

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 22, 2016

Mr. Paul Cook
General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District
P.O. Box 57000
Irvine CA, 92619-7000

In reply refer to:
257591: oosibodu

Subject: Water Board Designation for Regulatory Oversight of Irvine Ranch Water District's Water Recycling Plants

Mr. Cook:

In response to Irvine Ranch Water District's (Irvine Ranch) request, dated March 30, 2016, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (Santa Ana Water Board) have agreed that the Santa Ana Water Board be designated as the sole Water Board responsible for regulating treatment, use, and distribution of recycled water from Irvine Ranch's Water Reclamation Plants (WRPs). As provided in Water Code section 13228, subdivision (a),¹ this letter memorializes the San Diego Water Board's agreement to the designation. Background information supporting the agreement and conditions of the agreement are specified below:

Background and Supporting Information

1. Irvine Ranch owns and operates the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant (Michelson WRP) and the Los Alisos Water Reclamation Plant (Los Alisos WRP). The Michelson and Los Alisos WRPs are located in the Santa Ana Region.
2. Irvine Ranch is regulated under two Master Recycling Permits. The first is Order No. R8-2015-0024, *Waste Discharge Requirements and Master Reclamation Permit for*

¹ (a) Concerning any matter that may be submitted to a regional board by a person or entity that is subject to regulation by more than one Regional Board, the person or entity may submit the matter to one of those regional boards if both of the following requirements are met:

(1) The person or entity submits a written request to all affected regional boards that one Regional Board be designated to regulate the matter.

(2) All affected Regional Boards agree in writing to the designation. Unless the Board of any affected Regional Board denies the request, the Executive Officer of a Regional Board may grant a request submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) on behalf of that Board.

the Irvine Ranch Water District Water Recycling Plants Surface Water Discharge and Recycled Water Use, which was issued by the Santa Ana Water Board. The second is Order No. 97-52, *Waste Discharge and Water Recycling Requirements for the Production and Purveyance of Recycled Water by Member Agencies of the South Orange County Reclamation Authority, Orange County*, which was issued by the San Diego Water Board. Irvine Ranch is currently required to submit monitoring reports under both Orders.

3. Recycled water produced by Irvine Ranch is used for landscape irrigation, agricultural irrigation; and for indoor uses such as toilet flushing and in cooling towers,² mainly within the City of Lake Forest. From 2010-2015, Irvine Ranch provided an annual average of 29,448 acre feet of recycled water for reuse in the Santa Ana Region, while an annual average of 423 acre-feet of recycled water was reused in the Aliso Creek Hydrologic Subarea (Aliso Creek HSA) of the San Diego Region within the same time period.
4. Recycled water quality data provided by Irvine Ranch shows that average annual concentrations of chemical constituents in recycled water for the past ten years have been in compliance with discharge specifications in Order No. 97-52, and are also below the groundwater quality objectives for the Aliso Creek HSA specified in Table 3-3 of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9)* (Basin Plan).
5. The Michelson and Los Aliso WRPs are located within the Santa Ana Region. Most of the recycled water produced from these plants is distributed to use sites in the Santa Ana Region. In addition, data provided by Irvine Ranch shows recycled water quality has consistently been in compliance with the applicable groundwater quality objectives in the San Diego Water Board Basin Plan for the past 10 years. As a result, granting Irvine Ranch's request will not adversely affect water quality. The San Diego Water Board also agrees that designating the Santa Ana Water Board as the Water Board responsible for regulating treatment, distribution, and uses of recycled water from Irvine Ranch's WRPs will relieve Irvine Ranch from the burden of providing duplicative monitoring information to both Water Boards.

San Diego Water Board Conditions for Designation Responsibility to the Santa Ana Water Board

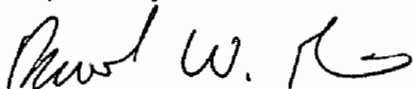
1. The San Diego Water Board agrees with the designation of the Santa Ana Water Board as the sole Water Board responsible for regulating the treatment, use, and distribution of recycled water from Irvine Ranch's WRPs. This agreement will become effective when the San Diego Water Board either amends Order No. 97-52 to terminate Irvine Ranch's coverage in the Order, or after the San Diego Water Board adopts a new Master Recycling Permit at a future date to replace Order No.

² As allowed under title 22, California Code of Regulations and authorized by the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water.

- 97-52. The San Diego Water Board will notify Irvine Ranch prior to taking one of the aforementioned actions.
2. Irvine Ranch shall notify the San Diego Water Board in writing prior to distributing recycled water outside the City of Lake Forest or to other parts of South Orange County within the jurisdiction of the San Diego Water Board.
 3. The use and distribution of recycled water from the Michelson and Los Aliso WRPs within the San Diego Region must comply with requirements specified in Order No. R8-2015-0024.
 4. Pursuant to Water Code section 13228, subdivision (b),³ the designation of the Santa Ana Water Board for regulating the treatment, use, and distribution of recycled water from Irvine Ranch's WRPs, does not preclude the San Diego Water Board from taking enforcement action if necessary for protection of public health, water quality, or the environment.
 5. The bases supporting Irvine Ranch's request to designate a single Water Board for regulatory oversight may change under future conditions and circumstances. Therefore the San Diego Water Board will periodically review the effectiveness of this agreement. Based on this periodic review the San Diego Water Board may terminate the agreement with the Santa Ana Water Board or otherwise modify the agreement subject to the approval of the Santa Ana Water Board.

In the subject line of any response, please include reference **257591: oosibodu**. Please contact Mr. Fisayo Osibodu at 619-521-8036, or at Olufisayo.Osibodu@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully,



David W. Gibson
Executive Officer

DWG: jgs:jac:jro:oo

³ (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), any Regional Board that is affected by a matter for which a designation is made in accordance with subdivision (a) may take enforcement action with regard to that matter.

cc via email:

Mr. Kurt Berchtold; California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region; Kurt.Berchtold@waterboards.ca.gov

Mr. Oliver Pacifico; State Water Board Division of Drinking Water; Oliver.Pacifico@waterboards.ca.gov

Ms. Lauren Hatch; Orange County Health Care Agency; Lhatch@ochca.com

Ms. Milasol Gaslan; California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region; Milasol.Gaslan@waterboards.ca.gov

Mr. Brennon Flahive; South Orange County Wastewater Authority; bflahive@socwa.com

| Tech Staff Info & Use | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Reg. Measure ID | 142503 |
| Place IDs | 257591, 237396 |