

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

**320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
(213) 576-6600**

**Public Notice No. 19-028  
NPDES No. CA0064564**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**PROPOSED REISSUANCE OF  
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
(National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit)**

| <u>DISCHARGER</u>   | <u>DISCHARGE LOCATION</u>  | <u>RECEIVING WATER</u> |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Naval Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center<br>Seawater Desalination Test Facility | Building TF11, Stetham Road<br>Naval Base Ventura County<br>Port Hueneme, CA 93043 | Port Hueneme Harbor    |

Naval Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (Discharger) is the owner and operator of the Seawater Desalination Test Facility (Facility) located on Stetham Road adjacent to Port Hueneme Harbor at Naval Base Ventura County. The Facility primarily conducts testing on desalination equipment that will potentially be used to provide the potable water supply aboard ships. Testing verifies that the equipment will meet the performance standards required. Desalination technologies tested include reverse osmosis (RO) and media filtration. The Facility is permitted to discharge up to 950,000 gallons per day (gpd) of reconstituted seawater to the Port Hueneme Harbor, a water of the United States. The Facility was previously regulated by Order No. R4-2014-0200, which was adopted by the Regional Water Board on October 9, 2014 and expired on November 30, 2019. Order No. R4-2014-0200 was administratively continued until the effective date of a new permit.

Intake seawater is drawn from the Port Hueneme Harbor and directed to a 5,000-gallon feed tank. Piping from the feed tank directs the water to either the "outdoor test facility" (TF11B) or the "indoor test facility" (TF11A). Any overflow from the feed tank is directed to the effluent stream. TF11A and TF11B house RO and media filtration testing equipment. During testing the influent seawater is separated into permeate and concentrate. After testing the permeate and concentrate are directed to an effluent channel where they mix back together. The effluent from TF11A mixes with the effluent from TF11B at a location underground prior to discharge to the Port Hueneme Harbor. Media filtration units require periodic backwashing for maintenance. Media backwash water is passed through a clarifier for suspended solids removal prior to discharge with the TF11B effluent stream. There is also periodic cleaning of the equipment. Wastewater from cleaning operations is held in a separate tank and then discharged to the sanitary sewer system.

Public Notice No. 19-028  
NAVAL ENGINEERING AND EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE CENTER  
SEAWATER DESALINATION TEST FACILITY

### HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

Date: April 9, 2020  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: City of Agoura Hills  
30001 Ladyface Court  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Please check the Board's website (<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/>) for the most up-to-date public hearing location as it is subject to change.

### AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The Report of Waste Discharge, related documents, tentative requirements, comments submitted and other information received regarding the discharge are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Arrangements for file review and/or obtaining copies of the documents may be made by calling the Regional Water Board at (213) 576-6600. The entire file will become a part of the administrative record of this proceeding, irrespective of whether individual documents are specifically referenced during the hearing. The entire file will not be present in the hearing room. Should any interested persons desire staff to bring to the hearing any particular documents that are not included in the agenda packet, they must submit a written or electronic request to staff during business hours, not later than 5 business days before the hearing. The request must identify the documents with enough specificity for staff to locate them.

The tentative WDRs, comments received, and the response to comments when prepared will also be available on the Regional Water Board's website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/index.shtml)

### NATURE OF HEARING

This will be a formal quasi-adjudicative proceeding pursuant to section 648 et seq. of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Chapter 5 of the California Administrative Procedure Act (commencing with section 11500 of the Government Code) does not apply to this proceeding.

*Ex Parte Communications Prohibited:* As a quasi-adjudicative proceeding, no board member may discuss the subject of this hearing with any person, except during the public hearing itself. Any communications to the Regional Water Board must be directed to staff.

### COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAFF BEFORE THE HEARING

The lead staff member responsible for this item is:

Thomas Siebels  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
(213) 576-6756  
thomas.siebels@waterboards.ca.gov

### PARTIES TO THE HEARING

The following are the parties to this proceeding:

1. The applicant/permittee

Any other persons requesting party status must submit a written or electronic request to staff not later than 20 business days before the hearing. All parties will be notified if other persons are so designated.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the tentative waste discharge requirements, or submit evidence for the Board to consider, are invited to submit them in writing. To be evaluated and responded to by staff, included in the Board's agenda folder, and fully considered by the Board, written comments and evidence must be submitted to the Board by mail to the address above or by email to [losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov) with a copy to [thomas.siebels@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:thomas.siebels@waterboards.ca.gov), and received at the Board's office by 5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2020. Please reference the comments as "Comments on tentative NPDES Permit, Naval Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center, Seawater Desalination Test Facility, CA0064564".

Pursuant to section 648.4, title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, written comments or evidence submitted after the comment deadline will not be allowed or accepted into the Administrative Record without a showing of good cause for the delay, and in no event if any party or the Board would be unduly prejudiced by the late submittal including if staff or the Board would not have an adequate opportunity to review, consider, and respond to the comments or evidence.

Additionally, if the Board receives only supportive comments, the permit may be placed on the Board's consent calendar and approved without oral testimony.

### HEARING PROCEDURE

The meeting, in which the hearing will occur, will start at 9:00 a.m. Interested persons are invited to attend. Staff will present the matter under consideration, after which oral statements from parties or interested persons will be heard. For accuracy of the record, all important testimony should be in writing. The Board will include in the administrative record written transcriptions of oral testimony that is actually presented at the hearing. Oral testimony may be limited to 3 minutes maximum or less for each speaker, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard. Parties or persons with similar concerns or opinions are encouraged to choose one representative to speak. At the conclusion of testimony, the Board will render a decision.

Parties or persons with special procedural requests should contact staff. Any procedure not specified in this hearing notice will be waived pursuant to section 648(d) of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Objections to any procedure to be used during this hearing must be submitted in writing not later than close of business 15 business days prior to the date of the hearing. Procedural objections will not be entertained at the hearing.

If there should not be a quorum on the scheduled date of this meeting, this matter will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting on May 14, 2020. A continuance will not extend any deadline set forth herein.

Date: February 11, 2020