

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

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013
(213) 576-6600

Public Notice No. 09-073
NPDES No. CA0053176

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

DISCHARGER	DISCHARGE LOCATION	RECEIVING WATER
Joint Outfall System (Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant)	301 North Rosemead Boulevard El Monte, California	San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo

The Joint Outfall System (ownership and operation of the Joint Outfall System is proportionally shared among the signatory parties to the amended Joint Outfall Agreement effective July 1, 1995. These parties include County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 34, and South Bay Cities Sanitation District of Los Angeles County), formerly referred to as the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and hereinafter Discharger or Districts, is currently discharging pursuant to Order No. R4-2002-0142 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0053716.

The Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant is part of integrated network of facilities, known as the Joint Outfall System (JOS). The JOS incorporates the Whittier Narrows WRP and six other wastewater treatment plants, which are connected by more than 1,200 miles of interceptors and truck sewers. The upstream treatment plants (Whittier Narrows, Pomona, La Cañada, Long Beach, Los Coyotes, and San Jose Creek) are connected to the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) located in Carson. This system allows for the diversion of influent flows into or around each upstream plant if so desired.

The Discharger owns and operates the Whittier Narrows WRP, a tertiary wastewater treatment plant located at 301 North Rosemead Boulevard, El Monte, California. The Whittier Narrows WRP currently receives wastewater from Alhambra, Arcadia, Azusa, Bradbury, City of Industry, Duarte, El Monte, Glendale, Irwindale, La Cañada Flintridge, Los Angeles, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Pasadena, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, Sierra Madre, South El Monte, South Pasadena, and Temple City. The wastewater is a mixture of domestic and industrial wastewater that is pre-treated pursuant to 40 CFR Part 403. Whittier Narrows WRP has a design capacity of 15 mgd and serves an estimated population of 76,000 people.

The Whittier Narrows WRP discharges tertiary-treated municipal and industrial wastewater to the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo, waters of the United States, above the Estuary. Treated effluents are discharged from the plant to surface waters at the following discharge points:

Discharge Point 001: Discharge to San Gabriel River via a point located approximately 700 feet upstream of the Whittier Narrows Dam (approximate coordinates: Latitude 34°

01' 22", Longitude 118° 03' 19"). The treated effluent generally flows down the river to the San Gabriel River Spreading Grounds.

Discharge Point 002: Discharge to the Zone 1 Ditch at a point located approximately 5,500 feet upstream from its juncture with the Rio Hondo (approximate coordinates: Latitude 34° 01' 39", Longitude 118° 03' 30"). The treated effluents enter the Rio Hondo at a point located approximately 4,000 feet upstream of the Whittier Narrows Dam. The treated effluent generally flows down the Rio Hondo to the Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds.

Discharge Point 003: Discharge to Test Basin 1 (approximate coordinates: Latitude 34° 01' 44", Longitude 118° 03' 40") used for the study of using recycled wastewater for groundwater recharge. There has been no discharge through this point since July 31, 1981, and there is no plan to utilize this point in the immediate future.

Discharge Point 004: Discharge directly to Rio Hondo via a 27-inch diameter discharge line located at a point 1,400 feet upstream of San Gabriel Boulevard, above Whittier Narrows Dam (approximate coordinates: Latitude 34° 01' 58", Longitude 118° 04' 16"). The treated effluent generally flows down the Rio Hondo to the Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds.

Treatment at the Whittier Narrows WRP consists of primary sedimentation, activated sludge biological treatment with nitrification and denitrification, secondary sedimentation, inert media filtration, chlorination, and dechlorination. Treated wastewater discharged to San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo is dechlorinated but the effluent delivered for reuse is not dechlorinated.

JOS has constructed a biological nutrient removal system with nitrogen de-nitrification process (NDN) in order to achieve compliance with the ammonia Basin Plan objectives. The system was completed and has been in operation since September 2003.

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, tentatively proposes to issue waste discharge requirements, including effluent limitations and special conditions.

HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

Date: May 7, 2009
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Ventura County Government Center
Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The Report of Waste Discharge, related documents, tentative requirements, comments received, and other information received on 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 4th 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.

NATURE OF HEARING

This will be a formal adjudicative hearing 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) will 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:

Raul B. Medina
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Telephone: (213) 620-2160
rmedina@waterboards.ca.gov

PARTIES TO THE HEARING

The following are the parties to this proceeding:

1. The applicant/permittee
2. Regional Board Staff

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 the above address. To be evaluated and responded to by staff, included in the Board's agenda folder, and

fully considered by the Board, written comments must be received by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on **March 30, 2009**. Comments or evidence received after that date will be submitted, ex agenda, to the Board for consideration, but only included in administrative record with express approval of the Chair during the hearing. Additionally, if the Board receives only supportive comments, the permit may be placed on the Board's consent calendar, and approved without an oral testimony.

HEARING PROCEDURE

The meeting, in which the hearing will be a part of, will start at 10:00 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 30 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 deliberate in open or close session, and 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 [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, all cases will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting on June 4, 2009. A continuance will not extend any time set forth herein.

Date: February 26, 2009