

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

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RESOLUTION NO. R26-001

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSED SPECIAL STUDY FOR
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS'
A.K. WARREN WATER RESOURCE FACILITY**

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 for the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' (LACSD's) A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility (formerly known as the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant) on May 25, 2023 (Order No. R4-2023-0181).
2. The NPDES permit contains a requirement for LACSD to consult annually with the Los Angeles Water Board to determine the need for special studies. Detailed scope of work proposals must be presented at a Board hearing to obtain Los Angeles Water Board approval and to provide an opportunity for public participation. Special studies are intended to focus on questions regarding specific water quality impacts or development of monitoring techniques. For example, special studies can involve questions regarding effluent or receiving water quality, discharge impacts, ocean processes around the discharge, or development of techniques for monitoring, arising out of the results of core or regional monitoring.
3. On December 19, 2025, representatives from LACSD met with Los Angeles Water Board staff to discuss the proposed special study for 2026-2028: *Improved Characterization of Effluent and Receiving Waters to Support Ocean Modeling Efforts* (2026-2028 Special Study). The 2026-2028 Special Study aims to enhance empirical datasets through sampling and analysis of key nutrient and biogeochemical parameters in the effluent of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) and ocean waters used in the Regional Ocean Modeling System – Biogeochemical Elemental Cycling (ROMS-BEC) model, thereby enhancing the model's accuracy. The ROMS-BEC model is a tool developed and maintained by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The ROMS-BEC model is currently being utilized to predict how coastal ocean health is affected by local nutrient discharges to inform management decisions. The monitoring approaches and data framework developed during the 2026-2028 Special Study may also inform similar efforts for other POTWs that discharge to the Southern California Bight.
4. The special study proposal can be found on LACSD's website:
<https://www.lacsd.org/home/showpublisheddocument/16246>

5. Los Angeles Water Board staff reviewed the special study proposal and finds that it is consistent with the intent of the special study requirement in Order No. R4-2023-0181.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. LACSD's proposed special study for 2026-2028, *Improved Characterization of Effluent and Receiving Waters to Support Ocean Modeling Efforts*, is hereby approved.

I, Susana Arredondo, 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 April 23, 2026.

For Susana Arredondo
Executive Officer