

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT

October 11, 2023

ITEM NO. 6

SUBJECT

Consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Genentech Inc., Industrial Wastewater Reuse for Irrigation, San Diego County* (Tentative Order R9-2023-0014). (Mahsa Izadmehr)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014 (**Supporting Document 1**), as amended by Errata Sheet to Tentative Order No. **R9-2023-0014 (Supporting Document 2)**, is recommended.

KEY ISSUES

1. Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014 establishes industrial wastewater reuse for irrigation for Genentech Inc., a Member of the Roche Family (Discharger) to discharge 50,000 gallons per day (GPD) of industrial wastewater for the landscape irrigation.
2. Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014 includes requirements for the Discharger to monitor effluent for constituents as performance goal and report the volume of industrial wastewater produced. These requirements are consistent with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Water Quality Control Policy for waste discharge.
3. Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014 furthers Governor Newsom's "*California's Water Supply Strategy, Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future*",¹ which focuses on supporting local efforts to conserve, capture, recycle, and de-salt enough water to allow California communities to prosper in a hotter and drier climate. Treating wastewater for irrigation reuse, such as the project permitted by Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014, increases local water supply, reduces the volume of wastewater discharged to the ocean, and is an important part of a sustainable resilient water portfolio.

¹ <https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Initiatives/Water-Resilience/CA-Water-Supply-Strategy.pdf>

PRACTICAL VISION

Adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014 is consistent with the goals of the Strategize to Achieve Resilient Local Water Supply chapter of the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision (Practical Vision)² on protecting, restoring, and regulating water quality in a manner that contributes to sustainable local water supply and is consistent with the protection of other beneficial uses for current and future generations. The use of sustainable water supply sources helps reduce the San Diego Region's dependence on imported water and increases the reliability of local water supplies.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this item is to provide the San Diego Water Board with information to assist in its consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014. If adopted, Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014 establishes industrial WDRs for the Discharger's industrial plant (Facility) to discharge 50,000 GPD of industrial wastewater for the landscape irrigation. Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014 includes discharge specifications and effluent limitations based on water quality objectives established in the San Diego Water Board's Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9) (Basin Plan)³ for the protection of municipal supply beneficial uses.

The Facility is located at One Antibody Way in the City of Oceanside (**Supporting Document 3**). The Discharger purifies and treats potable water to produce ultra high-quality water (UHQW), using advanced filtration, distillation, or reverse osmosis. Specialized industries such as the Facility use UHQW for pharmaceuticals manufacturing, microelectronics manufacturing, and laboratory research, where the purity and consistency of the water are critical to the success of the process or product. UHQW is generally defined by its extremely low levels of impurities and contaminants, including minerals, organic compounds, bacteria, and other particles. The Discharger uses UHQW at the Facility in their biological manufacturing processes, which includes boilers, clean steam generators, chillers, cooling towers, and air handling units. These manufacturing processes generate industrial wastewater from filter backwash and condensate. Currently, the Discharger directs the Facility's industrial wastewater to the Pacific Ocean through the City of Oceanside's (City) Ocean Outfall (Ocean Outfall), which is regulated by the San Diego Water Board through Order No. R9-2019-0168 (NPDES No. CA0109193), *Waste Discharge Requirements for Genentech, Inc., Discharge to the Pacific Ocean Through the Oceanside Ocean Outfall* (Order No. R9-2019-0168). The Discharger directs any industrial wastewater that does not meet the discharge specifications of Order No. R9-2019-0168 to the City's sanitary sewer system. This Order authorizes the Discharger to redirect a portion of the Facility's industrial wastewater from the Ocean Outfall to the Facility's landscape irrigation system

² Practical Vision:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/

³ Basin Plan:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/docs/R9_Basin_Plan.pdf

and store any unused industrial wastewater in a 20,000-gallon storage tank with a distribution system located at the Facility. The Discharger will construct a storage tank, equipped with a water level control system to prevent overflowing and runoff into a nearby storm drain.

The San Diego Water Board developed the requirements in Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014 based on information submitted in the ROWD, water quality control plans, policies, and other available information. San Diego Water Board staff prepared Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014 in accordance with Water Code sections 13263 and 13267. Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014 will serve as WDRs issued pursuant to article 4, chapter 4, division 7 of the Water Code.

San Diego Water Board staff released Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014 on July 27, 2023, for a 30-day public review and comment period. The Board received one comment letter from the Discharger on August 8, 2023 (**Supporting Document 4**). Board staff prepared a response to comments document (**Supporting Document 5**) and incorporated the accepted revisions into Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014, which are reflected in the errata sheet (**Supporting Document 2**).

PUBLIC NOTICE

San Diego Water Board staff notified the Discharger and known interested parties of this action on July 27, 2023. Additionally, Board staff posted Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014, the transmittal letter (**Supporting Document 6**), and Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period (**Supporting Document 7**) on the San Diego Water Board website on July 27, 2023. These actions satisfy the 30-day public notification and comment requirements of Water Code section 13167.5.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014
2. Errata Sheet to Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014
3. Vicinity and Facility Maps
4. Genentech Inc.'s Comments Letter
5. Response to Comments
6. Tentative Order No. R9-2023-0014 Transmittal Letter
7. Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period