CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION

ERRATA SHEET FOR TENTATIVE CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. R9-2025-0139

UNITED STATES SECTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

SOUTH BAY INTERNATIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
DISCHARGE TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN THROUGH THE SOUTH BAY OCEAN OUTFALL

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) proposes revisions to Tentative Cease and Desist Order No. R9-2025-0139, which is included as Supporting Document No. 1 for Item No. 1 on the August 27, 2025 San Diego Water Board meeting agenda. The revisions are indicated below in underline/~~strikeout~~ format to indicate added and removed language, respectively.

1. Page 7, Finding 31:

On August 4, 2025, USIBWC submitted modeling results that predict concentrations of pollutants in the blended effluent. The model, which ties together biological, chemical, and physical processes, concentrates on conventionally regulated wastewater parameters, such as $CBOD_5$, TSS, and ammonia. The results indicate that USIBWC will be out of compliance with $CBOD_5$ and TSS effluent limitations in the NPDES Permit. The expected overall increase in solids in effluent will likely lead to noncompliance with settleable solids and turbidity as well. The model does not estimate all parameters with effluent limitations in the NPDES Permit. For those parameters with effluent limitations in the NPDES Permit not estimated by the model, the San Diego Water Board conservatively estimated concentrations in the blended effluent based on mass balance calculations using historical influent data and secondary effluent data. These estimates indicate that USIBWC should continue to achieve compliance with the respective concentration-based NPDES Permit effluent limitations once the planned modified treatment plant processes and modified SBOO diffuser operations are in effect. With respect to concentration-based effluent limitations, USIBWC should only be out of compliance with ~~effluent limitations~~those for $CBOD_5$, TSS, settleable solids, and turbidity. Although USIBWC is expected to achieve compliance with concentration-based effluent limitations ~~with~~for the remaining parameters, that assumption cannot be confirmed since currently there are no data that are fully representative of the blended effluent. Therefore, at this time, it is not appropriate to establish interim concentration-based effluent limitations for those remaining parameters; it is appropriate to hold USIBWC to the final concentration-based effluent limitations in the NPDES Permit for those parameters. Due to 1) the expected concentration-based exceedances for $CBOD_5$, TSS, settleable solids, and turbidity, and/or 2) the planned exceedance of the 25 MGD flow rate limitation, the San Diego Water Board expects that USIBWC may not achieve compliance with NPDES Permit Mass Emission Rate (MER) (mass-based) limitations for any given parameter with MER limitations.

2. Page 7, Finding 32:

As a result of the increased influent flow rate beyond the design capacity of the secondary treatment process and based on the analyses using historical monitoring data and predictive modeling results for certain parameters, the San Diego Water Board finds that a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place in violation of requirements or discharge prohibitions prescribed by the San Diego Water Board. USIBWC will not be able to comply with the final concentration-based effluent limitations in the NPDES Permit for $CBOD_5$, TSS, settleable solids, and turbidity until USIBWC's longer-term facility modifications, which will phase out bypass/blending, are complete. USIBWC may also be out of compliance with NPDES Permit MER limitations. Additionally, USIBWC does not have control over the quality of SBIWTP influent (e.g., no industrial pretreatment program), nor can it independently control flow rate into the SBIWTP, both of which can pose additional threats to achieving compliance. This Order requires USIBWC to take appropriate remedial and preventative action and to comply in accordance with the time schedule set forth below. This Order is in the public interest given the significant environmental benefits associated with capturing and treating additional dry weather transboundary flows.

3. Page 9, Table 1:

Parameter	Units	Six-Month Median	Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily	Instantaneous Maximum
Flow	MGD	--	35	--	--	--
$CBOD_5$	milligram per liter (mg/L)	--	110	128	--	--
$CBOD_5$	pounds per day (lb/day)	--	32,130	37,387	--	--
$CBOD_5$	% removal	--	≥73%	--	--	--
TSS	mg/L	--	62	81	--	--
TSS	lb/day	--	18,109	23,659	--	--
TSS	% removal	--	≥82%	--	--	--
Settleable solids	milliliter per liter (ml/L)	--	2	3	--	5
Turbidity	nephelometric turbidity units (NTU)	--	135	180	--	405

Parameter	Units	Six-Month Median	Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily	Instantaneous Maximum
Oil and Grease	lb/day	--	7,298	11,676	--	21,893
Total Residual Chlorine	lb/day	55.4	--	--	221	1,670
Copper, Total Recoverable	lb/day	28.4	--	--	280	783
Mercury, Total Recoverable	lb/day	1.1	--	--	4.42	11.1
Benzidine	lb/day	--	0.00193	--	--	--
Chlordane	lb/day	--	0.000641	--	--	--
DDT	lb/day	--	0.00475	--	--	--
Heptachlor Epoxide	lb/day	--	0.000559	--	--	--
Hexachlorobenzene	lb/day	--	0.00587	--	--	--
PCBs	lb/day	--	0.000531	--	--	--
TCDD Equivalents	lb/day	--	0.000000109	--	--	--
Toxaphene	lb/day	--	0.00587	--	--	--

Table note: The acronyms DDT, TCDD, and PCBs refer to dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, tetrachlorodibenzodioxin, and polychlorinated biphenyls, respectively.