

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT

March 9, 2022

ITEM NO. 6

SUBJECT

Consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0026, An Order Rescinding Order No. R9-2015-0026, NPDES Permit No. CA0108944, Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of Escondido, Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility, Intermittent Wet Weather Discharge to Escondido Creek, San Diego County and Time Schedule Order No. R9-2015-0027 Requiring the City of Escondido Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility to Comply with Requirements Prescribed in Order Number R9-2015-0026, NPDES Permit No. CA0108944. (Joann Lim)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0026 (Tentative Order) is recommended.

KEY ISSUES

The Tentative Order (**Supporting Document No. 1**), if adopted, will rescind Order No. R9-2015-0026 and Time Schedule Order No. R9-2015-0027. Actions undertaken by the City of Escondido (City) to manage wastewater flows and optimize use of available storage capacity have eliminated the need for intermittent wet weather discharges from Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility (HARRF) to Escondido Creek. The City's actions have eliminated the regulatory need for Order No. R9-2015-0026 and Time Schedule Order No. R9-2015-0027.

PRACTICAL VISION

Tentative Order No. R9-2022-0026 is consistent with the Strategize for Healthy Waters chapter of the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision. Rescinding Order No. R9-2015-0026 and Time Schedule Order No. R9-2015-0027 will not interfere with the goal of the Practical Vision to maintain healthy waters in the San Diego Region.

DISCUSSION

The City is the owner and operator of the HARRF, which is located at 1521 S. Hale, Avenue, Escondido, California. Order No. R9-2015-0026 and its predecessor Orders (Order No. 98-10 and Order No. R9-2003-0394) established waste discharge requirements for the intermittent wet-weather discharge of tertiary-treated wastewater from the HARRF to Escondido Creek. The City of Escondido (City) has not reported any discharges from HARRF to Escondido Creek since 2005. In a letter dated November 24, 2021, the City submitted a request to terminate Order No. R9-2015-0026 and Time Schedule Order No. R9-2015-0027, stating that operational and facilities improvements have eliminated the need for intermittent wet weather discharges from HARRF to Escondido Creek.

The Tentative Order was noticed for a public hearing and released for public review and comment for a 10-day period on January 25, 2022. The public comment period closed on February 4, 2022. The San Diego Water Board received no comment letters regarding the Tentative Order during the comment period.

LEGAL CONCERNS

None

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Tentative Order was noticed and released for public review and comment on January 25, 2022, with comments due February 4, 2022. The Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment (Notice) was posted on the San Diego Water Board website for the duration of the comment period and sent to the City and all other interested parties. The Notice announced a public hearing to be held on March 9, 2022; availability of the Tentative Order for review; and provided instructions for submittal of written comments. A copy of the Notice is provided in **Supporting Document No. 3**. Notice of the public hearing on the Tentative Order was also provided in the Meeting Notice and Agenda for the March 9, 2022 San Diego Water Board meeting, which is posted on the Board website.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Tentative Order
2. Location Map
3. Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period