

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION R3-2026-0031

**AUTHORIZING ENROLLMENT IN THE GENERAL WAIVER FOR SPECIFIC TYPES
OF LIMITED-THREAT DISCHARGES,
PURSUANT TO ATTACHMENT A, SECTION D,
ORDER R3-2026-0032
AND
ADOPTION OF MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM R3-2026-0011
FOR
SPACE EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION
SPACE LAUNCH COMPLEX 4, VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

WHEREAS,

1. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Water Board) uses enrollment in the *General Waiver for Specific Types of Limited-Threat Waste Discharges, Order R3-2026-0032* (General Waiver) to regulate discharges that are a limited threat to water quality. There are 14 specified categories of discharges that can be enrolled pursuant to the General Waiver, and certain additional discharges (Additional Discharges) may be enrolled in the General Waiver if they are approved by the Central Coast Water Board and meet all the requirements set forth in General Waiver and Attachment A, Section D.
2. Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX; Discharger) seeks to discharge rocket launch related water, along with intermittent comingled stormwater (rainwater that falls on, and runs off of, hardscape surfaces, and collects in the retention basin), via onsite land surface disposal. Such discharges originate specifically from the Space Launch Complex (SLC) 4, Falcon 9 Launch Facility (SLC-4).
3. The proposed discharge is not one of the 14 limited-threat discharges enumerated in the General Waiver.
4. SpaceX was enrolled in prior versions of the General Order for SLC-4 launch-related water discharges.¹ SpaceX has proposed to increase the amount of rocket launches from SLC-4 and, as a result, the amount of rocket launch-related water discharges will also increase.
5. The Central Coast Water Board conducted an initial study in 2002 under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and specifically in accordance with

¹ In 2013 SpaceX was initially enrolled in General Waiver Order R3-2008-0010. In subsequent years General Waiver Order R3-2008-0010 was superseded by General Waiver Orders R3-2014-0041, R3-2019-0089, R3-2024-0035, and herein by R3-2026-0032.

the California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, section 15063. The Central Coast Water Board adopted a negative declaration on October 11, 2002, concurrently with the adoption of Resolution R3-2002-0115, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Types of Discharges. Various addenda have been prepared over the years to the CEQA analysis, most recently in 2023, with the Board's adoption of Order 2023-0044. The latest update to the initial study and negative declaration from 2023 continues to serve as the appropriate document addressing the environmental impacts for the General Waiver under CEQA.

6. As set forth above, the General Waiver specifies that Additional Discharges may be enrolled if the discharges meet all General Waiver conditions and any additional site-specific or discharge-specific conditions prescribed by the Executive Officer. Additional Discharges require a report of waste discharge (ROWD) including a one-time fee equal to the minimum annual fee identified in the fee schedule (title 23, section 2200 of the CCR); any applicable analysis that may be required under CEQA; and a demonstration that the discharges are a low or limited threat to water quality. The Central Coast Water Board must approve these types of proposed enrollments at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.
7. On December 19, 2025, SpaceX submitted its ROWD to the Central Coast Water Board. SpaceX paid the one-time applicable fee on March 19, 2026. Together with its ROWD, and pursuant to the Central Coast Water Board's request, SpaceX submitted water quality data and the Department of the Air Force's (DAF's) Installation Restoration Program's contractor submitted groundwater monitoring data. The data showed no significant impact to water quality as a result of the increased launch cadence.
8. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the DAF prepared a 2024 environmental assessment / finding of no significant impact (EA/FONSI) to analyze potential environmental consequences for a launch cadence increase from up to 35 launches per year, to up to 50 Falcon 9 launches per year from SLC-4. Thereafter, in 2025, DAF prepared an environmental impact statement (EIS) and record of decision (ROD) authorizing space launch complex 6 (SLC-6) redevelopment and an overall launch cadence of up to 100 launches per year for Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy launches from SLC-4 and SLC-6 combined. Neither the EA/FONSI nor the EIS found any significant impact from the discharge of launch water, among other things.

The Central Coast Water Board finds that:

9. There are multiple lines of evidence demonstrating that the increased, planned rocket launch wastewater discharges (along with intermittent comingled stormwater) present no significant threat to water quality. The evidence includes:
 - a. The 2024 EA/FONSI;
 - b. The 2025 NEPA EIS and ROD; and
 - c. The water quality data provided by SpaceX in its ROWD and groundwater monitoring data collected at the request of the Central Coast Water Board.

10. The Central Coast Water Board concurs with the findings in the 2025 EIS and 2024 EA/FONSI concerning the impacts to water quality from discharge of launch water with launch cadence increases. Based on the 2025 EIS and 2024 EA/FONSI, and on the analysis of the water quality data and preliminary groundwater monitoring data, the Central Coast Water Board finds no additional analysis under CEQA is necessary, and that these discharges are appropriate for enrollment in the General Waiver.
11. As part of the enrollment in the General Waiver and based on the same evidence set forth in paragraph 9, *supra*, the Central Coast Water Board finds that additional monitoring and reporting requirements for this discharge, as set forth in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) Order R3-2026-0011, are appropriate. Together with the requirement that the discharges meet all General Waiver general conditions, these additional site-specific and discharge-specific conditions will protect water quality.
12. On January 26, 2026, Central Coast Water Board staff provided public notice and an opportunity for interested persons to submit written comments on the draft Notice of Applicability for SpaceX's enrollment in the General Waiver and the draft MRP Order R3-2026-011. The written comment period closed on February 26, 2026.
13. On April 16, 2026, the Central Coast Water Board held a public meeting to consider enrollment in the General Waiver, adoption of the MRP, and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Central Coast Water Board authorizes the Executive Officer to enroll SpaceX to discharge rocket launch related water, along with intermittent comingled stormwater collected in the retention basin, via onsite land surface disposal in the General Waiver for Specific Types of Limited-Threat Waste Discharges, Attachment A, Section D, Order R3-2026-0032, and to adopt the MRP R3-2026-0011.

I, Ryan E. Lodge, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, at its meeting on April 16, 2026.

Ryan E. Lodge
Executive Officer