

JOINT NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX, WTR-5
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
Telephone: (415) 972-3524

California Regional Water Quality
Control Board, Santa Ana Region
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3348
Telephone: (951) 782-4130

On Re-issuance of a federal National
Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
(NPDES) Permit to Discharge Pollutants
to Waters of the United States

On Re-issuance of State Waste Discharge
Requirements (WDR) to Discharge to
Surface Waters of the State

Public Notice #: CA-W-12-08

Public Notice Date: May 8, 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX (USEPA) and California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (Regional Water Board) are jointly issuing this notice of proposed actions under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Division 7 of the California Water Code, and regulations thereunder. The USEPA and Regional Water Board are proposing to jointly reissue a federal NPDES permit and State WDR to Orange County Sanitation District located at 10844 Ellis Avenue; Fountain Valley, CA 92728-8127. The draft permit incorporates applicable federal and State requirements, including effluent limitations and monitoring conditions to evaluate the impact of the discharge on the marine environment, compliance with State water quality standards, and pollutants in the discharge. In addition, the Regional Water Board is proposing to amend Time Schedule Order No. R8-2004-0067 (TSO) to change all references from "R8-2004-0062" to "R8-2012-0035".

The Regional Water Board will conduct a public hearing on the proposed WDR and TSO amendment on June 15, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., at the Irvine Ranch Water District; 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue; Irvine, California. The Regional Water Board intends that joint issuance of the draft permit with USEPA will serve as its certification under CWA section 401 that discharge pursuant to the permit will comply with 33 U.S.C. 1311, 1312, 1313, 1316, and 1317. Therefore, any issues regarding such certification should be raised during the public comment period.

The Discharger, a Publicly Owned Treatment Works, operates Reclamation Plant No. 1 located in Fountain Valley, and Treatment Plant No. 2 located in Huntington Beach, California. Disinfected secondary treated municipal wastewater is permitted for discharge to the Pacific Ocean through Discharge Point 001 (120" outfall), located approximately 4.5 miles offshore of the mouth of the Santa Ana River, at a depth of 195 feet. The draft permit proposes to authorize emergency Discharge Point 002, located approximately 1 mile offshore of the mouth of the Santa Ana River, at a depth of about 65 feet, as the primary discharge point during periods of essential maintenance of the 120" outfall conducted under 40 CFR 122.41(m)(2). Such maintenance is planned in the fall of 2012. Sewage solids are shipped offsite to other facilities providing

conversion to e-fuel for use in a local cement kiln, composting for agricultural use, land application for agricultural use, or disposed of in a municipal solid waste landfill.

The Administrative Record, which includes the draft permit, fact sheet, TSO amendment, comments received, permit application, and other relevant documents, is available for review at the USEPA and Regional Water Board addresses above, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., beginning May 8, 2012. The draft permit can also be viewed and downloaded from the Regional Water Board's website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml.

Interested persons are invited to attend the Regional Water Board's public hearing on June 15 and express their views on the State permit and TSO amendment. Although the public comment period for the State permit and TSO amendment close at the end of the public hearing on June 15, to facilitate joint consideration of comments by both the Regional Water Board and USEPA, all comments must be submitted in writing by the close of business on June 6, 2012. Written comments should be submitted either in person or by mail to the attention of Robyn Stuber at USEPA and Gary Stewart at the Regional Water Board, at the addresses shown above. All timely comments received will be retained and considered in the formulation of the final permit determination.

When a final permit is issued, it will become effective 33 days following the date it is mailed to the Discharger, unless a request for review is filed. If a request for review is filed, only those permit conditions that are uncontested will go into effect pending disposition of the review request. Requests for review of the federal permit must be filed within 33 days following the date the final permit is mailed and must meet the requirements of 40 CFR 124.19. All requests for review of the federal permit should be addressed to the Environmental Appeals Board. Those persons filing a request for review of the federal permit must have filed written comments on the draft permit by June 8. Otherwise, any request for review may be filed only to the extent of changes from the draft to final permit decision.

Please bring the foregoing notice to the attention of all persons you know who would be interested in this matter. Any person who is physically challenged and requires reasonable accommodation to participate at the Regional Water Board's public hearing on June 15 should contact Felipa Carrillo at (951) 782-3285 no later than June 8, 2012.