

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region
David Gibson, Executive Officer**



**Executive Officer's Report
October 9, 2019**

Table of Contents

Part A – San Diego Region Staff Activities	2
1. Personnel Report	2
Part B – Significant Regional Water Quality Issues	2
1. Notice of Written Comment Period for Settlement Offer R9-2019-0144, Hines Growers Rainbow Facility.....	2
2. Sanitary Sewer Overflows and Transboundary Flows from Mexico in the San Diego Region – July 2019 (<i>Attachment B-2</i>)	3
Part C – Statewide Issues of Importance to the San Diego Region	6
1. State Water Board Approves Basin Plan Amendment for Chollas Creek Water Quality Objectives to Incorporate Water Effect Ratios	6
Action Agenda Items – San Diego Water Board	8
Agenda Items Requested by Board Members	10

The October 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: Dulce Romero

The Organizational Chart of the San Diego Water Board can be viewed at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_info/agendas/2019/sep/Regional Board Staff.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_info/agendas/2019/sep/Regional_Board_Staff.pdf)

Recruitment

Interviews are being conducted to hire an Engineering Geologist in the Site Cleanup, Military Facilities Unit and a limited-term Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist in the Healthy Waters Branch.

Rotations

Nicole Gergans, Environmental Scientist, has rotated from the Wetlands Protection Unit to the Restoration and Protection Planning Unit. Nicole will be applying her expertise on nutrient cycling in riparian zones to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads to address eutrophication impairments in the Santa Margarita River.

Charles Cheng, Engineering Geologist, has joined the Groundwater Protection Unit after most recently serving in the Site Restoration and Agricultural Program Unit. This position was redirected to more effectively balance resources across the Site Restoration and Groundwater Protection Branch. Dr. Cheng brings sharp skills and technical experience to the recycled water, on-site wastewater treatment, and other waste discharge programs protecting our region's groundwater sources.

Part B – Significant Regional Water Quality Issues

1. Notice of Written Comment Period for Settlement Offer R9-2019-0144, Hines Growers Rainbow Facility

Staff Contact: Chiara Clemente

On September 19, 2019, the San Diego Water Board publicly noticed the opportunity to submit written comments on tentative Order No. R9-2019-0144, a settlement of administrative civil liability in the amount of \$18,132 against TreeSap Farms LLC, doing business as Hines Growers. The tentative order is intended to address liability associated with four alleged violations related to General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. R9-2016-0004:¹

- 1) Discharge of irrigation runoff with elevated nutrient concentrations to Rainbow Creek;
- 2) Failure to properly operate and maintain the site's irrigation recycling system;

¹ 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.

- 3) Failure to include Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements in the site's Water Quality Protection Plan (WQPP); and
- 4) Failure to submit a complete and timely response to Investigative Order No. R9-2019-0099.

This enforcement action resulted from a staff inspection, with sampling, at the facility on February 1, 2019. On September 11, 2019, TreeSap Farms LLC accepted the settlement offer and waived its right to a hearing. Accordingly, members of the public have until October 21, 2019 to submit written comments. Pursuant to Directive 2.d of Resolution No. R9-2014-0046, this tentative Order is delegable to the Executive Officer for final action.

These, and any additional tentative orders associated with monetary penalties are currently available for public review and comment on the San Diego Water Board's "Tentative Orders" webpage at

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/tentative_orders/.

Notices are regularly provided through this webpage, and the Board's Lyris list for "Penalty Assessment Notices." Interested members of the public can subscribe to the Lyris notices at

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg9_subscribe.html.

2. Sanitary Sewer Overflows and Transboundary Flows from Mexico in the San Diego Region – July 2019 (*Attachment B-2*)

Staff Contact: Keith Yaeger

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, the inundation of property, and the pollution of rivers and streams.

Sanitary Sewer 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](#)², the [San Diego Regional General SSO Order](#)³, and/or individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. Some federal entities⁴ report this information voluntarily. Most 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.

Details on the reported SSOs are provided in the following attached tables (Attachment B-2):

- Table 1: July 2019 - Summary of Public and Federal Sanitary Sewer Overflows in the San Diego Region
- Table 2: July 2019 - Summary of Private Lateral Sewage Discharges in the San Diego Region

A summary view of information on SSO trends is provided in the following attached figures (Attachment B-2):

- Figure 1: Number of SSOs per Month
- Figure 2: Volume of SSOs per Month

These figures show the number and total volume of sewage spills per month from July 2018 to July 2019. During this period, 42 of the 63 collection systems in the San Diego Region regulated under the Statewide SSO Program reported one or more sewage spills. Twenty-one collection systems did not report any sewage spills. A total of 332 sewage spills were reported and 143,354 gallons of sewage reached surface waters.

Additional information about the San Diego Water Board sewage overflow regulatory program is available at

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/ssol/.

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

² 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*.

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

⁴ 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.

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) 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 tables (Attachment B-2):

- Table 3: July 2019 - 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)⁵ 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 U.S./Mexico border, 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 in Tijuana divert dry weather flows from the Tijuana River. The flows are diverted to a Pacific Ocean shoreline discharge point approximately 5.6 miles south of the U.S./Mexico border, or can be diverted to SBIWTP or another wastewater treatment plant in Tijuana, depending on how Tijuana's public utility department (CESPT) configures 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).

Additional information about sewage pollution within the Tijuana River Watershed is available at

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/tijuana_river_valley_strategy/sewage_issue.html.

⁵ The Mexican section of the IBWC.

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

1. State Water Board Approves Basin Plan Amendment for Chollas Creek Water Quality Objectives to Incorporate Water Effect Ratios

Staff Contact: Melissa Corona

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), on September 17, 2019, approved the San Diego Water Board's amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (Basin Plan) that incorporates site-specific water effect ratios into Water Quality Objectives for Toxic Pollutants and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Copper and Zinc in Chollas Creek. The Basin Plan amendment was adopted by the San Diego Water Board on February 8, 2017 (Resolution R9-2017-0015).

Staff developed the Basin Plan amendment in response to the Board's adoption of the 2014 Triennial Basin Plan Review. The Board recognized site-specific water effect ratios as an application of the Practical Vision to work collaboratively to incorporate the latest scientific understanding into water quality objectives, while ensuring the Basin Plan remains both reasonable and still fully protective of beneficial uses.

Next, the Basin Plan amendment will need to be considered and approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) before becoming effective. Once effective, the updated objectives will apply during wet weather in Chollas Creek. The amendment is not self-implementing and must be implemented through subsequent permitting or other implementation actions. Existing individual and general permits would be modified with new effluent or receiving water limits as appropriate after the Basin Plan amendment receives final approval from OAL. Staff expects to receive OAL approval in early 2020.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION

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

October 9, 2019

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

November 13, 2019

Action Agenda Item	Action Type	Draft Complete	Written Comments Due	Consent Item
Addendum No. 1 to Waste Discharge Requirement Order No. 93-07 San Luis Rey Wastewater Treatment Plant, City of Oceanside, San Diego County <i>(Bushnell)</i>	WDR Amendment	30%	3-Oct-2019	No

December 11, 2019

Action Agenda Item	Action Type	Draft Complete	Written Comments Due	Consent Item
NPDES Permit Reissuance for the City of Oceanside, Oceanside Ocean Outfall. <i>(Lim)</i>	NPDES Permit Reissuance	80%	TBD	No
NPDES Permit Reissuance for the Fallbrook Public Water District Wastewater Plant No. 1. <i>(Lim)</i>	NPDES Permit Reissuance	80%	TBD	No
NPDES Permit Reissuance for the Camp Pendleton Southern Regional Tertiary Treatment Plant. <i>(Lim)</i>	NPDES Permit Reissuance	80%	TBD	No
NPDES Permit Reissuance for Genentech, Inc. <i>(Lim)</i>	NPDES Permit Reissuance	80%	TBD	No
Update on the Clean Water Act Section 401 Program for Dredge and Fill Material and Discharges. <i>(Becker)</i>	Informational Item	NA	NA	NA

Action Agenda Item	Action Type	Draft Complete	Written Comments Due	Consent Item
Rescission of Order No. 87-108, Waste Discharge Requirements for Rancho Del Campo Campgrounds. <i>(Komeylyan)</i>	WDR Rescission	50%	16-Sept-2019	Yes

January 2020

No Meeting Scheduled

Agenda Items Requested by Board Members

February 13, 2019

Requested Agenda Item	Board Member	Status
Board Member Strawn suggested that staff participate in the first annual "2019 SDSU Water Days" event on April 23, 1019	Strawn	In Progress
Informational item on the status of the Mission Bay ReWild project, with a particular focus on challenges the Board can help address.	Warren	In Progress
Several Board Members asked the Executive Officer to arrange outreach meetings with elected leaders of Coronado, National City, Imperial Beach, the County of San Diego, and the Navy Commander of the United States Navy Regional Southwest (Navy Mayor of San Diego)	Abarbanel, Cantú, Strawn	In Progress
Executive Officer to invite representative(s) from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to address the Board with information or concerns about water quality in the Tijuana River Valley area.	Abarbanel, Cantú	March 13, 2019

Table 1: July 2019 - Summary of Public and Federal Sanitary Sewer Overflows in the San Diego Region

Responsible Agency	Collection System (CS)	Total Volume (Gallons) ⁶	Total Recovered (Gallons) ⁷	Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons) ⁸	Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain and Recovered (Gallons) ⁹	Total Discharged to Land (Gallons) ¹⁰	Surface Water Body Affected	Miles of Pressure Sewer	Miles of Gravity Sewer	Population in Service Area ¹¹
City of Escondido	Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility Discharge to San Elijo Ocean Outfall CS	214	20	194	0	20	Unnamed Drainage Channel Tributary to Reidy Creek	8.5	344.0	148,000
City of San Diego	City of San Diego CS	123	123	0	0	123	-	141.3	3,034.9	2,500,000

⁶ Total Volume = total amount that discharged from sanitary sewer system to a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

⁷ Total Recovered = total amount recovered from a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

⁸ 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.

⁹ Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain and Recovered = total amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered.

¹⁰ Total Discharged to Land = total amount reaching land.

¹¹ As reported in the Collection System Questionnaire required under Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ.

City of San Juan Capistrano	City of San Juan Capistrano CS	940	300	640	0	300	Unnamed Drainage Channel Tributary to El Horno Creek	0.4	124.0	40,000
Leucadia Wastewater District	Leucadia Wastewater District CS	1	0	0	0	1	-	16.7	205.0	62,607
Leucadia Wastewater District	Leucadia Wastewater District CS	116	116	0	116	0	-	16.7	205.0	62,607
US Navy Southwest Division	NAVFAC Southwest Utility CS	80	60	20	0	60	San Diego Bay	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
Totals for Public Spills	-	1,394	559	834	116	444	-	166.9	3,707.9	2,750,607
Totals for Federal Spills	-	80	60	20	0	60	-	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported

Table 2: July 2019 - Summary of Private Lateral Sewage Discharges in the San Diego Region

Responsible Agency	Collection System (CS)	Total Volume (Gallons) ¹²	Total Recovered (Gallons) ¹³	Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons) ¹⁴	Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain & Recovered and/or Discharged to Land (Gallons) ¹⁵	Population in Service Area ¹⁶	Number of Lateral Connections
City of Escondido	Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility Discharge to San Elijo Ocean Outfall CS	55	55	0	55	148,000	48,092
City of Escondido	Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility Discharge to San Elijo Ocean Outfall CS	55	0	0	55	148,000	48,092
City of Laguna Beach	City of Laguna Beach CS	20	20	0	20	18,000	6,650
City of San Diego	City of San Diego CS	368	368	0	368	2,500,000	264,998
City of San Diego	City of San Diego CS	216	211	5	211	2,500,000	264,998
City of San Diego	City of San Diego CS	258	172	86	172	2,500,000	264,998
City of San Diego	City of San Diego CS	560	560	0	560	2,500,000	264,998

¹² Total Volume = total amount that discharged from private lateral to a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

¹³ Total Recovered = total amount recovered from a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ As reported in the Collection System Questionnaire required under Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ.

City of Vista	City of Vista CS	3	3	0	3	90,000	16,525
Rancho California Water District	Santa Rosa Water Reclamation Facility - Recycled Water CS	740	0	0	740	19,801	4,840
Totals	-	2,275	1,389	91	2,184	2,775,801	341,105

Figure 1: Number of SSOs per Month

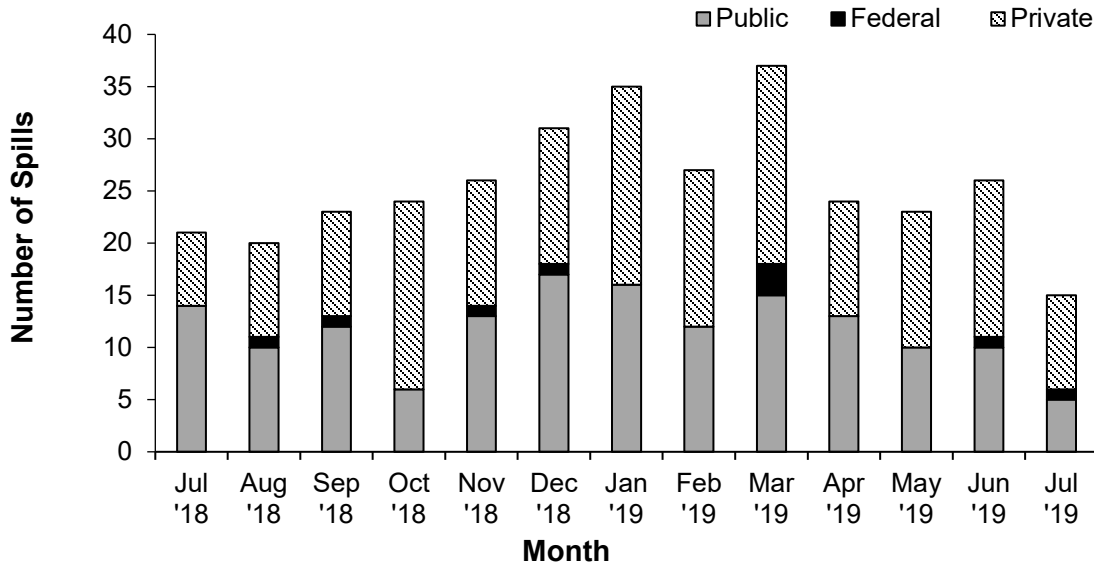


Figure 1: The number of public, federal, and private sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) per month from July 2018 to July 2019.

Figure 2: Volume of SSOs per Month

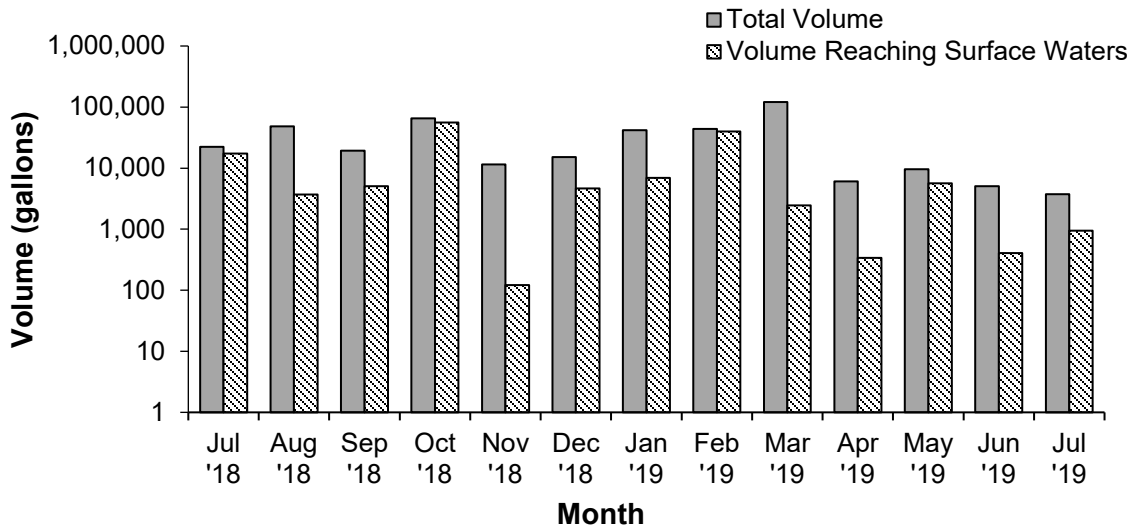


Figure 2: The volume of public, federal, and private sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) per month from July 2018 to July 2019. Note the logarithmic scale on the vertical axis showing the wide variation in SSO volumes.

Table 3: July 2019 - Summary of Transboundary Flows from Mexico into the San Diego Region

Location	Start Date	Weather Condition ¹⁷	Total Volume (Gallons)	Total Recovered (Gallons)	Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)	Additional Details
Tijuana River	7/1/2019	Dry	685,000	0	685,000	A 60-inch sewage collector in Mexico ruptured on June 23, 2019 which caused flow in the Tijuana River to exceed the operational capacity of Pump Station CILA, bypass the River Diversion Structure, and cross the U.S./Mexico border.
Tijuana River	7/12/2019	Dry	40,000	0	40,000	Flow in the Tijuana River exceeded the operational capacity of Pump Station CILA causing flow in the Tijuana River to bypass the River Diversion Structure and cross the U.S./Mexico border.
Tijuana River	7/20/2019	Dry	287,000	0	287,000	An electrical malfunction caused a 20-minute partial shutdown of Pump Station CILA causing flow in the Tijuana River to bypass the River Diversion Structure and cross the U.S./Mexico border.
Totals	-	Dry	1,012,000	0	1,012,000	-
Totals	-	Wet	-	-	-	-

¹⁷ Order No. R9-2014-0009 requires monthly reporting of all dry weather transboundary flows. Wet weather transboundary flows are not required to be reported. All wet weather transboundary flow information is provided voluntarily.