

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

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RESOLUTION NO. R21-005

**JOINT OUTFALL SYSTEM
APPROVAL OF PROPOSED SPECIAL STUDIES FOR THE
JOINT WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT, ORDER R4-2017-0180
NPDES PERMIT NO. CA 0053813**

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

1. The Los Angeles Water Board adopted the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit Order No. R4-2017-0180 for the Joint Outfall System's¹ (Sanitation Districts) Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) on September 7, 2017.
2. The NPDES permit contains a requirement for the Sanitation Districts to consult annually with the Los Angeles Water Board to determine the need for special studies. Detailed scopes of work for proposals must be presented to obtain the Los Angeles 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 20, 2020, representatives from the Sanitation Districts met with Los Angeles Water Board staff to discuss two proposed special studies for 2021: 1) *Palos Verdes Shelf Superfund Site Remediation: Second Monitored Natural Recovery (MNR) Sediment Core Sampling and Chemical Contamination Characterization*, and 2) *The Use of Chemical Scans to Characterize Toxic Effluent Samples*.
4. The first proposed special study, *Palos Verdes Shelf Superfund Site Remediation: Second MNR Sediment Core Sampling and Chemical Contamination characterization*, will assist USEPA's efforts to remediate the Palos Verdes Shelf Superfund Site.

¹ 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.

USEPA has been implementing remedial actions since the early 2000s, including implementing a pilot cap in 2000, conducting public education and outreach in partnership with community-based organizations to address risks posed by DDT contamination in seafood, and performing surveys in 2009 and 2013 to measure DDT and PCB concentrations in sediment cores, fish tissue, and the water column. USEPA is currently in the final stages of awarding a contract to update the human health and ecological risk assessments for the Palos Verdes Shelf. These risk assessments along with a Feasibility Study of cleanup alternatives will support the selection of a final remedy for the Palos Verdes Shelf. The Sanitation Districts have collaborated with USEPA on their efforts over the past decade, and in the process have completed five Special Studies. This latest proposed special study focuses on status and trends of DDT and PCB concentrations in the sediment, water column, and fish tissue and will support the upcoming risk assessments and the Feasibility Study.

5. The second proposed study, *The Use of Chemical Scans to Characterize Toxic Effluent Samples*, is designed to evaluate whether the chemical fingerprints of non-toxic effluent samples can be used to help identify toxicants in toxic effluent samples using non-targeted analysis (NTA). This proposed study will enhance the Sanitation Districts' ability to identify the specific parameters driving the difference between toxic and non-toxic samples and assist in the Sanitation Districts' toxicity investigations.
6. Los Angeles Water Board finds that these proposed special studies fulfill the requirements of the NPDES permit Monitoring and Reporting Requirements at section I.Q.3., and will further expand the Los Angeles Water Board's knowledge of the status and trends of chemical concentrations at the Palos Verdes Shelf Superfund Site and of tools to identify potential toxicants in the discharge from the JWPCP.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Los Angeles Water Board has determined that the two Special Studies proposed for 2021, 1) *Palos Verdes Shelf Superfund Site Remediation: Second Monitored Natural Recovery (MNR) Sediment Core Sampling and Chemical Contamination Characterization*, and 2) *The Use of Chemical Scans to Characterize Toxic Effluent Samples*, merit approval.
2. The Los Angeles Water Board hereby approves the Sanitation Districts' proposals for these special studies.

I, Renee Purdy, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, on May 13, 2021.

Renee Purdy
Executive Officer