

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region

David Gibson, Executive Officer



Executive Officer's Report  
September 14, 2022

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**The September 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

*Staff Contact: Dulce Romero*

An updated San Diego Water Board staff list can be viewed at: [San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Staff List \(ca.gov\)](#).

#### Recruitment

We are actively recruiting for four positions: one limited-term Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist and one Office Technician in the Healthy Waters Branch, one Graduate Student in the Surface Water Protection Branch; one Engineering Geologist in the Site Restoration Groundwater Protection Branch.

We are also preparing to recruit for one Environmental Scientists and one Scientific Aid in the Surface Water Protection Branch.

#### Filled Vacancies

Josh Hufferd began work as an Engineering Geologist in the Site Restoration and Waste Management Unit on September 1, 2022. Josh previously worked as an Emissions Inspector and Environmental Engineer for the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Josh received a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Illinois State University and recently received his Master of Science Degree in Geotechnical Engineering from Northwestern University.

Abigail Pashina joined the Groundwater Sustainability and Protection Unit as an Environmental Scientist on August 15, 2022. Abby previously worked in the Mission Support Services Unit at the San Diego Water Board. Abby will be working in the Commercial Agriculture Program and the Non-Point Source Program. She received a B.S. in Earth Science from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and previously worked for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife before joining the San Diego Water Board.

Jessica Taylor joined the Stormwater Management Unit on August 22, 2022. Jessica will primarily be working in the municipal stormwater program overseeing water quality improvement strategies in the San Diego Bay, Mission Bay, and Tijuana River watersheds. She will also work in the construction stormwater program performing field inspections throughout the region. Jessica has a PhD and a master's degree from Iowa State University in Civil Engineering. Her undergraduate degree is from California State Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo in Environmental Engineering.

Katherine Dey joined the Source Control and Regulatory Unit on August 8, 2022. Katherine will be reviewing discharger self-monitoring reports in the NPDES wastewater program, groundwater extraction permit, aquaria waiver, and other facilities; as well as responding to public records act and data requests. She has a degree in Biology from University of California San Diego and certificates in both EDGEE Biomass Program and Biofuels Science.

Information regarding our vacancies is located on the CalCareers and San Diego Water Board websites:

<https://calcareers.ca.gov/CalHRPublic/Search/AdvancedJobSearch.aspx>

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about\\_us/employment/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/employment/)

## **2. Border Water Quality Efforts**

*Staff Contact: David Gibson*

On August 17, 2022, I attended the first meeting of the newly reconstituted Binational Core Group of the International Boundary and Water Commission Minute 320 Framework to address water quality, sediment, and trash in the Tijuana River Watershed. The Meeting was convened and led by U.S. Commissioner Dr. Maria-Elena Giner and Mexico Commissioner Adriana Resendez. The meeting was attended by invited representatives at federal, state, and local agencies, and non-governmental organizations in both countries. The next meeting will be focused on an update of the proposed on ongoing project inventories in both countries.

On August 18, 2022 representatives of the U.S. and Mexico sections of the IBWC and U.S. EPA and CONAQUA convened a binational signing ceremony to memorialize [Minute 328](#) and the binational [Statement of Intent](#) that commits \$474 million to border water quality protection infrastructure. The agreements outline projects to be constructed in San Diego and Tijuana using \$330 million dollars from the U.S. government and \$144 million dollars from the Mexican government. The proposed infrastructure will be constructed and operational by the end of 2027. The expected outcomes include a 50% reduction in the number of days of transboundary wastewater flow in the Tijuana River and an 80% reduction in the volume of untreated wastewater discharged to the Pacific Ocean six miles (10 kilometers) south of the border.

The meeting of the Eligible Public Entities Coordination Group (EPECG) is planned for October 2022 and will include updates on state and local agency funded projects. Finally, the California Legislature approved AB 2248 (Garcia, Ward, Hueso, Alvarez) in the final days of the 2022 session that allocates \$100 million from the General Fund for the New River and the Tijuana River, subject to future appropriations.

## Part B – Significant Regional Water Quality Issues

### 1. 2021 Triennial Review Project No. 1: Designation of the Tribal Beneficial Uses, Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB), to Surface Waters in the San Diego Region

Staff Contact: Jody Ebsen

#### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Lead: Jody Ebsen

Supervisor: Cynthia Gorham

Report Date: September 2022

Report Period: March-July 2022

Overall Status: On track

#### Website:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/tribal\\_beneficial\\_uses.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/tribal_beneficial_uses.html)

#### Project Description:

Building on the work completed with the adoption of Resolution No. R9-2020-0254, which incorporated these beneficial uses into the San Diego Region Basin Plan, staff will continue to work with tribes to identify surface water bodies potentially eligible for designation with CUL, T-SUB or SUB beneficial uses. During the initial phase of this project, the San Diego Water Board will seek collaboration with tribes to obtain input and available historical, cultural, technical, and scientific information to support water body designations. In the 2021 Triennial Review designating Tribal Beneficial Uses (TBUs) to surface waters is a priority project that will most likely extend into the next triennial review cycle.

#### Project Objective:

Develop working relationships with local tribes to gather supporting information and identify surface waters for designation of TBUs in the San Diego region with the adoption of a Basin Plan amendment.

#### Triennial Review Commitment:

Work in consultation with local tribes to designate waterbodies, as appropriate, in the San Diego Region with the CUL, T-SUB, and SUB beneficial uses.

Key Milestone	Target Date	Status
Develop project charter and schedule	March 2022	Completed
Outreach meetings – Tribal Summit	June 29, 2022	Completed

<b>Key Milestone</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Engage with tribal representatives to form a workgroup	Fall 2022	
Develop initial project scope with workgroup	Summer 2023	
Workshops	TBD	
CEQA scoping meeting and CEQA checklist	2024	
CEQA consultations	2024	
Stakeholder & public review period of project	2026	
San Diego Water Board public hearing to consider Basin Plan amendment	2027	
State Water Board public hearing to consider Basin Plan amendment	2028	
Office of Administrative Law approval	2028	
USEPA approval	2028	

**B. PROGRESS REPORT: Tribal Beneficial Uses**

**Reporting Period Events**

Accomplishments during period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invited 38 tribes in the Southern California area and hosted a Tribal Summit on June 29, 2022.</li> <li>• Staff attended Tribal Relations Trainings.</li> <li>• Coordinated with other Regional Boards and State Water Board Office of Public Participation, Tribal Affairs through the State and Regional Water Board Tribal Beneficial Uses Workgroup.</li> <li>• Established an email subscription list and a project web page for Tribal Beneficial Uses.</li> <li>• Collected resources researched local tribal uses, regulatory steps, and basin planning requirements.</li> <li>• Developed a project charter and project outreach Strategy.</li> </ul>
Collaboration during period	Hosted Tribal Summit in a hybrid meeting to discuss designating water bodies with the Tribal Beneficial Uses. Twelve tribal representatives from seven local tribes attended the meeting. Board Chair Cantú facilitated the meeting, and

	other board members and staff participated with assistance from the State Water Board and Office of Public Participation.
Activities planned but not completed	Continue to collect resources and develop descriptions of specific cultural activities to support designations.
Key issues during period	None

### Looking Forward

Activities planned for next period	Participate in State and Regional Water Board Tribal Beneficial Uses Workgroup on August 18, 2022.  Engage tribal representatives to form a work group to develop the project during fall/winter 2022.
Key issues on the horizon	None

## 2. 2021 Triennial Review Project No. 2: Tijuana River Valley Water Quality Restoration

*Staff Contact: Melissa Corona*

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Lead:** *Melissa Corona*

**Supervisor:** Cynthia Gorham

*Report Date:* September 2022

*Report Period:* March-July 2022

*Overall Status:* On track

### Website:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/tmdls/tijuanarivervalle.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/tmdls/tijuanarivervalle.html)

### Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for indicator bacteria and trash in the lower Tijuana River because the San Diego Water Board has identified human health and ecosystem impacts in the Tijuana River Valley as regional priorities for many years. The San Diego Water Board will continue work on development and approval of TMDLs. Staff will complete the peer and public review processes, continue to coordinate with stakeholders, and prepare an amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin* (Basin Plan amendment) for adoption by the Board and for approval from the State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Administrative Law, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Although the Tijuana River is on the 2020-2022 Clean Water Act section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments for impairments due to over 30 pollutants, control of

the anthropogenic sources of indicator bacteria and trash is likely to result in a significant reduction of the remaining pollutants.

**Project Objective:**

The objective is to reduce pollutant loads entering the Tijuana River in order to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Tijuana River as well as the downstream Tijuana River Estuary and coastal waters.

**Triennial Review Commitment:**

Development of TMDLs for indicator bacteria and trash with an implementation plan to restore impaired waters in the Tijuana River Valley.

<b>Key Milestone</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting	May 15, 2019	Completed
Peer review of draft TMDL technical report	Spring 2023	Delayed (originally planned for Summer 2020)
Public review of draft TMDL technical report and comment period	Within six months following completion of peer review	Delayed (originally planned for Winter 2020-21)
Basin Plan amendment package to San Diego Water Board for adoption	Within eight months following completion of peer review	Delayed (originally planned for August 2021)

**B. PROGRESS REPORT: Tijuana River Valley Water Quality Restoration**

**Reporting Period Events**

Accomplishments during period	In July, the San Diego Water Board reviewed and provided written comments on a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that was developed by USEPA and the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) for proposed projects aimed at reducing transboundary flows from Tijuana.
Collaboration during period	Briefings to Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Steering Committee (March and June 2022).
Activities planned but not completed	External scientific peer review, previously scheduled for March 2022, will be rescheduled following completion of legal review.
Key issues during period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The original target dates for key milestones have been delayed primarily due to extended legal review and legal considerations related to the San Diego Water Board’s involvement in litigation with USIBWC. New target dates have</li> </ul>

	<p>been established. However, achieving this schedule is contingent upon completion of internal legal review and direction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In June 2022, USEPA and USIBWC, as joint lead agencies, developed a Draft PEIS that outlines a tiered framework for future funding decisions and reviews the environmental impacts of the <i>United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Mitigation of Contaminated Transboundary Flows Project</i> (USMCA Project). The USMCA Project aims to reduce transboundary flows from Tijuana that cause adverse public health and environmental impacts in the Tijuana River watershed and adjacent coastal areas. The USMCA Project will be funded, in part, by USMCA funds appropriated by Congress in 2019.</li> </ul>
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**Looking Forward**

<p>Activities planned for next period</p>	<p>Staff will submit the TMDL report to external scientific peer review shortly after legal review, which may be completed during the next reporting period.</p>
<p>Key issues on the horizon</p>	<p>This project could be influenced by a number of efforts involving the Tijuana River Valley, including the San Diego Water Board’s involvement in litigation with USIBWC, funding decisions and potential environmental impacts related to the USMCA Project, efforts associated with IBWC Minute 320, and efforts led by the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team.</p>



### 3. 2021 Triennial Review Project No. 4: Contact Water Recreation (REC-1) Water Quality Objectives

*Staff Contact: Michelle Santillan*

#### **A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Lead:** *Michelle Santillan*

**Supervisor:** Cynthia Gorham

*Report Date: September 2022*

*Report Period: March – July 2022*

*Overall Status: On track*

#### **Website:**

Not available at this time

#### **Project Description:**

This project was first introduced during the 2014 Triennial Review. At the time, the focus of the project was to determine whether and to what extent data supported amending the objectives, implementation provisions for applicable bacteria TMDLs, or the TMDLs themselves. Bacteria TMDLs were adopted in June 2008 and February 2010. In July 2018, San Diego Water Board staff prepared a summary report of the 2014 REC-1 Triennial Review Project that made recommendations for next steps. Recommendations were based on discussions and feedback from external and internal workgroups as well as the various technical studies that had been completed to date. During the 2018 Triennial Review, the focus for the project shifted towards implementation of actions that were identified in the 2018 recommendations report. The short-term actions included updates to the existing storm water permit, audits of Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination programs, updates to waste discharge requirements for sanitary sewer systems, and updates to Chapter 3 in the Basin Plan. Staff continues to implement and track the requirements of the 2018 Triennial Review. Furthermore, as part of the 2021 Triennial Review, staff will investigate the feasibility of the development of a narrative risk-based objective and potential revisions to the 20 Beaches and Creeks Bacteria TMDL.

#### **Project Objectives:**

- Investigate the development of a narrative (risk-based) water quality objective that is protective of the REC-1 beneficial use.
- Establish, if appropriate, a numeric translator for the human-specific *Bacteriodes* HF183 to implement the narrative objective.
- Initiate review and if warranted develop recommendations for amending the Bacteria TMDLs.

#### **Triennial Review Commitment:**

- Investigate the development of a narrative objective that would allow the use of human specific markers while being protective of the REC-1 beneficial use.

<b>Key Milestone</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Final Report for Investigative Order No. R9-2019-0014	June 2024	
Final Report for SWAMP Sampling at Reference Beaches	2023	
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting for new objective	TBD	
Public Workshop for MS4 Permit Renewal	TBD	TBD
Draft Revisions to Regional WDRs for Sanitary Sewer Systems	TBD	Staff participated in the State Water Board effort to identify proposed revisions to statewide requirements for sanitary sewer systems

**B. PROGRESS REPORT: REC-1 Water Quality Objectives**

**Reporting Period Events**

Accomplishments during period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is ongoing</li> </ul>
Collaboration during period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The internal REC-1 workgroup met in April 2022, June 2022, and August 2022. The group meets on a bimonthly basis to share information and coordinate actions.</li> <li>• Staff met with consultants for the MS4 copermittees to receive an update on bacteria/pathogen risk-based monitoring approaches that are being used to support MS4 efforts in San Diego, Orange County, and for the Upper LA River Watershed.</li> </ul>

Activities planned but not completed	None
Key issues during period	None

**Looking Forward**

Activities planned for next period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff will participate in a statewide bacteria summit hosted by the State Water Board and stormwater industry representatives. The purpose of the summit is to identify the priority technical, management, and regulatory actions needed to allow people to recreate safely in California’s river and ocean waters and to eat shellfish safely. The summit will be held from September 14-16, 2022, at the CalEPA building in Sacramento.</li> <li>• Staff will review the semiannual progress report for the San Diego River Investigative Order (R9-2019-0014). The next semiannual progress report is due by October 30, 2022.</li> </ul>
Key issues on the horizon	None

**4. San Mateo Creek Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to Restore Southern California Steelhead (*Attachment B-4*)**

*Staff Contact: Chad Loflen*

Staff released a draft invasive species TMDL for San Mateo Creek for public review and comment in June 2022. The draft TMDL identifies targets and a pathway to restore conditions in San Mateo Creek for the federally endangered southern California steelhead. Implementation relies on State and federal funding for collaborative watershed planning and restoration activities to remove aquatic invasive species and their sources in the San Mateo Creek watershed.

San Mateo Creek is currently listed as impaired under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act because aquatic invasive species are restricting the ability of its waters to support the Beneficial Uses designated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan), specifically the RARE (Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species), MIGR (Migration of Aquatic Organisms), and SPWN (Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development) uses for steelhead.

San Mateo Creek is identified as a CORE 1 population segment in the federal Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan. The creek consists largely of high-quality

protected habitat and lacks any major dams or fish passage barriers. However, aquatic non-native species that co-occur with steelhead outcompete them for resources and prey on them while also degrading water quality.

Because the impairment is included as a priority on the State's 2020-2025 nonpoint source program [implementation plan](#), the draft TMDL makes parties eligible for state and federal funding available to conduct coordinated watershed removal efforts for the aquatic invasive species, including funding to educate and work with private upstream landowners to identify and mitigate private ponds that are or may be contributing to aquatic invasive species getting into San Mateo Creek. Funding would also be available for downstream agency landowners, such as the United States Forest Service and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, to conduct invasive species removals.

Rather than being adopted as a Basin Plan amendment, a Certification would be considered by the Board or Executive Officer, consistent with the State Water Board's Impaired Waters Policy, to verify that actions taken by other entities are expected to correct the impairment. This differs from traditional TMDLs, which allocate enforceable waste load allocations to point source dischargers. The public comment period closes on November 1, 2022.

Additional information on the draft TMDL and plan, including the Public Notice, can be found here:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/tmdls/san\\_mateo.htm](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/tmdls/san_mateo.htm)  
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A Fact Sheet for the draft TMDL has been included in this Executive Officer Report as Attachment B-4.

## **5. San Diego Water Board Regional Recycled Water Use in 2021**

*Staff Contact: Brandon Bushnell*

Recycled wastewater is an important water resource for the region, which is highlighted in the Sustainable Local Water Supply chapter of the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision.<sup>1</sup> The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the *Policy for Water Quality Control for Recycled Water* (Recycled Water Policy)<sup>2</sup> in 2009, with amendments in 2013 and 2019, to streamline permitting for recycled water projects.

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<sup>1</sup> The Practical Vision can be found at the following webpage:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/practical\\_vision/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/)

<sup>2</sup> The Recycled Water Policy can be found at the following webpage:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2018/121118\\_7\\_final\\_amendment\\_oal.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2018/121118_7_final_amendment_oal.pdf)

The 2019 Recycled Water Policy amendment established statewide goals to increase recycled water use from 714,000 acre-feet per year (afy)<sup>3</sup> in 2015 to 1.5 million afy by 2020, and to 2.5 million afy by 2030. To track these goals, the State Water Board’s Executive Director issued an investigative order to wastewater treatment plants discharging more than 20,000 gallons per day. The Investigative Order required wastewater treatment plants to collect data monthly, and report annually, the volumes of wastewater received, treated, and discharged for beneficial reuse (e.g., recycled water), and the volumes of wastewater treated and discharged without beneficial reuse. This volumetric data collection and reporting will help the State Water Board identify additional opportunities for recycled water production and reuse. The statewide data for 2021 shows that 731,586 acre-feet of recycled water was produced, which is less than the goal of 1.5 million acre-feet in the Recycled Water Policy.

Wastewater treatment plants within the San Diego Water Board’s jurisdiction reused approximately 20 percent of the wastewater collected in 2021. From a total of 323,908 acre-feet of influent wastewater collected, 63,088 acre-feet of recycled water was produced, and 246,890 acre-feet was treated and disposed without beneficial reuse as shown in Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1. Recycled Water Produced vs Effluent Disposed in 2021 in acre-feet**

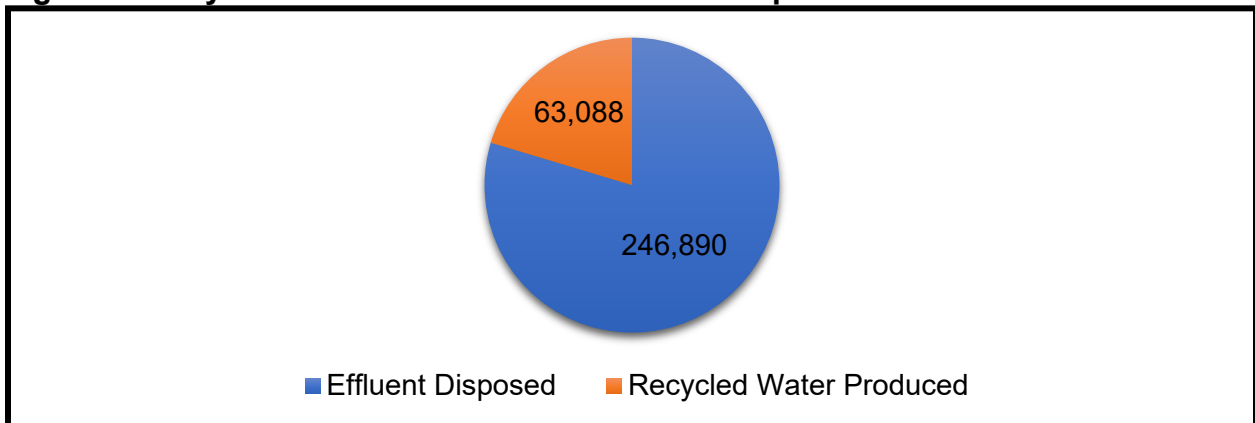
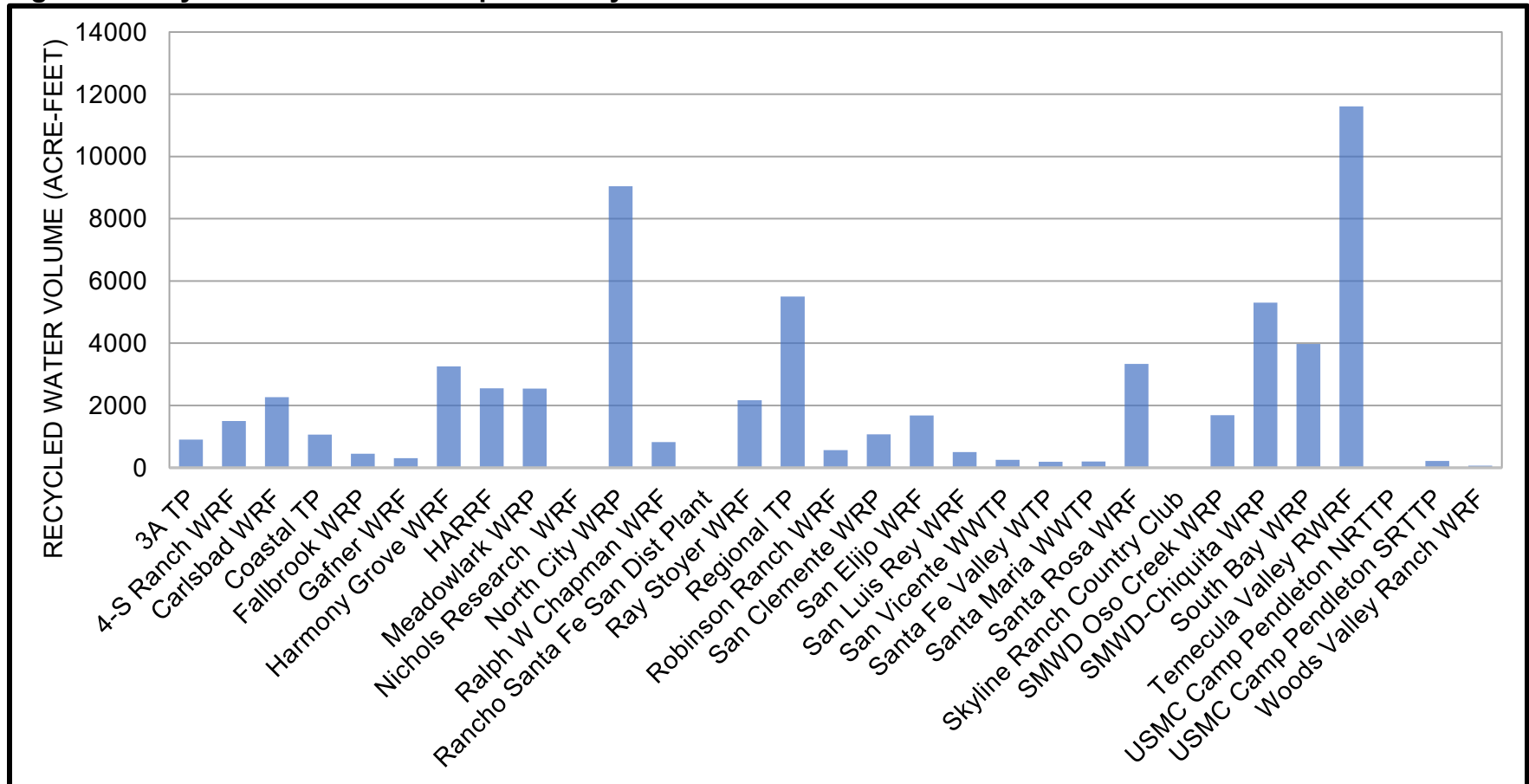


Figure 2 below shows the volume of recycled water produced by each wastewater treatment plant that produced recycled water within the San Diego Water Board’s jurisdiction during the 2021 calendar year.

<sup>3</sup> 1 acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons.

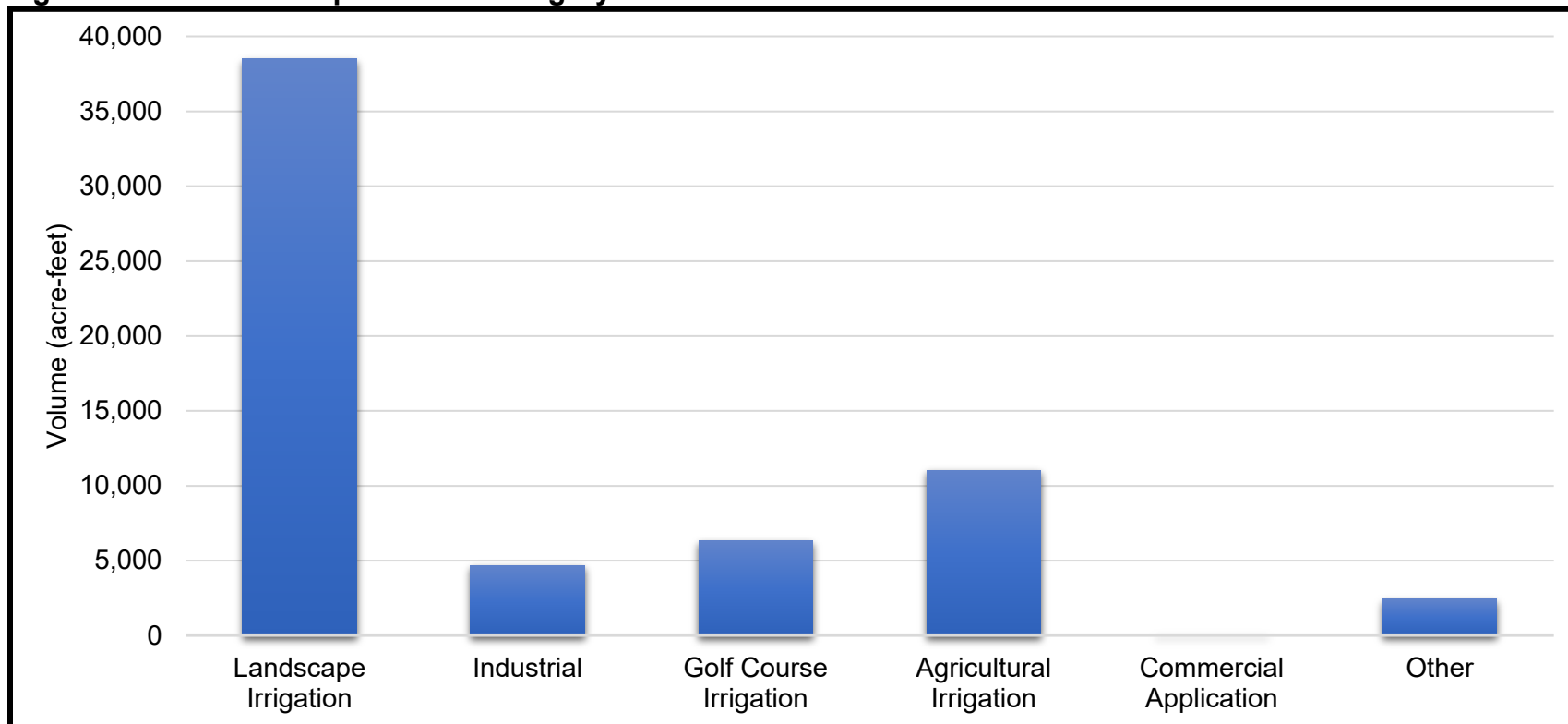
**Figure 2. Recycled Water Produced per Facility in 2021<sup>4</sup>**



The Temecula Valley RWRP is the biggest producer of recycled water within the region. However, most of the recycled water produced at the Temecula Valley RWRP is reused in the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region for landscape irrigation. The City of San Diego’s North City and South Bay WRPs are the biggest producers of recycled water that is reused within the San Diego Water Board region.

Figure 3 below shows the volume of recycled water by uses from all the facilities in the region.

**Figure 3: Total Volume per Reuse Category 2021**

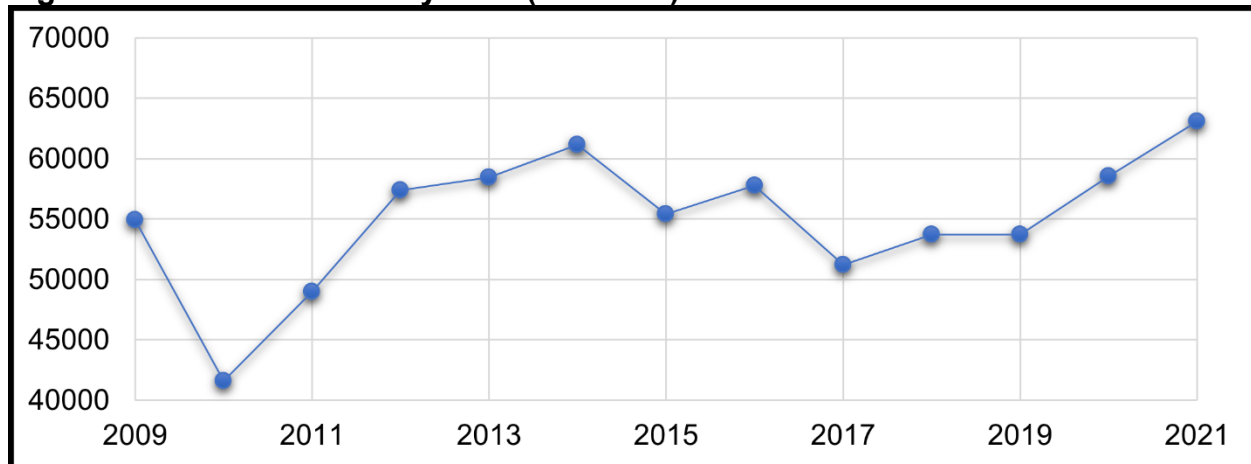


Most of the recycled water produced in the region is used for landscape irrigation at areas such as freeway medians or common areas of housing developments. The use of non-potable recycled water is limited by customer’s demand for recycled water. No indirect potable reuse projects have begun producing recycled water yet.

<sup>4</sup> Acronym Definitions: NRTTP/SRTTP – Northern/Southern Regional Tertiary Treatment Plant, WRP – Water Reclamation/Recycling Plant, WRF - Water Reclamation/Recycling Facility, RWRF – Regional Water Reclamation Facility, HARRF – Hale Avenue Resources Recovery Facility, TP – Treatment Plant, and WTP or WWTP – Wastewater Treatment Plant

Figure 4 below shows volume of recycled water reused over the last 13 years in the region:

**Figure 4: Volume Reused by Year (acre-feet)**



As shown in the figure above, recycled water production over the past decade is relatively stable. However, recycled water production is expected to increase due to many agencies developing recycled water projects for indirect potable reuse. Within the San Diego Water Board's jurisdiction several indirect potable reuse projects are currently in development and construction. These projects include but are not limited to:

- The City of Oceanside's Pure Water Oceanside project will produce up to 4.5 million gallons per day or 3,920 afy of advanced treated recycled water for indirect potable reuse. The City of Oceanside completed the Pure Water Oceanside project in late December 2021, and San Diego Water Board staff anticipate the 2022 volumetric reporting will reflect the additional recycled water production.
- The City of San Diego is constructing the North City Pure Water Treatment Plant, which is designed to produce up to 33,604 afy of advanced treated recycled water for indirect potable reuse. San Diego Water Board staff anticipate the City of San Diego will start producing advanced treated recycled water from the North City Pure Water Treatment Plant in 2025.
- The Padre Dam Municipal Water District, City of El Cajon, County of San Diego, and Helix Water District are developing plans for the East County Advanced Water Purification Program to produce 12,881 afy of recycled water for indirect potable reuse. San Diego Water Board staff anticipate the East County Advanced Water Purification Program Plant will start producing advanced treated recycled water in 2025.

In the upcoming year, San Diego Water Board staff will continue the following activities to support recycled water reuse: 1) prioritize applications for new recycled water projects and the expansion of existing recycled water projects; 2) engage with recycled water producers and purveyors to assist with identifying and applying for available grants and funds managed by the State Water Board; 3) redesign and maintain the San Diego Water Board's website for recycled water to promote effective communication with recycled water project proponents; and 4) evaluate and comment on salt and nutrient management plans submitted for the San



Diego Water Board's consideration. San Diego Water Board staff will also continue to provide annual Board updates.

## 6. 2022 Update on Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)

*Staff Contact: Chiara Clemente*

This report serves to update the Board on staff efforts to solicit, review, and implement Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) in accordance with its Resolution [R9-2017-0014](#)<sup>5</sup> and the State Water Board's [2017 SEP Policy](#).

### SEP Solicitation

The 2017 SEP Policy outlines a process for SEP solicitation and evaluation and requires each Water Board to develop and display a list of potential SEPs. The San Diego Water Board's SEP list is available on our [Environmental Projects webpage](#). In an effort to update the list, staff removed projects that were outdated (i.e. > 5 years) or did not fit the criteria of the 2017 SEP Policy, and has invited project proponents to submit revised proposals. Several projects were resubmitted; two have been re-posted, two are being revised, and other project proponents are still planning to reapply.

### SEP Review Process

Following discussion with the Executive Officer, staff also intend to revise the SEP evaluation process to incorporate updates to the [\(2021\) Practical Vision](#) and add a third tier to the SEP List<sup>6</sup> whereby each qualifying SEP Proposal will be classified as Strongly Supported, Supported, or Eligible. Projects on the Eligible list meet all the requirements of the SEP Policy and address one or more of the minimum eligibility criteria listed on the Board's [Environmental Projects webpage](#). Projects on the Support list meet all the criteria of the "Eligible" projects and address multiple regional selection criteria. Projects on the Strongly Supported list are those that do so in a manner that most aligns with the Water Board's [Practical Vision](#) and values.

### SEP Implementation

In the past year, Board staff provided administrative oversight over seven active SEP<sup>7</sup> projects and brought three of those projects, totaling **\$1,523,494** in deferred liability, to a successful completion. A table of all funded SEPs is available on the Board's [Environmental Projects webpage](#). Projects that were successfully completed are:

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<sup>5</sup> R9-2017-0014 grants the Executive Officer discretion to modify the SEP list and SEP selection process as deemed appropriate.

<sup>6</sup> Currently, the SEP List has two tiers: Strong Support, and Support.

<sup>7</sup> Enhanced Compliance Actions (ECAs) are included in this count. ECAs are a type of SEP project that enables a discharger to make capital or operational improvements beyond those required by law and are separate from projects designed to merely bring a discharger into compliance. ECAs are intended to prevent additional impacts to beneficial uses from occurring in the future, and must conform to all of the requirements of a SEP.

- 1) **Enhancement of Native Habitats in San Elijo Lagoon SEP** ([Order No. R9-2015-0047](#)) to control invasive vegetation and enhance native vegetation communities at several riparian sites in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. The total liability suspended for completion of the project was \$210,562.
- 2) **Los Penasquitos Lagoon Inlet Restoration SEP** ([Order No. R9-2017-0056](#)) to periodically excavate and remove the sediment deposited around the inlet at Los Penasquitos Lagoon with the goal of returning the inlet status to 1985 baseline observed conditions, thus allowing for restoration of native salt marsh habitat within the Lagoon. The total liability suspended for completion of the project was \$630,000.
- 3) **Restoring and Protecting our Waterways, Bioassessment Tools and Priorities for Action SEP** ([Order No. R9-2017-0056](#)) to provide an advanced, user-friendly toolkit designed to identify the likely causes of current biological impairment in streams within the City of San Diego, and the Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition region, and to prioritize stream reaches for future restoration and protection actions. The total liability suspended for completion of the project was \$682,932.

Water Board staff will continue to provide oversight over the following four remaining SEPs:

- 1) **NCI Interconnect to Lift Station 2 Force Main** ([Order No. R9-2021-0008](#)) to provide an interconnection of the North Coast Interceptor (NCI) sewage transmission pipeline to the South Coast Water District's Lift Station No. 2 force main allowing the ability to bypass either the NCI, or Lift Station No. 2 force main, along Aliso Creek. Total suspended liability is \$748,274.
- 2) **Northeast Mission Bay Wetland Restoration** ([Order No. R9-2020-0150](#)) The Project includes: Analysis and study of an expanded restoration alternative for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report of the De Anza Cove Amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan, technical studies to supplement the Mission Bay Park Improvement Plan PEIR and Rose Creek Preliminary Engineering Report, and planning and native habitat enhancement and restoration in the Kendall Frost Reserve. Total suspended liability is \$1,250,000.
- 3) **Los Coches Sewer Lining and Pilot Exfiltration Quantification Study** ([Order No. R9-2019-0020](#)). Structural lining of approximately 7,505 feet of sanitary sewer, coupled with a pilot study of exfiltration rates before and after lining to develop analytical methods to quantify exfiltration rates for public sewers. Total suspended liability is \$331,207.
- 4) **Garrison Creek Native Habitat Restoration Project** ([Order No. R9-2018-0159](#)) Treatment and removal of invasive vegetation across 28 acres of conserved habitat, restoration of 2.4 acres of disturbed habitat to southern willow scrub, and environmental education and engagement with nearby disadvantaged communities. Total suspended liability is \$135,998.

Water Board staff have also initiated oversight of SEP Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) funds through the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project ([SCCWRP Memorandum of Understanding](#)). In the past year, five Mandatory Minimum Penalty (MMP) settlement offers giving dischargers the opportunity to fund SCCWRP RMPs were issued; one

has been accepted, and one remains pending. Also, one discretionary settlement offer, with an offer to fund SCCWRP RMPs, remains pending. Board staff will continue to improve the process of communicating the benefits of funding the SCCWRP RMPs to dischargers in hopes of increasing participation.

## **7. Sanitary Sewer Overflows in the San Diego Region – June 2022 (Attachment B-7)**

*Staff Contact: Fisayo Osibodu*

Sanitary sewer systems experience periodic failures resulting in sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) discharges that may affect waters of the United States and/or the State of California (State). There are many factors (including factors related to geology, design, construction methods and materials, age of the system, population growth, and system operation and maintenance), that can influence the likelihood of an SSO and the volume of the discharge. Major causes of SSOs include: grease blockages, root blockages, sewer line flood damage, manhole structure failures, vandalism, pump station failures, power outages, excessive stormwater inflow or groundwater infiltration, debris blockages, failures due to aging sanitary sewer systems, lack of proper operation and maintenance, insufficient capacity, and contractor-caused damages. Many SSOs are preventable with adequate and appropriate facilities, source control measures, and proper operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system.

SSO discharges from public sewage collection systems and private laterals into the San Diego Region can contain high levels of suspended solids, pathogens, toxic pollutants, nutrients, and oil and grease. SSO discharges can pollute surface and ground waters, thereby threatening public health, adversely affecting aquatic life, and impairing the recreational use and aesthetic enjoyment of surface waters. Typical impacts of SSO discharges include closure of beaches and other recreational areas, inundation of property, and pollution of rivers, estuaries, and beaches.

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 SSOs are required to be reported under the [Statewide General SSO Order](#),<sup>8</sup> the [San Diego Regional General SSO Order](#),<sup>9</sup> and/or individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. Some federal entities<sup>10</sup> report this information voluntarily. Most

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<sup>8</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>9</sup> San Diego Water Board Order No. R9-2007-0005, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Sewage Collection Agencies in the San Diego Region*.

<sup>10</sup> Marine Corp Base Camp Pendleton reports sewage spills to CIWQS as required by its individual NPDES permit, Order No R9-2019-0167, NPDES Permit No. CA0109347, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Southern Regional*

SSO reports are available to the public on a real-time basis at the [State Water Board Public SSO Report Database](#).

Details on the reported SSOs and private lateral sewage discharges (PLSDs) in June 2022 are provided in the following attached tables:

- Table 1: June 2022 - Summary of Public and Federal Sanitary Sewer Overflow Events
- Table 2: June 2022 - Summary of Private Lateral Sewage Discharge Events
- Table 3: June 2022 - Summary of Sewage Discharges by Source

A summary view of information on sewage spill trends are provided in the following attached figures:

- Figure 1: Number of Spills per Month
- Figure 2: Volume of Public SSOs per Month
- Figure 3: Volume of Federal SSOs per Month
- Figure 4: Volume of PLSDs per Month

The figures show the number and total volume of sewage spills per month from June 2021 through June 2022. During this period, 36 of the 64 collection systems in the San Diego Region reported one or more sewage spills. Twenty-eight collection systems did not report any sewage spills. A total of 207 sewage spills were reported and more than 95,000 gallons of sewage reached surface waters.

Additional information about the San Diego Water Board sewage overflow regulatory program is available on the [San Diego Water Board's SSO Website](#).

## **8. Transboundary Flows from Mexico into the San Diego Region – June 2022 (*Attachment B-8*)**

*Staff Contact: Fisayo Osibodu*

Water and wastewater in the Tijuana River and from canyons located along the international border ultimately drain from the City of Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico (Tijuana) into the United States. The water and wastewater flows are collectively referred to as transboundary flows. The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has built canyon collectors that capture dry weather transboundary flows for treatment at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) located at the United States/Mexico international 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,<sup>11</sup> are reported by the USIBWC pursuant to [Order No. R9-2021-](#)

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*Tertiary Treatment Plant and Advanced Water Treatment Plant at Haybarn Canyon, Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the Oceanside Ocean Outfall.* The United States Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the United States Navy voluntarily report sewage spills through CIWQS.

<sup>11</sup> Tijuana River transboundary flows typically consist of a mixture of groundwater, urban runoff, storm water, treated sewage wastewater, and untreated sewage wastewater from infrastructure deficiencies and other sources in Mexico.

[0001](#), the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the SBIWTP discharge. These uncaptured flows can enter waters of the United States and/or the State of California (State), potentially polluting the Tijuana River Valley and Estuary, and south San Diego beach coastal waters.

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 Limites y Aguas (CILA)<sup>12</sup> share responsibility for addressing border sanitation problems, including transboundary flows. Efforts on both sides of the border have led to the construction and ongoing operation of several 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 United States/Mexico international border, provides secondary treatment for a portion of the sewage from Tijuana and transboundary flows conveyed from canyon collectors located in Smuggler's 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 USIBWC's NPDES permit, Order No. R9-2021-0001.
- Several pump stations and wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in Tijuana, including the San Antonio de los Buenos WWTP, the La Morita WWTP and the Arturo Herrera WWTP.
- The River Diversion Structure and Pump Station CILA in Tijuana diverts dry weather transboundary flows from the Tijuana River. The flows are diverted to a discharge point at the Pacific Ocean shoreline, approximately 5.6 miles south of the United States/Mexico border; or the flows can be diverted to SBIWTP or another wastewater treatment plant in Tijuana, depending on how Tijuana's public utility department (CESPT) directs the flow into the collection system. The River Diversion Structure is not designed to collect wet weather river flows and any river flows over 1,000 liters per second (35.3 cubic feet per second, 22.8 million gallons per day).

In June 2022, there were no reported transboundary flows. A summary view of information on transboundary flow trends are provided in the following attached figures:

- Figure 1: Number of Transboundary Flows per Month
- Figure 2: Tijuana River Transboundary Flow Volume per Month
- Figure 3: Canyon Collector Transboundary Flow Volume per Month

These figures show the number and volume of transboundary flows per month from June 2021 through June 2022. During this period, there were a total of 63 reported transboundary flows resulting in more than 8.6 billion gallons of contaminated water flowing from Mexico into the United States. The number and volume of transboundary flows has increased compared to previous years due to infrastructure issues in Mexico and at the SBIWTP. While the full extent of the infrastructure issues in Mexico is unknown, the San Diego Water Board is aware of several infrastructure issues at the SBIWTP. Notably, the gate valves at Junction Box 1 (JB1)

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<sup>12</sup> The Mexican section of the IBWC.

of the SBIWTP are largely inoperable. With the gate valves inoperable, USIBWC currently has limited control over the amount of flow entering the SBIWTP other than through communications with Mexico to limit the flow. Under the terms of the San Diego Water Board's Cease and Desist Order No. R9-2021-0107, as amended by Order No. R9-2021-0220, USIBWC was required to complete the design for the repair of the gate valves no later than January 31, 2022. USIBWC reported that it was unable to meet the deadline due to difficulties in verifying field conditions in Mexico. USIBWC has reportedly completed the design for the repair as of June 30, 2022. The Cease and Desist Order directs USIBWC to complete repairs to the gate valves as soon as reasonably possible. USIBWC has allocated funds for the repair of the gate valve and anticipates completing repairs by September 30, 2023.

On December 13, 2021, USIBWC notified the San Diego Water Board that a section of the International Collector (also referred to as the International Interceptor) has deteriorated. The International Collector is a critical wastewater pipeline in Mexico that conveys Tijuana wastewater and Tijuana River flows to Pump Station 1 (PB1) in Mexico or the SBIWTP. The deteriorated section of the International Collector is located beneath the highway just across the United States/Mexico international border at Stewart's Drain (see Figure 4). When the International Collector is pressurized above typical operational wastewater flows, the wastewater backs up and leaks from the deteriorated section and flows into the United States at Stewart's Drain. The International Collector can become over pressurized when pumping capacity at PB1 is insufficient during peak flows and when capacity is reduced due to power outages, pump failures, or blockages within the collection system. The number of transboundary flows at Stewart's Drain has increased because of the deteriorated section of the International Collector. In response to the increase in transboundary flows at Stewart's Drain, USIBWC, CESPT, and CILA implemented several corrective actions to reduce the number and volume of transboundary flows at Stewart's Drain. On January 15, 2021, CESPT and CILA shut down Pump Station CILA to relieve pressure on the deteriorated section of the International Collector. On January 28, 2022, Pump Station CILA was brought back online but at a reduced pumping capacity. The reduced flow from Pump Station CILA decreased but did not eliminate the transboundary flows at Stewart's Drain. On February 8, 2022, USIBWC raised the gate at JB1 to allow additional flow into the SBIWTP and further reduce backpressure on the International Collector. Raising the gate on JB1 appears to have resolved the transboundary flows at Stewart's Drain. It is currently unknown whether there is an obstruction in the collection system that resulted in additional backpressure, or if the International Collector has deteriorated such that it can no longer withstand typical backpressure in the system.

Additional information about sewage pollution within the Tijuana River Watershed is available on the [San Diego Water Board's Tijuana River Watershed Website](#).

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

### **No Report**

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION

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

September 14, 2022  
APPENDED TO EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

**Action Agenda Items – San Diego Water Board**

**October 12, 2022  
Meeting Cancelled**

**November 9, 2022  
San Diego Water Board**

Action Agenda Item	Action Type	Written Comments Due
Rescission of Order No. 94-041, Waste Discharge Requirements for Live Oak Springs (Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0057). <i>(Brandon Bushnell)</i>	Waste Discharge Requirement Rescission	TBD
NPDES Permit Amendment of Order No. R9-2021-0001, NPDES No. CA0108928, Waste Discharge Requirements for the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the South Bay Ocean Outfall (Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0133). <i>(Vicente Rodriguez)</i>	NPDES Permit Amendment	TBD
Resolution in Support of the Strategic Water Quality Assessment Approach for San Diego Bay (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2022-0019). <i>(Wayne Chiu)</i>	Tentative Resolution	24-11-21
Sediment Quality Objectives Update. <i>(Tom Alo)</i>	Informational Item	N/A
Update on the Underground Storage Tank Program. <i>(Lalitha Thotakura)</i>	Informational Item	N/A
Old Town Campus Redevelopment and Stewart Mesa Ag Fields Update. <i>(Sean McClain)</i>	Informational Item	N/A
Resolution in Support of the Proposed 2023 Meeting Schedule	Tentative Resolution	N/A



**December 14, 2022**  
***San Diego Water Board***

<b>Action Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action Type</b>	<b>Written Comments Due</b>
General Waste Discharge Requirements for the United States Department of the Navy Naval Base San Diego Complex, Naval Base Point Loma Complex and the Naval Base Coronado, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. 2022-XXXX, NPDES No. CA0109169) ( <i>Vicente Rodriguez</i> )	General NPDES Permit Reissuance	TBD
General Waste Discharge Requirements for San Diego Bay Shipyards, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. 2022-XXXX, NPDES No. XXXXXXXXX). ( <i>Debbie Phan</i> )	General NPDES Permit Reissuance	TBD
PFAS Update. ( <i>Brian McDaniel</i> )	Informational Item	N/A
Administrative Civil Liability for violations of Construction General Storm Water Permit (Tentative Order No. R9-2022-TBD). ( <i>Christina Arias</i> )	Waste Discharge Requirement Reissuance	TBD

**Agenda Items Requested by Board Members****September 9, 2020**

<b>Requested Agenda Item</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
Update on new scientific information regarding climate change and how we are including climate change considerations in our work.	Abarbanel	Ongoing

**February 10, 2021**

<b>Requested Agenda Item</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
Update about the range of chemicals that might cause problems with the symporter of the fetus.	Olson	Winter 2022-23

**March 10, 2021**

<b>Requested Agenda Item</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
Annual update on the progress and accomplishments of the Project Clean Water program, including information related to the impacts of the program on water quality.	Abarbanel, Warren	Ongoing
Region-wide workshop regarding the water quality issues in the Tijuana River Valley, including a discussion of water quality objectives and steps needed to achieve them.	Abarbanel	2022

**April 14, 2021**

<b>Requested Agenda Item</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
Update from State Board on the lessons learned regarding the use of Zoom remote meeting platform for Board Meetings to inform how the Regional Boards move forward when we return to the office and hold Board meetings in person	Warren	2022
Information regarding the Water Board's Training Academy climate change courses	Abarbanel	November 2022

**June 9, 2021**

<b>Requested Agenda Item</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
Update about the issues associated with the South Orange County Wastewater Authority's (SOCWA's) Coastal Treatment Plant being in a fire zone.	Warren	2022

**August 11, 2021**

<b>Requested Agenda Item</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
Drought and sustainability meeting with County Water Authority to find out how we can support their efforts	Abarbanel	2022

**December 8, 2021**

<b>Requested Agenda Item</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
Update on the Contact Water Recreation (REC-1) Water Quality Objectives project, with information regarding the use of HF-183 in particular.	Olson	2022

**February 9, 2022**

<b>Requested Agenda Item</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
Update on homeless issues along the San Diego River and efforts being made to address the issues	Strawn	Summer 2022

**March 9, 2022**

<b>Requested Agenda Item</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
Update on SOCWA Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Model.	Abarbanel, Strawn	Summer 2022

**May 11, 2022**

<b>Requested Agenda Item</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
Atmospheric Rivers Presentation from Dr. Marty Ralph, Scripps Institution of Oceanography	Abarbanel	Fall 2022

**August 10, 2022**

<b>Requested Agenda Item</b>	<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
Lake San Marcos Update – Aeration Treatment data	Abarbanel	November 2022
Lockheed Martin Tow Basin Cleanup Updates	Abarbanel, Olson	Ongoing
Environmental Justice outreach event	Warren	Summer 2023
Agricultural effects resulting from Colorado River water allocation reductions.	Olson	Ongoing
Update on the PFAS investigation at the San Diego International Airport	Olson	December 2022
Update on current status and future plans for the City of San Diego Pure Water Project	Abarbanel	Winter 2022-23
Update on harmful algal blooms in the San Diego Region	Olson	Winter 2022-23



# Fact Sheet

## **San Diego Regional Water Board Releases Draft Total Maximum Daily Load to Restore Conditions for Steelhead in San Mateo Creek.**

### ***Would make federal funding available to help restore an endangered species***

**Overview:** The California Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) is considering a draft invasive species Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and plan to certify that actions of other entities will correct impairments to San Mateo Creek, which is currently listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) due to invasive species. The presence and proliferation of invasive species in San Mateo Creek threatens the ability of the creek to support the federally-endangered southern California steelhead. The plan would enable collaborative watershed planning and restoration activities to be eligible for state and federal funding.

The San Diego Water Board released a draft invasive species TMDL for San Mateo Creek on June 15, 2022, for public review and comment. Public comments on the draft TMDL are due no later than 5 p.m. on November 1, 2022, via email to [sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov).

### **There are steelhead in San Diego?**

Yes. The southern California steelhead is a native species in the San Diego Region. Steelhead live a portion of their life in the ocean before returning to rivers and streams to spawn. Unlike most salmon, steelhead do not die after spawning, and some individuals may spend a significant portion of their life in freshwater (where they are often referred to as "rainbow trout"). While much of the steelhead's habitat in the San Diego Region has been cut off by obstructions like dams, San Mateo Creek remains a free-flowing stream from its headwaters in the Elsinore Mountains to the Pacific Ocean at the border of Orange and San Diego Counties. San Mateo Creek historically contained large numbers of steelhead, with estimates in the thousands, and was even targeted for steelhead fishing by southern California residents.

### **How would the TMDL work?**

The TMDL establishes invasive species and steelhead targets for San Mateo Creek. Eligible parties would be able to apply for funding to implement management measures that could restore the creek's impairment. The management measures include:

- 1) Addressing sources of invasive species getting into San Mateo Creek from ponds in the watershed, and
- 2) Direct removal of invasives species present within San Mateo Creek.

Funding would also be available to implement a watershed-based monitoring program to determine the success of these actions. Monitoring would be conducted to determine if invasive species have been removed from San Mateo Creek concurrent with monitoring to determine if the steelhead population has been restored.



## Does the TMDL require actions by private landowners?

The draft TMDL would not mandate any actions by homeowners who may have a pond on their property. The TMDL relies upon the voluntary implementation of mitigation measures for ponds to address invasive species that may be transported into San Mateo Creek. Recent legislation has been passed (Assembly Bill 315 and Senate Bill 155) to promote these actions, and the TMDL implementation would allow 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, such as Resource Conservation Districts or non-profits, to educate and work with willing landowners to help mitigate existing sources of invasive species to restore San Mateo Creek.

Regardless of the proposed TMDL action, the San Diego Water Board does have authority and responsibilities under the federal CWA and State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act to regulate any actual or potential discharges of pollutants, including dredge or fill material, into San Mateo Creek and its tributaries.

## What is the process?

The draft TMDL is currently available for public review and comment through November 1, 2022. San Diego Water Board staff will review and respond to written comments and may propose changes to the draft TMDL based on those comments. The draft TMDL will then be scheduled for consideration of certification by the San Diego Water Board at a public meeting or by its Executive Officer. Upon certification, the TMDL would be added to the State's nonpoint source pollution (NPS) plan. Projects in the NPS plan are eligible for funding using CWA section 319 grants. In 2022 California had \$4 million available for CWA 319 grant funding. The San Diego Water Board may pursue a memorandum of agreement with interested parties for implementation of the TMDL using NPS funding.

More information can be found on the San Diego Water Board website <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>.

The San Diego Water Board is a state agency responsible for implementing provisions of the federal Clean Water Act and the California Water Code to protect the quality of water in the ocean, streams, bays, and underground aquifers. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses for water bodies within the region and establishes water quality objectives and implementation plans to protect those beneficial uses.

*(This Fact Sheet was last updated June 15, 2022)*



**Table 1: June 2022 – Summary of Public and Federal Sanitary Sewer Overflow Events**

<b>Responsible Collection System Agency</b>	<b>Total Volume (Gallons)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total Recovered (Gallons)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain and Recovered (Gallons)<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total Discharged to Land (Gallons)<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Surface Water Body Affected<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>Miles of Pressure Sewer</b>	<b>Miles of Gravity Sewer</b>	<b>Population in Service Area<sup>7</sup></b>
City of El Cajon	1,783	250	1,533	250	0	Forester Creek	0.0	195.0	101,709
City of Poway	2,084	1,906	0	0	2,084	Not Applicable	3.5	185.0	49,986
Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Southwest Utility (Federal Facility)	100	100	0	2	98	Not Applicable	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available

<sup>1</sup> Total Volume = total amount that discharged from sanitary sewer system to a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

<sup>2</sup> Total Recovered = total amount recovered from a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

<sup>3</sup> Total Reaching Surface Waters = total amount reaching separate storm drain (not recovered), drainage channel, and/or surface water body, but does not include amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered.

<sup>4</sup> Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain and Recovered = total amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered.

<sup>5</sup> Total Discharged to Land = total amount reaching land.

<sup>6</sup> Agencies are only required to note the surface water body affected if the discharge reaches or has the potential to reach a surface water. If the discharge did not reach a surface water and does not have a potential to reach a surface water (i.e., a discharge to land or a discharge to a separate storm drain that is fully recovered) the surface water body affected is listed as “Not Applicable.” If the discharge was to a surface water body or to a separate storm drain and was not fully recovered, and the surface water body was not reported, the surface water body affected is listed as “Not Reported.”

<sup>7</sup> As reported in the Collection System Questionnaire required under Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ.

**Table 2: June 2022 – Summary of Private Lateral Sewage Discharge Events**

<b>Responsible Collection System Agency</b>	<b>Total Volume (Gallons)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total Recovered (Gallons)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain &amp; Recovered and/or Discharged to Land (Gallons)<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Surface Water Body Affected<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Population in Service Area<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>Number of Lateral Connections</b>
City of Imperial Beach	25	25	0	25	Not Applicable	27,674	10,909
City of San Diego	180	180	0	180	Not Applicable	2,300,000	266,181
City of San Diego	60	60	0	60	Not Applicable	2,300,000	266,181
Padre Dam Municipal Water District	27	0	0	27	Not Applicable	70,724	15,716

<sup>1</sup> Total Volume = total amount that discharged from private lateral to a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

<sup>2</sup> Total Recovered = total amount recovered from a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

<sup>3</sup> Total Reaching Surface Waters = total amount reaching separate storm drain (not recovered), drainage channel, and/or surface water body, but does not include amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered.

<sup>4</sup> Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain & Recovered and/or Discharged to Land = total amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered and/or total amount reaching land.

<sup>5</sup> Agencies are only required to note the surface water body affected if the discharge reaches or has the potential to reach a surface water. If the discharge did not reach a surface water and does not have a potential to reach surface water (i.e., a discharge to land or a discharge to a separate storm drain that is fully recovered) the surface water body affected is listed as “Not Applicable.” If the discharge was to a surface water body or to a separate storm drain and was not fully recovered, and the surface water body was not reported, the surface water body affected is listed as “Not Reported.”

<sup>6</sup> As reported in the Collection System Questionnaire required under Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ.



**Table 3: June 2022 – Summary of Sewage Discharges by Source**

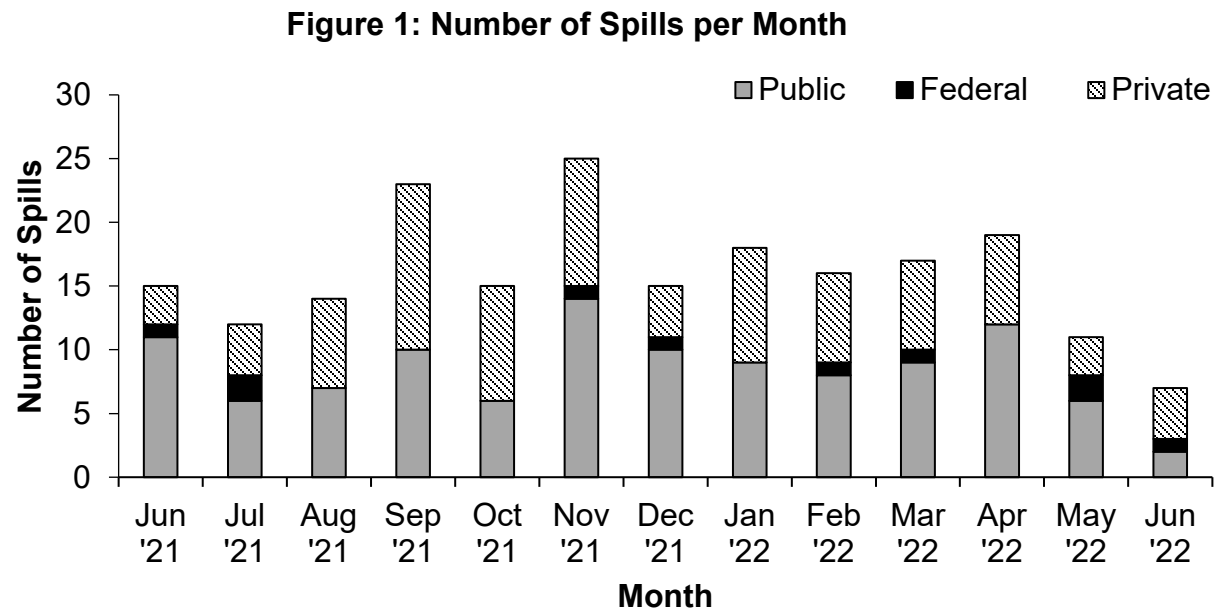
<b>Spill Type</b>	<b>Month/Year</b>	<b>Number of Spills</b>	<b>Total Volume (Gallons)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total Recovered (Gallons)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain &amp; Recovered and/or Discharged to Land (Gallons)<sup>4</sup></b>
Public Spills	June 2022	2	3,867	2,156	1,533	2,334
Federal Spills	June 2022	1	100	100	0	100
Private Spills	June 2022	4	292	265	0	292
All Spills	June 2022	7	4,259	2,521	1,533	2,726

<sup>1</sup> Total Volume = total amount that discharged from sanitary sewer system to a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

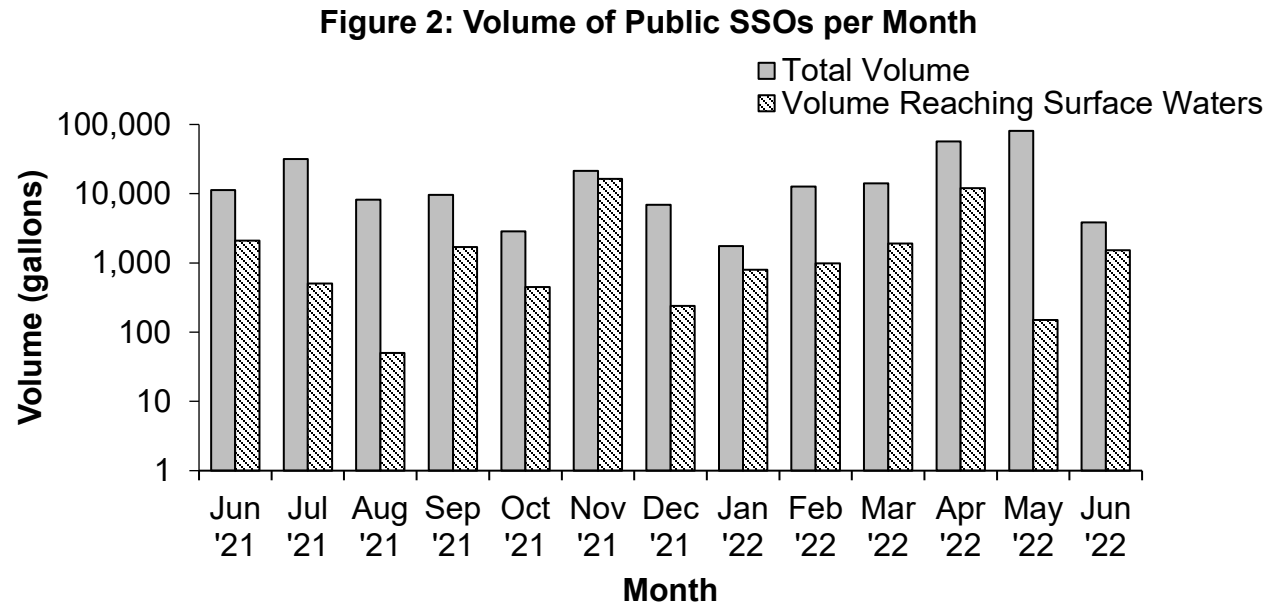
<sup>2</sup> Total Recovered = total amount recovered from a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

<sup>3</sup> Total Reaching Surface Waters = total amount reaching separate storm drain (not recovered), drainage channel, and/or surface water body, but does not include amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered.

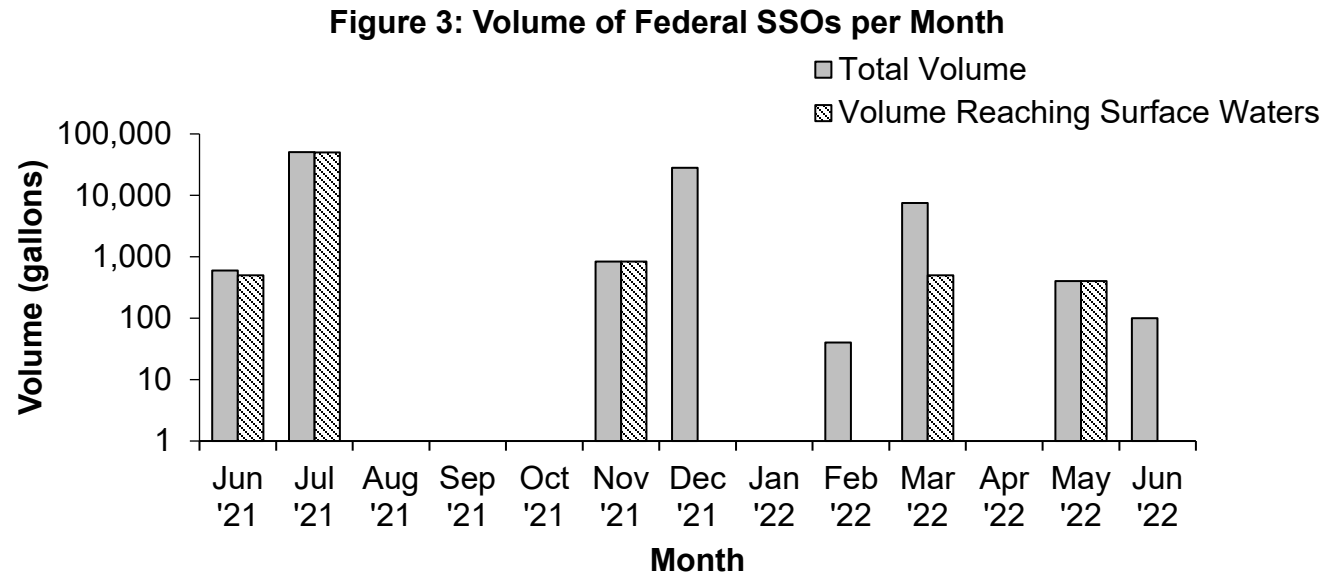
<sup>4</sup> Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain & Recovered and/or Discharged to Land = total amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered and/or total amount reaching land.



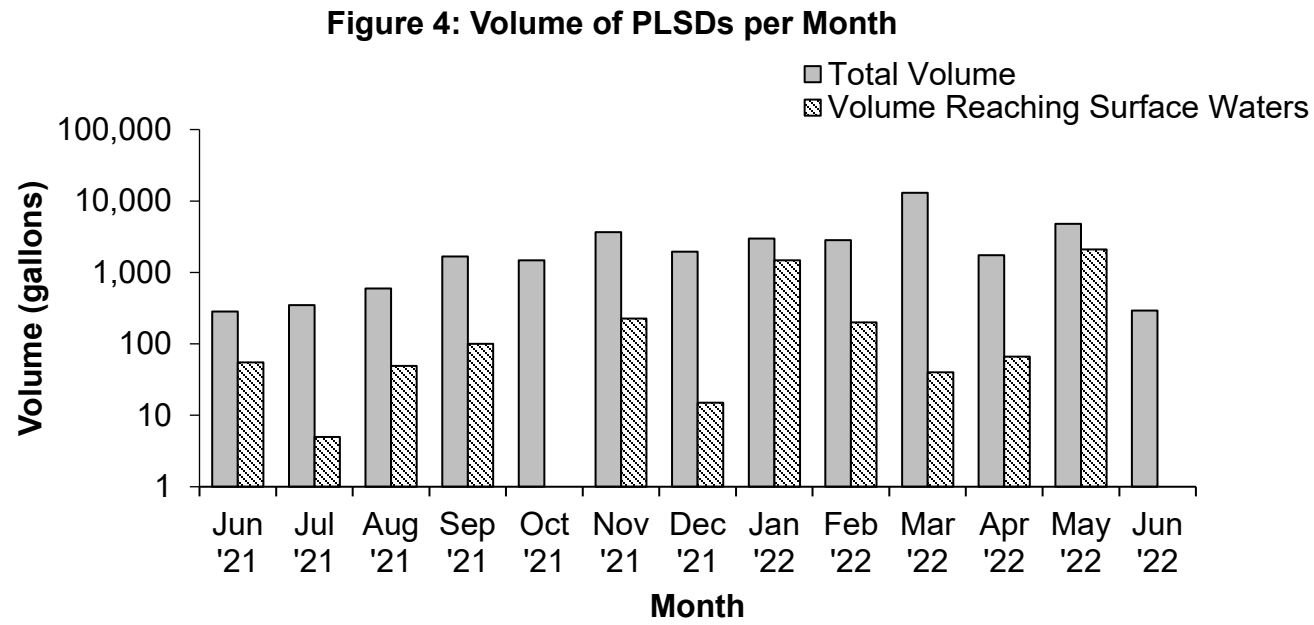
**Figure 1:** The number of public, federal, and private sewage spills per month from June 2021 through June 2022.



**Figure 2:** The volume of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) from public agencies per month from June 2021 through June 2022. Note the logarithmic scale on the vertical axis showing the wide variation in spill volumes.

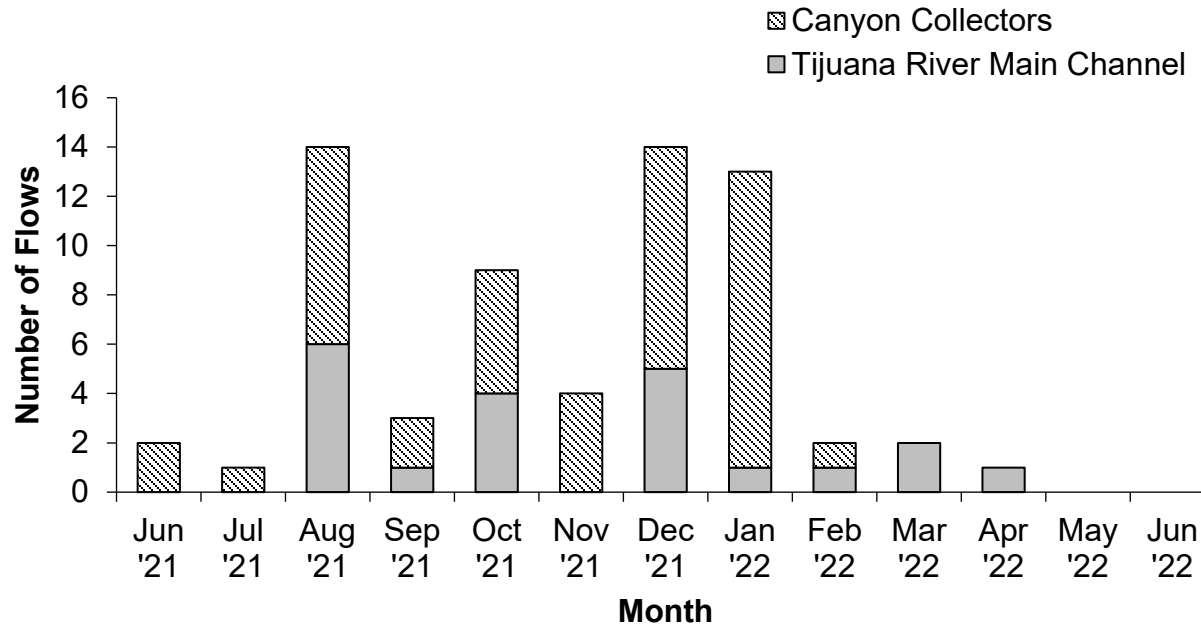


**Figure 3:** The volume of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) from federal agencies per month from June 2021 through June 2022. Note the logarithmic scale on the vertical axis showing the wide variation in spill volumes.



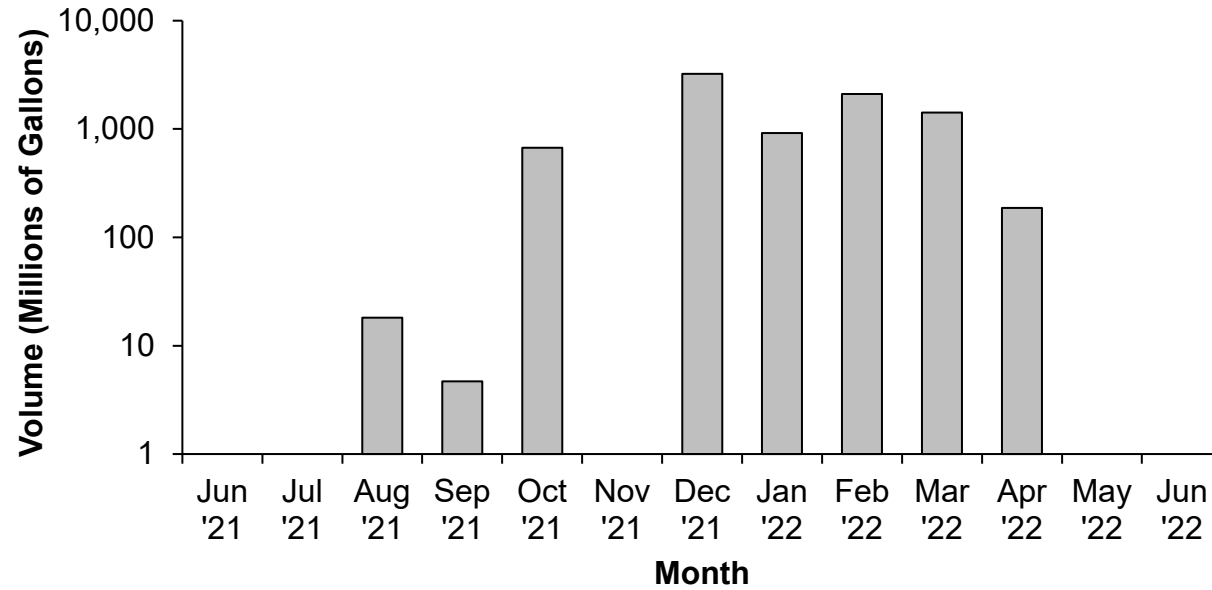
**Figure 4:** The volume of private lateral sewage discharges (PLSDs) per month from June 2021 through June 2022. Note the logarithmic scale on the vertical axis showing the wide variation in spill volumes.

**Figure 1: Number of Transboundary Flows**



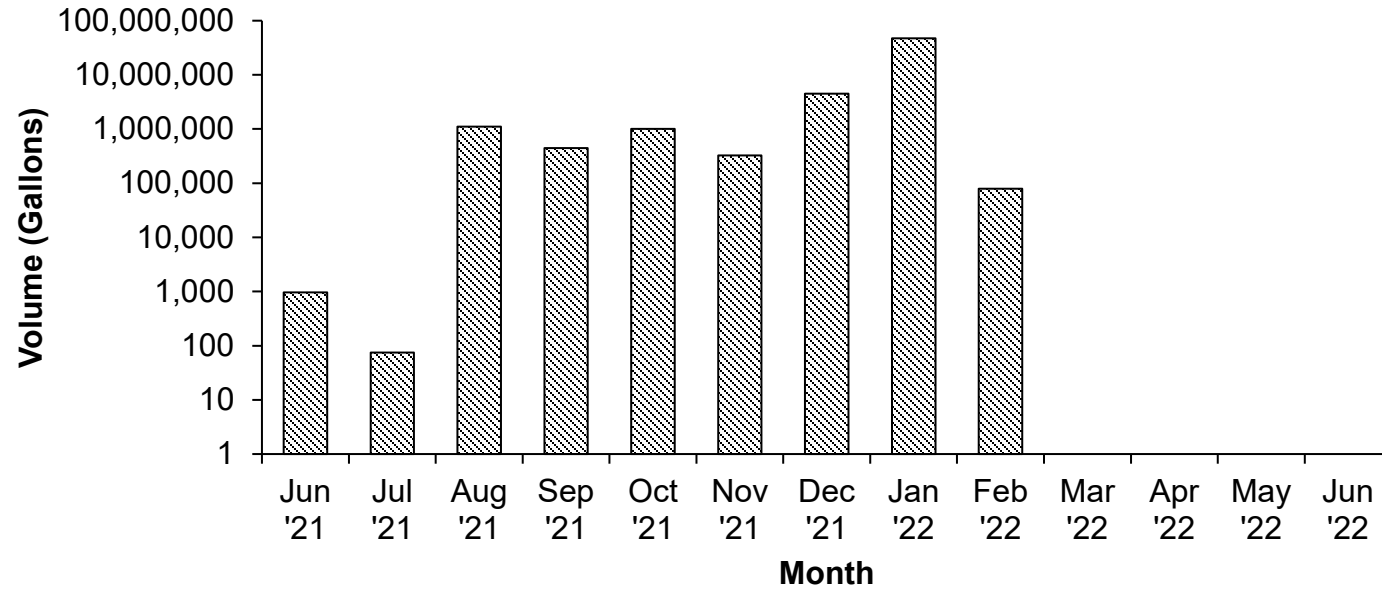
**Figure 1:** Number of reported transboundary flows per month from June 2021 through June 2022 at the canyon collector systems and the Tijuana River main channel. For transboundary flows that start and end in different months, the figure includes the transboundary flow in month the transboundary flow started. The number of transboundary flows at the canyon collectors in October 2021 includes a transboundary flow at Canyon K, which does not have a canyon collector system.

**Figure 2: Tijuana River Transboundary Flow Volume**



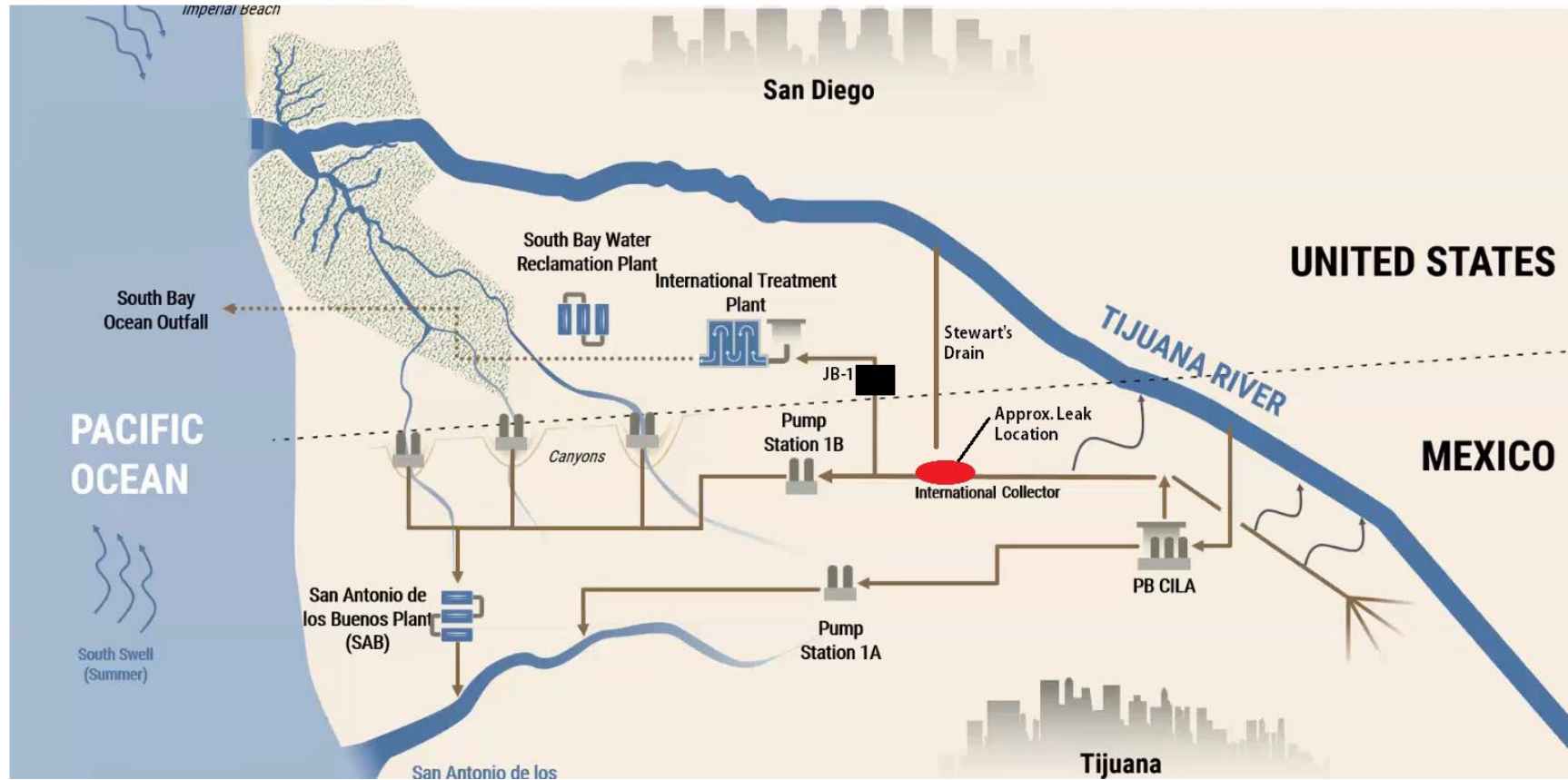
**Figure 2:** Volume of reported transboundary flows per month from June 2021 through June 2022 at the Tijuana River main channel. For transboundary flows that start and end in different months, the figure includes the total volume of the transboundary flow in the month the transboundary flow started. Note the logarithmic scale on the vertical axis showing the wide variation in transboundary flow volumes.

**Figure 3: Canyon Collector Transboundary Flow Volume**



**Figure 3:** Volume of reported transboundary flows per month from June 2021 through June 2022 at the canyon collector systems. The volume reported in October 2021 includes the transboundary flow at Canyon K, which does not have a canyon collector system. Note the logarithmic scale on the vertical axis showing the wide variation in transboundary flow volumes.





**Figure 4:** Map of wastewater infrastructure in the United States and Mexico. The approximate location of the deteriorated section of the International Collector is shown in red. Map provided by USIBWC.