

## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 21, 2016

Ms. Grace Robinson Hyde  
Chief Engineer and General Manager  
Joint Outfall System  
1955 Workman Mill Road  
Whittier, CA 90601

### **RESOLUTION APPROVING SPECIAL STUDIES: JOINT OUTFALL SYSTEM AT THE JOINT WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT (NPDES NO. CA0053813, CI. NO. 1758)**

Dear Ms. Hyde:

Pursuant to Division 7 of the California Water Code, this Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, approved Resolution No. R16-001 at a public hearing on April 14, 2016.

The Joint Outfall System proposed three studies for 2016: 1) *Comparison of Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Chlorophyll Concentration between Nearshore and Offshore Regions in the Southern California Bight*; 2) *Baseline assessment of Hypoxia and Ocean Acidification Events Near the Seafloor in Santa Monica Bay*; and, 3) *Assessment of Ichthyoplankton Meta-barcoding for Routine Monitoring (JWSS-16-003)*. Regional Water Board found these proposed special studies fulfill the requirements of the NPDES permits, and will further the Regional Water Board's knowledge of the health of the Santa Monica Bay and of emerging issues associated with the discharges from the treatment plants.

The complete final resolution will be sent only to the Permittee. However, the document is available for public review on the Regional Water Board's website: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (213) 620-2083 or Elizabeth Erickson at (213) 576-6665.

Sincerely,



Cris Morris, P.E., Chief  
Municipal Permitting Unit

Enclosures: Resolution R16-001 for the 2016 Proposed Special Studies

cc: Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX  
NOAA, National Maritime Fisheries Service  
Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel  
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water  
Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 5  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Los Angeles County, Department of Public Works  
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works  
California Coastal Conservancy  
California Coastal Commission, South Coast Region  
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project  
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission  
Heal the Bay  
Environment Now  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Surfrider Foundation

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

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**RESOLUTION NO. R16-001**

**JOINT OUTFALL SYSTEM  
APPROVAL OF PROPOSED SPECIAL STUDIES FOR THE  
JOINT WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT  
ORDER R4-2011-0151  
NPDES CA 0053813**

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) permit R4-2011-0151 for the Joint Outfall System's<sup>1</sup> (Sanitation District) Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) September 1, 2011.
2. The NPDES permit contains a requirement for the Sanitation Districts to consult annually with the Regional Water Board to determine the need for special studies. Detailed scopes of work for proposals must be presented to obtain Regional Water Board 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 03, 2015, representatives from the Sanitation Districts met with Regional Water Board staff to discuss three proposed special studies for 2016: 1) *Comparison of Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Chlorophyll Concentration between Nearshore and Offshore Regions in the Southern California Bight (JWSS-16-001)*, 2) *Baseline Assessment of Hypoxia and Ocean Acidification Events near the Seafloor in Santa Monica Bay (JWSS-16-002)*, and 3) *Assessment of Ichthyoplankton Meta-barcoding for Routine Monitoring (JWSS-16-003)*.
4. Regional Water Board staff believe that these proposed special studies fulfill the requirements of the NPDES permit Monitoring and Reporting Requirements CI1758 at I.D.3., will further the Regional Water Board's knowledge of the health of Los Angeles Harbor and Santa Monica Bay and of emerging issues associated with the discharges from both wastewater treatment plants, and recommend that it be approved by the Regional Water Board.

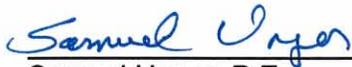
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<sup>1</sup> Ownership and operation of the Joint Outfall System is proportionally shared among the signatory parties to the amended Joint Outfall Agreement effective July 1, 1995. These parties include County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County 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.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Regional Water Board believes that the three Special Studies proposed for 2016, 1) *Comparison of Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Chlorophyll Concentration between Nearshore and Offshore Regions in the Southern California Bight (JWSS-16-001)*, 2) *Baseline Assessment of Hypoxia and Ocean Acidification Events near the Seafloor in Santa Monica Bay (JWSS-16-002)*, and 3) *Assessment of Ichthyoplankton Meta-barcoding for Routine Monitoring (JWSS-16-003)*, merit approval.
2. The Regional Water Board hereby approves the Sanitation Districts' proposals for these special studies.

I, Samuel Unger, 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 14, 2016.

  
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Samuel Unger, P.E.  
Executive Officer