

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
DECEMBER 30, 2025
DRAFT TIME SCHEDULE ORDER R3-2026-0009
CITY OF SANTA MARIA WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) will accept comments on the proposed Time Schedule Order R3-2026-0009. You may download the draft order from our website at the following address:

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

La Junta Regional para el Control de la Calidad del Agua (Central Coast Water Board) está notificándoles a todas aquellas personas interesadas sobre un orden preliminar para la planta de tratamiento de aguas residuales de Santa Maria. Si desea obtener información en español, póngase en contacto con rb3-wdr@waterboards.ca.gov.

The City of Santa Maria (Santa Maria) operates a domestic wastewater treatment plant to the west of the city that discharges treated wastewater to land. The wastewater treatment plant is currently regulated by General Waste Discharge Requirements Order R3-2020-0020 for Discharges from Domestic Wastewater Systems with Flows Greater than 100,000 Gallons per Day (Permit).

Santa Maria's Permit has pollutant limitations for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅), total suspended solids (TSS), and total nitrogen that Santa Maria cannot currently comply with. Santa Maria has requested additional time to obtain funding and upgrade the wastewater treatment plant to get into compliance. The proposed time schedule order requires Santa Maria to comply with interim effluent limitations for BOD₅, TSS, and total nitrogen, secure funding, and construct an upgraded wastewater treatment plant.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Interested persons are invited to submit comments in writing to the Central Coast Water Board no later than **January 30, 2026**. Comments may be submitted to rb3-wdr@waterboards.ca.gov or mailed to 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101 San Luis Obispo, 93401.

Please indicate in the subject line, **“WDR Comment Letter – City of Santa Maria Time Schedule Order.”**

Please direct any questions about this notice to Cecile Blancarte at (805) 542-4782 or cecile.blancarte@waterboards.ca.gov or Jennifer Epp jennifer.epp@waterboards.ca.gov.

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