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July 24, 2012

Mr. David W. Gibson
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, California 92123-4320

SUBJECT: TENTATIVE ORDER NO. R9-2012-0015; NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0109215; WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SAN DIEGO GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY PALOMAR ENERGY CENTER.

Dear Mr. Gibson:

Comments in response to TENTATIVE ORDER NO. R9-2012-0015; NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0109215 for San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) Company Palomar Energy Center scheduled for presentation to the Regional Board for adoption during their regularly scheduled meeting on September 12, 2012.

The City of Escondido would like to submit comments as follows:

1. Page 10, first paragraph:
"THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Order No. R9-2005-0139 is rescinded upon the effective date of this Order except for enforcement purposes, and, in order to meet the provisions contained in division 7 of the Water Code (commencing with section 13000) and regulations adopted thereunder, and the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, the Discharger shall comply with the requirements in this Order."

The City of Escondido (City) would prefer the Order be rescinded in its entirety as SDG&E is the new permitted organization. Therefore, the liability of any enforcement procedure should be assigned, directed and addressed to SDG&E.

2. Effluent Limitations and Discharge Specifications.
Page 11, Table 7, Reference to Effluent Limitation for Wastewaters at Discharge Point No.001, Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations (*Table B of The Ocean Plan*). The City is concerned with the requirement in this Tentative Order and believes Table A of Ocean Plan should be included for the following reasons:

- I. The Table A of The Ocean Plan is required in the City's existing Industrial Brine Collection Discharge Order # R9-2005-0139. Discharge Location No.001 discharges from SDG&E then blends with HARRF Secondary effluent and ultimately discharges directly to the Pacific Ocean. Therefore, Table A constituent should be monitored per the Ocean Plan.

The Table 12 provided below is from Order # R9-2005-0139 based on 1.5 MGD

Table 12. Phase I - Effluent Limitations for IBCS (Discharge Point C-001)							
		6 Month Median	Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily	Instantaneous Minimum	Instantaneous Maximum
Temperature	°F	--	--	--	1		
pH	units	--	--	--	--	6.0	9.0
Oil & Grease	mg/l	--	25	40	--	--	75
	lbs/day2	--	292	467	--	--	876
Turbidity	NTU	--	75	100	--	--	225
Settleable Solids	ml/l	--	1.0	1.5	--	--	3
Suspended Solids	mg/l	--	--	--	--	--	60
	lbs/day2	--	--	--	--	--	701
Total Chlorine Residual	mg/l	0.48	--	--	1.9	--	14.3
	lbs/day2	5.6	--	--	22.2	--	167
Chronic Toxicity	Tuc	--	--	--	238	--	

¹The maximum temperature of the effluent shall not exceed the natural temperature of receiving waters by more than 20 °F at any time.

²Mass-based effluent limitations have been calculated based on a maximum daily flow of 1.5 MGD. These mass- based effluent limitations are applicable during the Phase II operation of the IBCS.

³Compliance with the effluent limitation for chronic toxicity shall be determined as specified in Section VII.J of this Order.

- II. SDG&E has had previous violations of their discharge permit. Past violations include total suspended solids exceedances discharged to the outfall via ICBS. Our City Inspector investigated the incidents and found the cause due to algae growth in the cooling water resulting from elevated temperatures and exposure to sunlight. Algae build up is a common problem in exposed open-topped cooling water troughs, solids from algae and sediment were discharged to the brine effluent and to outfall via Discharge Location Point # 001.

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2009 View of Cooling Tower basin during maintenance outage, tank basin was allowed to settle with all residual solids collected and hauled offsite for disposal. This BMP for facility was mandated by the City of Escondido after investigation 2008 violation for TSS.

- III. According to our annual report records for SDG&E brine discharge from permit R9-2005-0139 summary of violations for calendar year 2007 -2009 exceedences were as follows:
- a) Two (2) violations of pH below weekly instantaneous minimum limit of 6 on January 8, June 26, 2007.
 - b) Three (3) violations of weekly instantaneous maximum TSS occurred on April 16 & 23 and August 28, 2007.
 - c) Two (2) violations of weekly instantaneous maximum TSS occurred on December 22 & 23, 2008.
 - d) One (1) violation of weekly instantaneous maximum TSS occurred on January 5, 2009.

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Suspended Solids Violation

Date	Limits (mg/l)	Results (mg/l)	Location	Permit Limits Requirement
8/20/2007	60.0	64.3	C-001	Yes by RWQCB
12/22/2008	60.0	65.5	C-001	Yes by RWQCB
12/23/2008	60.0	69.6	C-001	Yes by RWQCB
1/5/2009	60.0	69.6	C-001	Yes by RWQCB
1/5/2009	60	77	I-002	Yes by City of Escondido
1/6/2009	60	62	I-002	Yes by City of Escondido
8/11/2009	60	150	I-002	Yes by City of Escondido

In considering this information, the City prefers that RWQCB include the self-monitoring requirements for Ocean Plan monitoring in Table A Effluent Limits to Discharge Location 001 for SDG&E. Table A includes constituent requirements for Grease and Oil, Suspended Solids, Settleable Solids, and Turbidity. The City Industrial Waste Permit requires a minimum test frequency of weekly for Suspended Solids and Total Chlorine Residual at Discharge Location # 001 (previously I-002). The City has mutual interests with the RWQCB in assuring compliance of all dischargers through the IBCS, including protection of the Brine Collection System and insure the quality of effluent discharged to the ocean outfall consistently meets compliance criteria.

- Page 11 Table 7 Need to correct for Effluent Limitations Discharge for Total Chlorine Residual from Instantaneous Minimum to Maximum Daily.

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Parameter	Unit	Water Quality Base Effluent Limitations (Table B of The Ocean Plan)					
		6 Month Median	Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily	Instantaneous Minimum	Instantaneous Maximum
Total Chlorine Residual	ug/l	476				1904	14,280
	lbs/day2	4.4				17.5	131
Corrected							
Total Chlorine Residual	ug/l	476	--	--	1904	--	14,280
	lbs/day2	4.4	--	--	17.5	--	131

- It is our recommendation that Section IV Discharge Specifications And Effluent Limitations, A. 1 through 10, from Order # R9-2005-0139 should be included in this permit that protect the indigenous marine life of the Pacific Ocean.

“Waste discharged to the Pacific Ocean through Discharge Point No. 001 must be essentially free of:

- a) Material that is floatable or will become floatable upon discharge.
- b) Settleable material or substances that may form sediments, which will degrade benthic communities or other aquatic life.
- c) Substances, which will accumulate to toxic levels in marine waters, sediments or biota.
- d) Substances that significantly decrease the natural light to benthic communities and other marine life.
- e) Materials that result in aesthetically undesirable discoloration of the ocean surface.”

5. C. Special Provisions on page 24

- a) 3. Best Management Practices and Pollution Prevention should still Applicable
- b) The City would like to suggest that RWQCB add requirements in the Special Provisions Section to SDG&E permit for Spill Prevention, Response Plan, and Spill Reporting Requirements for their facility for this permit, as it is required in the existing IBCS Permit # R9-2010-0139.
- c) The City also suggest the RWQCB should add requirement in the Special Provisions Section for Water Treatment System and Cooling Tower Additives Audit, as it is required in the existing IBCS Permit # R9-2010-0139.
- d) It is our recommendation that RWQCB should add in Special Provisions that SDG&E must be notify RWQCB and the City in writing of any change of any chemical or any additional chemical use in water treatment system and cooling tower operation at their facility for approval by RWQCB and the City prior to use to prevent the potential of priority pollutants entering the discharge and avoid possible violations.

6. Page E-3 Table E-2 Effluent Monitoring at EFF-001

It is our recommendation as following:

- a) Unit for Total Suspended Solids should change from ug/l to mg/l.
- b) Minimum Sampling Frequency for Total Chlorine Residual, Total Suspended Solids and pH should change to Weekly.

The City of Escondido has constructed, and owns, the IBCS to allow qualified industrial dischargers to discharge specific industrial brine wastewater into this system. The City is updating the City of Escondido Municipal Code Chapter 22, Article 9. Industrial Brine Collection System (IBCS) to add City requirements and enforcement criteria.

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The City of Escondido appreciates the opportunity to work with the Regional Board staff on developing a permit which will be mutually acceptable and maintain water quality integrity. The City will continue to cooperate with the RWQCB and any require their assistance in developing an agreement between any concerned parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis Sperino".

Dennis Sperino
Deputy Director of Utilities - Wastewater