

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL
BOARD SAN DIEGO REGION**

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND STIPULATION FOR ENTRY OF
ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY
ORDER NO. R9-2025-0124**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH,
NOVEMBER 2023 SANITARY SEWER SPILL TO
THE PACIFIC OCEAN AT BLUEBIRD BEACH, LAGUNA BEACH, CA**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) is releasing Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order No. R9-2025-0124 (Tentative Order) for a 30-day public review and comment period. The Tentative Order consists of a settlement agreement between the City of Laguna Beach (City) and the San Diego Water Board's Prosecution Team to address liability associated with the unauthorized discharge of 78,810 gallons of untreated sewage to the Pacific Ocean at Bluebird Beach (Bluebird Beach Spill) in violation of the federal Clean Water Act, California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin, and state and regional discharge requirements.

The Tentative Order is intended to address allegations arising from the Bluebird Beach Spill. As described in the Tentative Order, to resolve these violations without formal administrative proceedings, the parties reached a settlement and agreed to the imposition of an administrative civil liability in the amount of \$108,808. Of this total administrative civil liability, \$50,000 will be suspended and satisfied through the complete implementation of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) for the Tidepool Docent Program, as described in Tentative Order Attachment B. The remaining \$58,808 will be paid to the Waste Discharge Permit Fund.

The penalty and SEP were developed in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's [Water Quality Enforcement Policy](#) penalty calculation methodology and [Policy on Supplemental Environmental Projects](#) (SEP Policy), which are described in the Tentative Order.

Document Availability

A copy of the Tentative Order is available for download and review from the San Diego Water Board's website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/tentative_orders/

Submission of Written Comments

Notice is hereby given that the San Diego Water Board is accepting written comments on Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0124. **Written comments are due by 5:00 pm on October 15, 2025.** All written comments timely received will be provided to the San Diego Water Board, or its delegate, to consider before determining whether to adopt the Tentative Order. The San Diego Water Board may refuse to accept written comments received after the deadline.

Interested persons may submit written comments by email to the attention of Kate Buckley at SanDiego@waterboards.ca.gov or by U.S. mail to the San Diego Water Board at:

ATTN: CW-631920:KBuckley
California Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Diego Region
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, California 92108-2700

Please indicate in the subject line of all written comments “Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0124; CW-631920:KBuckley”.

Contact Information

For questions or comments, please contact Kate Buckley by email or phone:

Email: Kate.Buckley@waterboards.ca.gov

Telephone: (619) 521-8045

Date of Notice: September 15, 2025