

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

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**RESOLUTION NO. R20-002**

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
APPROVAL OF PROPOSED SPECIAL STUDY FOR  
HYPERION WATER RECLAMATION PLANT  
AND  
TERMINAL ISLAND WATER RECLAMATION PLANT**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board), finds:

1. The Regional Water Board adopted National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for the City of Los Angeles' (City's) Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant on February 02, 2017 (Order No. R4-2017-0045), and for the Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant on June 11, 2015 (Order No. R4-2015-0119 and 2015-0119-A01).
2. Both NPDES permits contain a requirement for the City to consult annually with the Regional Water Board and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to determine the need for special studies. Detailed scopes of work for proposals must be presented to obtain Regional Water Board and USEPA approval and to inform the public. Special studies are intended to focus on refined questions regarding specific effects or development of monitoring techniques. Questions regarding effluent or receiving water quality, discharge impacts, ocean processes in the area of the discharge, or development of techniques for monitoring, arising out of the results of core or regional monitoring, may be pursued through these special studies.
3. On December 17, 2019, representatives from the City met with Regional Water Board staff to discuss the following proposed special study for 2020: *Constituents of Emerging Concern Work Plan: Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances*.
4. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made substances that do not occur naturally in the environment and are resistant to heat, water, and oil. PFAS have been used extensively in surface coating and protectant formulations due to their unique ability to reduce the surface tension of liquids. PFAS are persistent in the environment, can accumulate within the human body over time, and are toxic at relatively low concentrations. PFAS can be introduced into the body by eating or drinking contaminated food or drinks (including water) and breathing in or touching products treated with PFAS, such as carpets or clothing.

ADOPTED (April 16, 2020)

5. The State Water Resources Control Board and the nine Regional Water Boards are currently implementing a statewide phased PFAS investigation, requiring testing of drinking water systems and site investigations at high risk locations. The objective of this statewide investigation is to evaluate PFAS groundwater and surface water impacts and obtain a preliminary understanding of PFAS concentrations associated with different sources. The State Water Board and the Regional Water Boards will evaluate the data collected to make informed decisions in implementing appropriate regulatory action, in anticipation of emerging regulatory standards for PFAS. Phases I and II are underway, which involve investigation of: public drinking water wells near high risk locations; municipal solid waste landfills; large airports; and chrome plating facilities. The next phase will involve investigation of municipal wastewater effluent.
6. This proposed special study complements the statewide PFAS investigation described in Finding 5; fulfills the special studies requirement of the NPDES permits; and will enhance the City's ability to collect data to assess the impacts of PFAS on influent, effluent, advanced treated recycled water and the health of Los Angeles Harbor and Santa Monica Bay.
7. This special study also focuses on emerging issues associated with discharges from the City's wastewater treatment plants, notably the City's plans to transform the Hyperion Wastewater Reclamation Plant to a 100% recycled water facility by 2035 in order to improve the City's water resiliency by reducing its reliance on imported water. The special study can be found on the City's website at: [Los Angeles City PFAS Special Study Proposal \(https://www.lacitysan.org/san/sandocview?docname=cnt045140\)](https://www.lacitysan.org/san/sandocview?docname=cnt045140).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City's proposed special study for 2020, *Constituents of Emerging Concern Work Plan: Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances*, is hereby approved.

I, Renee Purdy, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, on April 16, 2020.

Renee Purdy  
Executive Officer

ADOPTED (April 16, 2020)