

**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**

**TSO No. R4-2019-0056-AXX**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF  
AMENDED TIME SCHEDULE ORDER (TSO) FOR  
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
(National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit)**

DISCHARGER	DISCHARGE LOCATION	RECEIVING WATER
Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (Saugus Water Reclamation Plant)	26200 Springbrook Avenue Santa Clarita, California	Reach 6 of the Santa Clara River

Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (hereinafter SCVSD or Discharger) discharges tertiary-treated effluent from its Saugus Water Reclamation Plant (Saugus WRP) into Reach 6 of the Santa Clara River, as designated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan), which is a water of the United States. The discharge is regulated under waste discharge requirements contained in Order No. R4-2015-0072, adopted by this Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) on April 9, 2015, and administratively amended on September 3, 2015 and September 25, 2015 to make a typographical correction and minor modifications to a subtask. Order No. R4-2015-0072 expired on April 30, 2020, but was administratively extended on March 24, 2020, upon receipt of a completed Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD).

Order No. R4-2015-0072 contained both interim and final effluent limitations for chloride that tracked deadlines imposed by the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). SCVSD has spent years seeking the least costly solution to achieve the chloride effluent limitation necessary to support attainment of water quality standards and protection of beneficial uses in the Santa Clara River. The SCVSD's two wastewater treatment plants (Saugus and Valencia WRPs) are not designed to remove chloride. To meet the TMDL-based chloride final effluent limitation, additional treatment equipment should have been designed, constructed and fully operational by the TMDL-established deadline of July 2019. SCVSD's Chloride Compliance Facilities Plan and Environmental Impact Report (Facilities Plan and EIR) recommended adding microfiltration and reverse osmosis (MF/RO) treatment at the Valencia WRP and replacing the existing chlorine-based disinfection process with ultraviolet (UV) disinfection at both the Saugus and Valencia WRPs.

However, the July 2019 deadline was not met because SCVSD encountered a 6-year delay associated with the CEQA process and CEQA approval of the EIR for the Saugus and Valencia WRPs.

On May 9, 2019, four years after Order No. R4-2015-0072 was adopted, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted Time Schedule Order (TSO) No. R4-2019-0056 for the Saugus WRP, because SCVSD would not be able to meet the chloride final effluent limitations contained in the Order until it constructed the UV disinfection capital improvement project at the Saugus WRP. Likewise, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted TSO No. R4-2019-0055 for the Valencia WRP because SCVSD would not be able to meet the chloride final effluent limitations contained in Valencia WRP's Order No. R4-2015-0071 until it constructed certain companion UV disinfection and MF/RO projects at the Valencia WRP. To explain, the ability of the Saugus WRP to ultimately meet its chloride limits is critically dependent on Valencia WRP's completion of the MR/RO project because the Valencia WRP will be removing a flow weighted portion of chloride originating from the Saugus WRP. Conversion to UV disinfection alone will not be enough for the Saugus WRP to comply with its chloride final effluent limitation if the flow weighted portion of chloride that it contributes to Reach 6 of the Santa Clara River is not removed downstream at the Valencia WRP. Thus, it is critically important that both the Saugus and Valencia WRPs complete their plant upgrades such that the chloride water quality objective can be met downstream of the Valencia WRP's discharge point.

On August 6, 2020, SCVSD requested that the TSO be extended one year, through January 31, 2022, because the Saugus WRP would not be able to achieve compliance with the chloride final effluent limitation until the Valencia WRP constructs and operates the advanced water treatment facility (AWTF) also known as the MF/RO treatment system. In addition, on November 3, 2020, SCVSD requested that the interim TSO milestone for starting up the UV facilities at the Saugus WRP be extended by six months due to delays associated with COVID-19 and wildfire issues. On December 31, 2020, the Executive Officer, pursuant to her delegated authority from the Los Angeles Water Board, issued amended TSO No. R4-2019-0056-A01.

On February 10, 2021, the Los Angeles Water Board received a letter describing the unforeseen and unprecedented factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, that have delayed completion of the Valencia WRP's AWTF.

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the Los Angeles Water Board, tentatively proposes to amend the Saugus WRP TSO No. R4-2019-0056-A01, by extending the time schedule for chloride to December 31, 2022. No changes to the NPDES permit are being proposed at this time.

#### PUBLIC HEARING DATE AND LOCATION

The Los Angeles Water Board will hold a public hearing on the tentative TSO during its regular Board meeting on the following date and time and at the following location:

Date: July 8, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: No Physical Meeting Location

Authorized by and in furtherance of Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-33-20. As a result of the COVID-19 emergency and the Governor's Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, this meeting will occur solely via remote presence.

Interested persons are invited to attend. At the public hearing, the Los Angeles Water Board will hear testimony, if any, pertinent to the TSO. Oral testimony will be heard; however, for accuracy of the record, important testimony should be in writing.

Please be aware that dates and venues may change. Our Web address is <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/> where you can access the current agenda for changes in dates and locations.

#### WRITTEN COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE

Persons wishing to comment on and/or submit evidence regarding the Tentative Amended TSO for the Executive Officer to consider must submit written comments. Written comments must be **received** by the Regional Water Board by **5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2021**. Interested persons are encouraged, but not required, to submit their comments electronically in either a Word or Portable Document File (PDF) to Veronica Cuevas at [Veronica.Cuevas@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Veronica.Cuevas@waterboards.ca.gov). Written comments may also be sent to:

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Attention: Veronica Cuevas  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Untimely written comments will neither be responded to nor considered. Failure to submit timely written comments is also grounds for the Regional Water Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence pursuant to section 648.4, title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

#### AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The Tentative TSO, documents relied upon, comments received, and other information on file are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. by appointment at the following address:

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
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.

STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any question regarding this proposed action, please contact Veronica Cuevas via email at [Veronica.Cuevas@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Veronica.Cuevas@waterboards.ca.gov) or Jeong-Hee Lim, Ph.D., P.E., Unit Chief of the Municipal Permitting (POTW) Unit via email at [jeong-hee.lim@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jeong-hee.lim@waterboards.ca.gov).