboundary issues in the Tijuana River Basin." The Minute enables issues of water quality, sediment, and trash in the Tijuana River Basin to be addressed cooperatively between the two countries. Work Group members include Commission personnel, water utility managers, environmental organizations, and governmental agencies.

The Commissioners agreed to investigate the matter after receiving reports about sewage originating in Mexico that affected the Tijuana River, Tijuana River Estuary, and coastal waters at Imperial Beach, California. The U.S. Section of the Commission informed U.S. agencies of the information it had received from Mexican authorities but the duration of the spill and volume have not been confirmed.

"We need to make sure the Commission receives timely and accurate information when there are sewage spills in one country that affect the other," said U.S. Commissioner Edward Drusina.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the two countries and settling differences that arise in the application of the treaties.

For more information:

Lori Kuczmanski  
915-832-4106  
Lori.Kuczmanski@ibwc.gov

### Enforcement Actions for January 2017

Enforcement Date	Enforcement Action	Entity/ Facility/ Location	Summary of Violations and Enforcement	Applicable Permit/Order Violated
01/05/2017	<a href="#">Staff Enforcement Letter</a>	South Orange County Wastewater Authority-San Juan Creek Ocean Outfall	Deficient monitoring report	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Order No. R9-2012-0012
01/05/2017	<a href="#">Staff Enforcement Letter</a>	US Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Southern Regional Treatment Plant, Camp Pendleton	Deficient monitoring and late report	NPDES Order No. R9-2013-0112
01/05/2017	<a href="#">Staff Enforcement Letter</a>	City of Oceanside, Oceanside Ocean Outfall	Exceedance of average monthly effluent limit for total suspended solids, deficient monitoring, and late report	NPDES Order No. R9-2011-0016
01/11/2017	<a href="#">Staff Enforcement Letter</a>	City of Escondido, Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility	Exceedance of total coliform daily maximum and 12-month average effluent limit for Color	NPDES Order No. R9-2010-0032
01/17/2017	<a href="#">Staff Enforcement Letter</a>	Padre Dam Municipal Water District, Ray Stoyer Water Recycling Facility, Santee	Deficient monitoring reports	Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No.97-49
01/18/2017	<a href="#">Staff Enforcement Letter</a>	City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department, South Bay Water Reclamation Plant	Exceedances of the 30-day average effluent limit for sulfate, chloride, and percent sodium, as well as the daily maximum limit for total dissolved solids	WDR Order No. R9-2000-0203

### Enforcement Actions for January 2017

Enforcement Date	Enforcement Action	Entity/ Facility/ Location	Summary of Violations and Enforcement	Applicable Permit/Order Violated
01/20/2017	Staff Enforcement Letter	City of Carlsbad, Vista Carlsbad Interceptor PWS 13 40UTIL, Carlsbad	Deficient BMP Implementation and unauthorized discharges of sediment.	NPDES Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ
01/26/2017	<a href="#">Staff Enforcement Letter</a>	US Navy Southwest Division, US Naval Base Point Loma, San Diego	Unauthorized discharges to San Diego Bay, exceedances of acute toxicity maximum daily effluent limit, and deficient monitoring and reporting	NPDES Order No. R9-2014-0037



Table 1: December 2016 - Summary of Public and Federal Sanitary Sewer Overflows in the San Diego Region

Responsible Agency	Collection System	Total Volume*	Total Recovered*	Total Reaching Surface Waters*	Percent Recovered (%)	Percent Reaching Surface Waters	Additional Details	Miles of Pressure Sewer	Miles of Gravity Sewer	Population in Service Area
		(Gallons)	(Gallons)	(Gallons)						
Imperial Beach City	City of Imperial Beach CS	185	185	185	100%	100%		4.4	39.5	26,337
		530	300	0	57%	0%	1*			
		1,050	1,050	0	100%	0%				
San Diego City (City Attorney's Office at Civic Center Plaza)	San Diego City CS (Wastewater Collection System)	330	330	0	100%	0%		145.0	3,032.0	2,207,591
		1,800	0	1,800	0%	100%				
		490	490	0	100%	0%				
	Totals for Public Spills	4,385	2,355	1,985						
	Totals for Federal Spills	0	0	0						

\*Total Recovered plus Total Reaching Surface Waters does not always equal Total Volume for one or more of the following reasons: 1) a portion of the spill may have been discharged to land and not recovered, 2) a portion of the spill may have been discharged to a drainage channel and recovered (all of the volume discharged to a drainage channel whether recovered or not is considered reaching surface waters), and/or 3) a portion of the spill may have been discharged directly to surface waters and recovered (all of the volume discharged directly to surface waters whether recovered or not is considered reaching surface waters).

1\* 530 gallons were discharged to land, 300 gallons were recovered, and 230 gallons seeped into the ground and/or evaporated.

Table 2: December 2016 - Summary of Private Lateral Sewage Discharges in the San Diego Region

Responsible Agency	Collection System	Total Volume*		Total Recovered*		Total Reaching Surface Waters*	Percent Recovered (%)	Percent Reaching Surface Waters	Additional Details	Population in Service Area	Lateral Connections
		(Gallons)	(Gallons)	(Gallons)	(Gallons)						
Escondido City	HARRF Disch To San Elijo OO CS	360	325	65	90%	18%	1*	142,000	53,848		
Imperial Beach City	City of Imperial Beach CS	50	50	0	100%	0%		26,337	10,909		
La Mesa City	City of La Mesa CS	30	30	0	100%	0%		58,244	13,000		
Laguna Beach City	City of Laguna Beach CS	40	40	0	100%	0%		18,000	6,650		
Padre Dam Municipal Water District	Padre Dam CS	7	0	0	0%	0%	2*	68,902	15,097		
San Diego City (City Attorney's Office at Civic Center Plaza)	San Diego City CS (Wastewater Collection System)	88	88	0	100%	0%		2,207,591	267,237		
		1,488	1,488	0	100%	0%					
		360	360	0	100%	0%					
		765	150	615	20%	80%					
		16	16	0	100%	0%					
South Coast Water District	South Coast Water District CS	27	27	0	100%	0%		42,000	14,762		
		329	329	0	100%	0%					
Vista City	City of Vista CS	60	60	0	100%	0%		90,000	16,483		
		200	200	0	100%	0%					
		400	320	80	80%	20%					
Totals		4,220	3,483	760							

\*Total Recovered plus Total Reaching Surface Waters does not always equal Total Volume for one or more of the following reasons: 1) a portion of the spill may have been to land and not recovered, 2) a portion of the spill may have been to a drainage channel and recovered (all of the volume discharged to a drainage channel whether recovered or not is considered reaching surface waters), and/or 3) a portion of the spill may have been discharged directly to surface waters and recovered (all of the volume discharged directly to surface waters whether recovered or not is considered reaching surface waters).

1\* 360 gallons were discharged to land. 325 gallons were recovered and 65 gallons reached surface water.

2\* All 7 gallons seeped into the ground and/or evaporated.

Table 3: December 2016 - Summary of Transboundary Flows from Mexico into the San Diego Region

Location	Start Date	Total Volume	Total Reaching Surface Waters		Percent Recovered	Percent Reaching Surface Waters (%)	Additional Details
			Total Recovered (Gallons)	Total Reaching Surface Waters			
<b>Dry Weather<sup>1</sup></b>							
Tijuana River	10/26/2016	920,000	45,000	875,000	4.9	95.1	On October 26, 2016 transboundary flow began to trickle into the United States through Yogurt Canyon. The transboundary flow flooded Monument Road. The flooding was one of the reasons that the November 6, 2016 public event, <i>Surf the Border Surf Contest</i> , was postponed. The transboundary flow was due to multiple sections of a 18-inch diameter sewer line in Tijuana collapsing or plugging up. As repairs were made to one section and other sections were being cleared, more sections were collapsing. On December 15, 2016, Mexico reported that the collapsed pipe had been repaired.
Total Dry Weather		920,000	45,000	875,000	4.9	95.1	
<b>Wet Weather<sup>2</sup></b>							
Tijuana River	12/16/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	On December 16, 2016, the operation of Pump Station CILA was suspended due to the large flows resulting from precipitation in the Tijuana watershed. As of February 3, 2017, the Pump Station CILA has not been turned back on. No transboundary flow amounts reported. The Tijuana River gage is not reporting accurately or reliably. USIBWC has initiated purchase of new equipment for this gage.
Total Wet Weather		n/a					

1 - Order No. R9-2014-0009 requires monthly reporting of all dry weather transboundary flows.

2 - Order No. R9-2014-0009 does not require monthly reporting of wet weather transboundary flows. Any information provided regarding these flows is voluntary.