

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LOS ANGELES REGION**

**320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013
(213) 576-6600**

**Public Notice No. 24-011
NPDES No. CA0064696**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF
TERMINATION OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS AND
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT**

<u>DISCHARGER</u>	<u>DISCHARGE LOCATION</u>	<u>RECEIVING WATER</u>
Urchinomics USA Inc.,	452 Lighthouse Circle Drive Port Hueneme, CA 93041 Ventura County	Port Hueneme Harbor

Urchinomics USA Inc. (hereinafter Discharger, or Permittee), is the owner and operator of the Channel Islands Urchin Co. LLC (hereinafter Facility), a flow through aquaculture facility located in Port Hueneme, California. The Facility discharged up to 1.44 million gallons per day (MGD) of aquaculture wastewater (i.e., seawater) from Discharge Point 001 (Latitude 34.1449°, Longitude -119.2105°) to the Port Hueneme Harbor, a water of the United States. The discharge is regulated under waste discharge requirements contained in Order No. R4-2022-0162, adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) on April 14, 2022. Order No. R4-2022-0162 also serves as a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES No. CA0064696) Program.

The Discharger filed a Notice of Termination (NOT) on June 6, 2024 to terminate Order No. R4-2022-0162. The Facility has ceased its industrial operations and dismantled the flowthrough aquaculture system and removed it from the site. On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the Los Angeles Water Board, tentatively proposes to issue the termination order of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and NPDES permit No. CA0064696.

HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

The Los Angeles Water Board will hold a public hearing on the Tentative Termination Order during the regular Los Angeles Water Board meeting (Board meeting) on the following date and time and at the following location:

**Date: October 24, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Office**

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Urchinomics USA Inc.
Channel Islands Urchin Co. LLC

(Carmel Room)
320 West 4th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

A virtual platform is also available for those who want to join online. Please follow the directions provided in the agenda to register or to view the Los Angeles Water Board meeting.

Interested people are invited to attend. At the public hearing, the Los Angeles Water Board will hear testimony, if any, that is pertinent to the discharge and termination. Oral testimony will be heard; however, for accuracy of the record, important testimony should be in writing.

Please be aware that dates and venues may change. Our Web address is <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles> where you can access the current agenda for changes in dates and locations.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The tentative termination, comments submitted, and other information received regarding the discharge are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday by appointment at the following address:

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Arrangements for file review and/or obtaining copies of the documents may be made by calling the Los Angeles Water Board at (213) 576-6600. The entire file will become a part of the administrative record of this proceeding, irrespective of whether individual documents are specifically referenced during the hearing. The entire file will not be present in the hearing room. Should any interested persons desire staff to bring to the hearing any particular documents that are not included in the agenda packet, they must submit a written or electronic request to staff during business hours, not later than 5 business days before the hearing. The request must identify the documents with enough specificity for staff to locate them.

The tentative termination, comments received, and the response to comments when prepared will also be available on the Los Angeles Water Board's website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml

NATURE OF HEARING

This will be a formal quasi-adjudicative proceeding pursuant to section 648 et seq. of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Chapter 5 of the California Administrative Procedure Act (commencing with section 11500 of the Government Code) does not apply to this proceeding.

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Channel Islands Urchin Co. LLC

Ex Parte Communications Prohibited: As a quasi-adjudicative proceeding, no board member may discuss the subject of this hearing with any person, except during the public hearing itself. Any communications to the Regional Water Board must be directed to staff.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAFF BEFORE THE HEARING

The lead staff member responsible for this item is:

Adriana Vallejo
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 620-2160
adriana.vallejo@waterboards.ca.gov

PARTIES TO THE HEARING

The following are the parties to this proceeding:

- Urchinomics USA Inc.

Any other persons requesting party status must submit a written or electronic request to staff not later than 20 business days before the hearing. All parties will be notified if other persons are so designated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the tentative termination, or submit evidence for the Board to consider, are invited to submit them in writing. To be evaluated and responded to by staff, included in the Board's agenda folder, and fully considered by the Board, written comments and evidence must be submitted to the Board by mail to the address above or by email to losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with a copy to adriana.vallejo@waterboards.ca.gov, and received at the Board's office by 5:00 p.m. on **October 9, 2024**. Please reference the comments as "Comments on tentative NPDES Permit, Urchinomics USA Inc., Channel Islands Urchin Co. LLC, NPDES No. CA0064696".

Pursuant to section 648.4, title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, written comments or evidence submitted after the comment deadline will not be allowed or accepted into the Administrative Record without a showing of good cause for the delay, and in no event if any party or the Board would be unduly prejudiced by the late submittal including if staff or the Board would not have an adequate opportunity to review, consider, and respond to the comments or evidence.

Additionally, if the Board receives only supportive comments, the permit may be placed on the Board's consent calendar and approved without oral testimony.

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HEARING PROCEDURE

The meeting, in which the hearing will occur, will start at 9:00 a.m. Interested people are invited to attend. Staff will present the matter under consideration, after which oral statements from parties or interested people will be heard. For accuracy of the record, all important testimony should be in writing. The Los Angeles Water Board will include in the administrative record written transcriptions of oral testimony that is actually presented at the hearing. Oral testimony may be limited to 3 minutes maximum or less for each speaker, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. Parties or persons with similar concerns or opinions are encouraged to choose one representative to speak. At the conclusion of testimony, the Los Angeles Water Board will render a decision.

Parties or people with special procedural requests should contact staff. Any procedure not specified in this hearing notice will be waived pursuant to section 648(d) of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Objections to any procedure to be used during this hearing must be submitted in writing not later than close of business 15 business days prior to the date of the hearing. Procedural objections will not be entertained at the hearing.

If there should not be a quorum on the scheduled date of this meeting, this matter will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting on November 21, 2024. A continuance will not extend any deadline set forth herein.

Date: September 9, 2024