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## State Water Resources Control Board

### Notice of Wastewater Change Petition WW0113

COUNTY: Ventura

STREAM SYSTEM: Santa Clara River  
Estuary

The City of San Buenaventura (City of Ventura) has filed a wastewater change petition with the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights (Division) pursuant to California Water Code section 1211. The City plans to divert tertiary treated water currently discharged from the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility (VWRF) as part of the ongoing Ventura Water Pure Project (Project). The Project is required by and incorporated into Order R4-2020-0024, NPDES Permit No. CA0053561, Waste Discharge Requirements for the VWRF (April 2020). Tertiary treated water that is currently discharged to the Santa Clara River Estuary (SCRE) would ultimately be redirected to a new Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) for additional treatment and potable reuse in the City's Service District.

To meet the SCRE discharge reduction deadline of December 2025 (as specified in Section VI.C.2 of the NPDES Permit), the City is planning to discharge a portion of VWRF treated wastewater (approximately 60% of baseline average dry weather discharge) temporarily through a newly constructed ocean outfall during construction, testing, and bringing of the AWPF online. The AWPF is anticipated to be ready to accept tertiary treated water diverted from the VWRF in 2027. After operation of the AWPF commences, the use of the new ocean outfall will continue to discharge the AWPF's concentrate, as well as to discharge VWRF tertiary treated wastewater, only as needed, to maintain flow limitations to protect the ecology of the SCRE during closed berm conditions during certain storm events, emergencies, and treatment facility maintenance situations, as defined in the permit application (Protective Tertiary Treated Discharges). For Phase 1A of the Project, the City requests authorization to reduce the discharge of treated wastewater to the SCRE to an annual average rate of 1.9 million gallons per day (MGD) during closed berm conditions (as measured on a water year from October 1 through September 30). For Phase 1B of the Project, the City requests a further reduction to an annual average rate of 0-0.5 MGD to the SCRE during closed berm conditions (as measured on a water year from October 1 through September 30). The City also provides tertiary treated water to irrigation customers, including golf courses and a park within the City's service area, via a recycled water system and mobile reuse pick up program. The existing recycled water program is authorized under the State Board's Order Approving Change in Place of Use, Purpose of Use, and Quantity of Discharge (Wastewater Petition WW0083), and it will be continued during Phase 1A and Phase 1B of the Project. The current recycled water program is authorized to use up to 2 MGD of VWRF effluent for existing permitted recycled water uses.

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E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## **Summary of Wastewater Discharge and Proposed Changes:**

### **Source of Discharge:**

Ventura Water Reclamation Facility

### **Receiving Water:**

*Present:* Santa Clara River Estuary, thence the Pacific Ocean

*Proposed:* Pacific Ocean and Santa Clara River Estuary

### **Point of Discharge:**

*Present:* Santa Clara River Estuary (California Coordinate System, NAD 83, Zone 5: North 1,911,873 feet and East 6,181,258 feet), and delivered to irrigation customers via the recycled water system and mobile reuse program.

*Proposed:* Advanced Water Purification Facility (California Coordinate System, NAD 83, Zone 5: North 1,913,204 feet and East 6,182,220 feet), Santa Clara River Estuary (California Coordinate System, NAD 83, Zone 5: North 1,911,873 feet and East 6,181,258 feet), ocean outfall (California Coordinate System, NAD 83, Zone 5: North 1,916,986 feet and East 6,171,493 feet), and delivered to irrigation customers via the recycled water system and mobile reuse program.

### **Rate of Discharge:**

*Present:* The current annual average rate is 5.5 MGD to the Santa Clara River Estuary.

*Proposed:*

- Phase 1A:
  - The annual average rate of tertiary treated flows will be reduced to 1.9 MGD to the Santa Clara River Estuary during closed berm conditions. The rest of tertiary treated flows will be delivered or discharged to 1) AWPF (upon completion and operation of AWPF); 2) irrigation customers; and/or 3) the Pacific Ocean (via outfall).
- Phase 1B:
  - The annual average rate of tertiary treated flows will be reduced to 0.0 to 0.5 MGD to the Santa Clara River Estuary during closed berm conditions. The rest of tertiary treated flows will be delivered or discharged to 1) AWPF; 2) irrigation customers; and/or 3) the Pacific Ocean (via outfall).

**Purpose of Use:**

*Present:* Municipal, Irrigation, and Dust Control

*Proposed:* Municipal, Irrigation, Dust Control, and Potable Reuse (Indirect)

**Place of Use:**

*Present:* City's Service District

*Proposed:* City's Service District (no change)

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Any interested person may file a written protest against the approval of this petition. (Wat. Code, § 1703.1.) Protest submittal information is available at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/applications/docs/protestsubmittalinfo.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/docs/protestsubmittalinfo.pdf)

Protests must be received by the Division of Water Rights at [WaterRightPetitions@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:WaterRightPetitions@waterboards.ca.gov) by **4:30 p.m. on September 12, 2024**. A copy of the protest must also be provided to the City via Gina Dorrington, General Manager of Ventura Water, at [gdorrington@cityofventura.ca.gov](mailto:gdorrington@cityofventura.ca.gov).

For more information, please contact Patricia Fernandez at [Patricia.Fernandez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Patricia.Fernandez@waterboards.ca.gov).

Date of Notice: **August 13, 2024**