
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

TENTATIVE

TBD

Larry Hofreiter
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Sent by Email Only

In reply refer to:
767544:vrodriguez

Subject: Notice of Applicability (NOA) Amendment 2, *General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Residual Firework Pollutant Discharges to Waters of the United States in the San Diego Region from the Public Display of Fireworks*, Order No. R9-2022-0002, NPDES No. CAG999002 (General Order)

Port of San Diego, Big Bay Boom, San Diego, CA 92101 (Project)

Larry Hofreiter:

By issuance of an NOA dated April 13, 2023, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) authorized the discharge of fireworks pollutants to the San Diego Bay. The Armed Services Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was the named Discharger in the Project NOA under the General Order.

By email on February 9, 2026, the Port of San Diego requested to be the named Discharger in the Project NOA. Amendment 2 modifies the NOA to name the Port of San Diego the Discharger and update the contact and mailing information. The partnership between the Port of San Diego and Armed Services YMCA was not properly detailed in the original NOA but is reflected in the Coastal Development Permit granted by the California Coastal Commission submitted with the amendment request. While the Port of San Diego and Armed Services YMCA maintain a partnership for the Project, the Port of San Diego accepts Discharger responsibilities. During the review process, the San Diego Water Board identified additional permit modifications to improve clarity and correct errors. The additional modifications correct event location coordinates, specify amendment effective dates, correct typographical errors, and update discharge specifications and water quality monitoring sections.

On March 13, 2026, the San Diego Water Board began a 30-day public comment period for Amendment 2.

All other terms, conditions, and requirements specified in previous amendments, the NOA, and the General Order remain in full force and effect. Modifications made by Amendment 2 are shown below in redline text.

Enrollment Information

The Discharger is hereby enrolled and authorized to discharge under the terms and conditions of the General Order and this NOA. The Discharger and Enrollment Information are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Discharger and Enrollment Information

WDID	9 000002292
Discharger	Port of San Diego Armed Services YMCA
Discharger Contact	Victoria Andujar, Sponsorship Administrator, Port of San Diego, (619) 686-6417 vandujar@portofsandiego.org Sandy Purdon, Executive Producer, (619) 822-1177
Authorized Person to Sign and Submit Reports	Larry Hofreiter, Director of Parks & Recreation, Port of San Diego lhofreiter@portofsandiego.org Tim Ney, Executive Director
Event Location 1: Shelter Island	Latitude: 32.713 N-32.71333 N Longitude: 117.22 W-117.22000 W
Event Location 2: Harbor Island	Latitude: 32.722 N-32.72167 N Longitude: 117.20 W-117.20000 W
Event Location 3: North Embarcadero	Latitude: 32.715 N-32.71500 N Longitude: 117.18 W-117.18000 W
Event Location 4: South Embarcadero	Latitude: 32.7035 N-32.70167 Longitude: 117.1705 W-117.16833 W
Expected Event Date	July 4 th , annually
Mailing Address	Parks & Recreation Department P.O. Box 120488 San Diego, CA 92112-0488 Sandy Purdon, Executive producer 3293 Santo Road San Diego, CA 92124
Billing Address	Same as Mailing Address
Type of Facility	Fireworks Event
Major or Minor Facility	Minor
Discharge Category	3 – Lowest Threat to Water Quality
Receiving Water	North San Diego Bay
This Enrollment is Effective as of:	April 13, 2023

Amendment 1 Effective Date	July 19, 2023
Amendment 2 Effective Date	Signature Date

Discharge Specifications

The Discharger proposes to host fireworks on July 4th each year from four barges in North San Diego Bay. Each barge will use approximately 1,300 pounds of explosive for an 18-minute event, and no more than 5,350 pounds of explosive shall be used for the entire event. The Discharger shall implement the Fireworks Best Management Practices Plan (FBMPP), submitted with the **NOI-NOA amendment request**, as well as the FBMPP minimum elements described in section 5.2 of the General Order, to prevent and/or reduce the discharge of pollutants associated with the public display of fireworks. This includes, to the extent practical, collecting, removing, and managing debris found in the firing range and adjacent affected surface waters. The Discharger is advised to periodically review the FBMPP to ensure compliance with the General Order. For each fireworks event, the Discharger is required to conduct visual monitoring following the end of each fireworks event, maintain a Post-Fireworks Display Log, and complete a Display of Fireworks Post-Event Report Form.

Water Quality Monitoring

Pursuant to section 8.2 of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) of the Order (Attachment E), the San Diego Water Board requires the Discharger to conduct water quality and benthic sediment quality monitoring due to having multiple fireworks shows in San Diego Bay. The Discharger ~~shall submit~~ **submitted** a water quality and benthic sediment quality monitoring plan in accordance with section 8.2.2 of the **MRP on April 26, 2024. Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP, Attachment E of the Order) by April 12, 2024.** The San Diego Water Board encourages Dischargers to establish or join a water body-monitoring coalition, which enable the sharing of technical resources, trained personnel, and associated costs and create an integrated water quality monitoring program within each water body.

Notifications

This NOA may be modified to require technical or monitoring reports to assess the quality of the discharge and its potential impact on the water quality and beneficial uses of the receiving water.

Failure to comply with the General Order may subject the Discharger to enforcement actions by the San Diego Water Board, including administrative enforcement orders requiring the Discharger to cease and desist from violations or to clean up waste and abate existing or threatened conditions of pollution or nuisance; administrative civil liability in amounts of up to \$10,000 per day per violation and \$10 for each gallon discharged but not cleaned up in excess of 1,000 gallons; referral to the State Attorney General for injunctive relief; and, referral to the District Attorney for criminal prosecution.

Petition for Review

Any person aggrieved by this action of the San Diego Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to review the action in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 *et seq.* The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 calendar days after the date of this letter. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality or will be provided upon request.

Termination of Discharge

To terminate coverage from the General Order, the Discharger is required under section 2.8 of the General Order, to submit a Notice of Termination (NOT) form (Attachment I), to the San Diego Water Board, requesting the termination date of the discharge. The Discharger shall continue to submit reports in accordance with the reporting schedule until the NOT has been approved by the San Diego Water Board.

In the subject line of any response, please include the reference "767544:vrodriguez". If you have any questions, please contact Vicente Rodiriguez at vicente.rodriquez@waterboards.ca.gov or (619) 521-3966.

Respectfully,

LAURIE WALSH, P.E.
Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

cc by email:

Melissa Corona, San Diego Water Board, melissa.corona@waterboards.ca.gov
Victoria Andujar, Port of San Diego, vandujar@portofsandiego.org
Sara Kuhn, Port of San Diego, skuhn@portofsandiego.org

Tech Staff Info & Use	
Order	R9-2022-0002
NPDES Permit	CAG999002
CW Place ID (Big Bay Boom – Fireworks Events Locations)	767544
CW Party/Organization ID (Port of San Diego)	281794
CW Party/Person ID (Larry Hofreiter)	652760
CW Regulatory Measure (General Order)	447470
CW Regulatory Measure (Enrollment)	450799
WDID	9 000002292