

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 9

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

JOINT NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

by the

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9, WTR 2-3
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San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
Telephone: (415) 972-3448

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region
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San Diego, CA 92108-2700
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Public Order No.: 2939243

Public Notice Date: March 1, 2024

Comment Period Closes: April 1, 2024

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (USEPA) and California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) are jointly releasing for public review and comment Tentative Order No. R9-2024-0004 (NPDES Permit No. CA0107409), *Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for the City of San Diego E.W. Blom Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the Point Loma Ocean Outfall* (Tentative Order/Permit) and USEPA's Tentative Decision Document (TDD) on the City of San Diego's (City's) request for a waiver from secondary treatment requirements pursuant to Clean Water Act section 301(h).

The City is the owner and operator of the E.W. Blom Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility). The current NPDES permit and waste discharge requirements (NPDES Permit No. CA0107409, Order No. R9-2017-0007) are based on a variance from federal secondary treatment standards at title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) part 133, as provided for improved discharges under the Clean Water Act section 301(h) and 40 CFR part 125, subpart G. The Facility is located at 1902 Gatchell Road, San Diego, California, and discharges chlorinated advanced (chemically-assisted) primary treated municipal wastewater to the Pacific Ocean through the Point Loma Ocean Outfall, approximately 4.5 miles offshore at a depth of about 300 feet. Sewage solids are treated and land applied, used as alternative daily cover at a landfill, or disposed of at a municipal solid waste landfill.

Document Availability

Information related to this matter, including the Tentative Order/Permit and TDD, may be reviewed at the offices of USEPA or San Diego Water Board (addresses above), during normal business hours, or at the following

webpages: <https://www3.epa.gov/region9/water/npdes/permits.html#watersca> and http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/tentative_orders/.

Submission of Written Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments on the Tentative Order/Permit and TDD during the public comment period, either in person, by e-mail, or by mail, to the attention of Julie Song at USEPA (Song.Julie@epa.gov) and Joann Lim at the San Diego Water Board (Joann.Lim@waterboards.ca.gov), or at the San Diego Water Board's March 13, 2024 public

meeting. Please indicate in the subject line of all written comments "Comment - Tentative Order No. R9-2024-0004." The deadline for submittal of written comments is **5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 2024.**

People providing an oral comment at the San Diego Water Board's March 13, 2024 public meeting on the Tentative Order and Tentative 301(h) waiver document are strongly encouraged to submit their comments in writing by **April 1, 2024**, to facilitate consideration of the comments by the USEPA, Region IX and the San Diego Water Board.

USEPA and the San Diego Water Board may refuse to accept written comments received after the April 1, 2024, deadline. Late comments will not be accepted if doing so would prejudice any party in accordance with section 648.4, title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

Public Meeting on Tentative Order/Permit and TDD

The San Diego Water Board will conduct a public meeting on these proposed actions during the San Diego Water Board meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, March 13, 2024**, at the **San Diego Water Board Meeting Room, 2375 Northside Drive, San Diego California**. The USEPA will join this state led meeting as this is a joint consolidated permit. This item will be heard during a meeting that starts at 9:00 a.m. The meeting agenda, which will indicate any changes in the meeting location and may provide other specific information concerning this hearing, will be posted at least two weeks prior to the meeting date at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_info/agendas/. Reasonable time limits may be set for oral statements. The meeting facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. The meeting notice and agenda for this meeting will provide contact information for persons requesting special accommodations.

The procedures governing San Diego Water Board meetings may be found in the California Code of Regulations (CCRs) title 23, section 647, *et seq.* and are available upon request.

Neither USEPA nor the San Diego Water Board will be acting on the Tentative Order/Permit and TDD at the March 13, 2024 meeting. The San Diego Water Board will formally act on the Tentative Order/Permit at a subsequent Board meeting, and USEPA will formally act on the Tentative Order/Permit and TDD following the San Diego Water Board's action.

Upon issuance of a 301(h) Final Decision Document and responses to comments, the USEPA and San Diego Water Board will notify the City and persons who submitted written comments or requested notice of the 301(h) Final Decision Document. When a final Order/Permit and 301(h) Final Decision Document are issued, they will become effective 30 days following the date they are mailed to the City, unless a request for review is filed. Persons filing a request for review must have filed comments on the Tentative Order/Permit and the TDD, or participated in a public hearing, except as provided in 40 CFR section 124.19.

Contact for Further Information

Please contact Julie Song (415-972-3035, Song.Julie@epa.gov) or Joann Lim (619-521-3362, Joann.Lim@waterboards.ca.gov) for information regarding the above listed Tentative Order/Permit and TDD. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any person known to you who would be interested in these matters.