

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

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS REPORT

**TENTATIVE ORDER NO. R9-2025-0003, NPDES NO. CA9000001
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EAST COUNTY ADVANCED
WATER PURIFICATION JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY, EAST COUNTY ADVANCED
WATER PURIFICATION PROJECT DISCHARGE TO
LAKE JENNINGS AND SYCAMORE CREEK**

This Response to Comments Report contains the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region's (San Diego Water Board) staff responses to written comments received on Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0003, NPDES No. CA9000001, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority, East County Advanced Water Purification Project Discharge to Lake Jennings and Sycamore Creek* (Tentative Order).

The San Diego Water Board released the Tentative Order for public review and comment on July 31, 2025. The public comment period for the Tentative Order lasted for 30 days and ended on September 1, 2025. San Diego Water Board staff received one comment letter from the Discharger during the 30-day comment period. The Discharger's comments were organized into two categories: 1) *possible errors or items that require correction* and 2) *requested revisions* (**Supporting Document 5**). The Discharger comments labeled *possible errors or items that require correction* requested Board staff correct typographical errors to ensure consistency throughout the Tentative Order in the comments labeled *possible errors or items that require correction*. The Discharger labeled *requested changes* asked that parts of the Tentative Order be reorganized to improve clarity and asked that the Monitoring and Reporting Program be modified to reduce specific receiving water monitoring frequencies and change the location of compliance sampling for nutrients. Table 1 below, summarizes the Discharger's comments submitted during the public comment period.

San Diego Water Board staff also received two comment emails after the close of the 30-day comment period from Trussell Technologies, the Discharger's consultant on September 14, 2025, and the Discharger on September 19, 2025 (**Supporting Documents 6, 7, and 7a**). The San Diego Water Board Chair may refuse to admit late comments if there is a showing of prejudice to the Board or any party. In this case, the Board Chair allowed the late comments to be admitted under the rules (California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 648.4(e)). Table 2 below, summarizes the comments submitted after the public comment period.

San Diego Water Board staff prepared this Response to Comments Report which contains responses to all comments received. The Response to Comments Report also describes any substantive changes made to the Tentative Order. Staff prepared a

Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0012 and Proposed Negative Declaration

October 8, 2025

Response to Comments

revised Tentative Order that displays additions as red-underline text and deletions as ~~red-strikeout~~ text (**Supporting Document 1**).

Table 1. - Comments from the Discharger's September 1, 2025, Letter and San Diego Water Board Responses

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
1	Section 2.2.	<i>In the last sentence of the paragraph, remove reference to Attachment G. This attachment does not exist.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified section 2.2. of the Tentative Order as requested.
2	Table 3.	<i>Remove Footnote 2 from the units for the mass loading for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) (the footnote is already applied to the average monthly and average weekly columns).</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified Table 3 of the Tentative Order as requested.
3	Section 4.1.1.4.	<i>Ultraviolet Transmittance (UVT) is measured at INT-010 and not INT-012A to INT-012C as point 4.1.1.4. indicates. Please correct. Suggested language (new text underlined): "UV transmittance minimum of 95% (at INT-010)"</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	In response to comment numbers 3 and 26, staff: • revised section 4.1.1.4 to read, "UV transmittance minimum of 95% with compliance measured at Monitoring Location INT-010. • relocated section 4.1.1.4 to section 4.1.2.2. • relocated section 4.1.1.4.1 to section 4.1.2.2.1. • relocated section 4.1.1.4.2 to section 4.1.2.2.2

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
4	Section 4.3.1.6.	<i>Missing word: Add "are" between "Facility" and "operated" so that it reads "The Discharger must ensure that all treatment processes at ECAWP facility are operated...."</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified section 4.3.1.6. of the Tentative Order as requested.
5	Section 4.3.6.3.1.	<i>Missing word: Add "once" between "least" and "every" so that it reads "The turbidity must be measured continuously at least once every 15 minutes"</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified section 4.3.6.3.1. of the Tentative Order as requested.
6	Section 4.3.6.4.1.	<i>In the first sentence where it says "(at monitoring locations INT-008)", change to singular (i.e., "location").</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified section 4.3.6.4.1. of the Tentative Order as requested.
7	Section 5.3.4.8.1.	<i>In the last sentence of the paragraph, the reference to section 6.3.4.8.5. should be 5.3.4.8.5.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified section 5.3.4.8.1. of the Tentative Order as requested.
8	Table A-1 of Attachment A.	<i>Since this table lists the different compounds that are 2,3,7,8-hexa CDFs (i.e., 1,2,3,4,7,8-hexa CDF; 1,2,3,7,8,9-hexa CDF, etc.), the name should be CDF (singular) instead of CDFs (plural). This applies to 1,2,3,4,7,8-hexa CDFs; 1,2,3,6,7,8-hexa CDFs; 1,2,3,7,8,9-hexa CDFs; 2,3,4,6,7,8-hexa CDFs.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified Table A-1 of Attachment A of the Tentative Order.
9	Table E-3 of Attachment E.	<i>Revise the monitoring location for turbidity. Turbidity should be monitored at INT-005A to INT-005F (not INT-005E as currently shown in the tentative order).</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified Table E-3 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order as requested.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
10	Table E-3, footnote 8 of Attachment E.	<i>Correct the following typos: monitoring location name (it should be EFF-001A), the word "measure" should be "measured".</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified Table E-3, footnote 8 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order as requested.
11	Table E-12 of Attachment E.	<i>Add the following parameters that are in the category "remaining California Toxics Rule (CTR) parameters" but are missing from this table: hexachlorobutadiene and methyl bromide.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified Table E-12 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order as requested.
12	Tables E-5 and E-12 of Attachment E.	<i>Chromium hexavalent is included in Table 5 as a primary maximum contaminant level (pMCL) with effluent limitations. Remove chromium hexavalent from table E-12 and add it to table E-05, which corresponds to parameters with pMCLs.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified Tables E-5 and E-12 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order as requested.
13	Table E-14 of Attachment E.	<i>Add footnote 1 to the total coliform parameter or provide a method requirement for total coliform.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff, in response to comment numbers 13 and 27, consolidated the total coliform compliance monitoring to monitoring location EFF-001A in Table E-4, and deleted section 3.3.3 of Attachment E, including Table E-14.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
14	Table E-15 of Attachment E.	<i>Add un-ionized ammonia to this table (Table E-15). This parameter is required at EFF-002B per Table 12.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment numbers 13 and 27. Table E-15 is now Table E-14. Staff modified Table E-14 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order as requested.
15	Section 3.3.7.1. of Attachment E.	<i>In the first sentence of the paragraph "3.3.7.1. If a constituent's primary MCL or action level (AL)- for lead and copper is exceeded, ... ", remove the dash and write "for lead and copper" in between parenthesis.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment number 13 and 27. Section 3.3.7.1 is now section 3.3.6.1. Staff modified section 3.3.6.1. of Attachment E of the Tentative Order as requested.
16	Section 3.3.7.1. of Attachment E.	<i>In the last sentence of the paragraph, where it says "must notify the Division of Drinking Water (DDW), Helix Water District utilizing the augmented reservoir, and the San Diego Water Board", remove "utilizing the augmented reservoir" from the text since it is not necessary in the context of the statement.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment number 13 and 27. Section 3.3.7.1 is now section 3.3.6.1. Staff modified section 3.3.6.1. of Attachment E of the Tentative Order as requested.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
17	Section 3.4.5. of Attachment E.	<i>Correct typo. The text says "(Discharge Point 001)". It should be "(Discharge Point 001)"</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified section 3.4.5. of Attachment E of the Tentative Order as requested.
18	Section 3.5.1. of Attachment E.	<i>Revise the frequency for monitoring chronic toxicity for the discharge points 001 and 002 to quarterly as stated in tables E-13 and E-15 and Section 3.5.3.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified section 3.5.1. of Attachment E of the Tentative Order as requested.
19	Table E-26 of Attachment E.	<i>Following the requirements for other constituents to which Footnote 3 applies, revise the monitoring location for silver to be RSW-001 and RSW-002 with Footnote 5 for both locations.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment number 13 and 27. Table E-26 is now Table E-25. Staff modified Table E-25 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order as requested.
20	Section 5.3.4.8.5.	<i>Revise the due date of the Expanded Local Limits Study Report to be within one year of initiating discharge to match the requirement in Section 5.3.4.8.5.</i>	Staff disagree with the Discharger's request. Staff initially set the due date of the Expanded Local Limits Study to be 180 days from the effective date of the order, with the intent that the due date would be fixed rather than linked to the initiation of discharge, which is unknown.	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment number 13 and 27. Table E-33 is now Table E-32. Additionally, staff, in response to comment numbers 20 and 41 modified section 5.3.4.8.5. of the Tentative Order and

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
				Table 32 of Attachment E as requested by the Discharger in comment number 41.
21	Table E-33 of Attachment E.	<i>In the "Due Date" column for the Initial Investigation Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) Work Plan and for the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), the word "date" is missing after "effective". Add the word "date" so that it reads "effective date".</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment numbers 13 and 27. Table E-33 is now Table E-32. Staff modified Table E-32 of Attachment E Tentative Order as requested.
22	Section 2.1.5. of Attachment F.	<i>The two places where the text "C's" appears should be changed to "City's".</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified section 2.1.5. of Attachment F of the Tentative Order as requested.
23	Section 3.3.4.3. of Attachment F.	<i>In the last sentence of the second paragraph, remove the word "Results" at the very beginning.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified section 3.3.4.3. of Attachment F of the Tentative Order as requested.
24	Section 4.2.2.2 of Attachment F	<i>Missing word. Add "be" to the last sentence of the paragraph, so that it reads (new text underlined) : "Average monthly Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and TSS concentrations of tertiary treated effluent from the ECWRF are projected to be below 10 mg/L,"</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified section 4.2.2.2 of Attachment F of the Tentative Order as requested.
25	Section 5.2.5.1. of	<i>Correct the text "C's" to be "City's".</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified section 5.2.5.1. of Attachment F

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
	Attachment F.			of the Tentative Order as requested.
26	Section 4.1.1.4.	<i>The JPA requests that these bullet points (4.1.1.4., 4.1.1.4.1., and 4.1.1.4.2.) be moved to Section 4.1.2 "Discharge Point No. 002 - Santee Lakes and Sycamore Creek" since they define criteria that apply to discharge point 002.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	See Staff response to comment number 3.
27	Section 4.1.2.1. of the Tentative Order, Attachment E, Tables E-4 and E-27, and Attachment F, section 4.3.2.1.2.	<i>The JPA requests that the effluent limitation for total coliform for the Santee Lakes discharge be applied to monitoring location EFF-001A instead of EFF-002A, including cases when the water is "off specification" for discharge to Lake Jennings. Total coliform is monitored at EFF-001A daily for the Lake Jennings discharge and it is not expected to be different from EFF-002A. Consolidating monitoring at EFF-001A for compliance with the Lake Jennings and Santee Lakes discharges avoids duplicative sampling efforts and costs. Off-specification scenarios can have a short duration and it would be impractical to switch to monitoring location EFF-002A for these cases. If the proposed change in monitoring location is accepted, the following sections of the order should be modified accordingly: Table E-27</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request. Staff modified the Tentative Order to allow compliance with the total coliform criteria to be determined at monitoring location EFF-001A (final effluent produced from the ECAWP Facility). Total coliform is to be monitored weekly at monitoring location EFF-001 during normal operations. Total coliform monitoring is no longer required at monitoring location EFF-002A. As requested, staff modified the Tentative Order to clarify that total coliform must be monitored daily during any "off-specification" discharges Santee Lakes.	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment number 13. Table E-27 is now Table E-26. In response to comment numbers 27 and 40, staff modified Attachment E, Tables E-4 and Table E-26, footnote 3, and Attachment F, section 4.3.2.1.2, as requested. Additionally, staff modified section 4.1.2.1. of the Tentative Order to also be consistent with the Discharger's request.,

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
		<i>Footnote 3, Attachment F Section 4.3.2.1.2.</i>		
28	Table 12 and section 4.3.4.4. of Attachment F.	<i>The JPA requests that the total phosphorus limitation be applied prior to discharge to the Santee Lakes. The JPA is committed to providing product water meeting the 0.025 mg/L total phosphorus limit leaving the treatment facility at EFF-001A. However, meeting the same total phosphorus limitation in EFF-002B at the discharge from Santee Lakes to Sycamore Creek would be very challenging. There are natural processes in the Santee Lakes (i.e., bird and fish activities, aquatic life, algae growth) over which the JPA has no control. Since total phosphorus is not expected to be different between EFF-001A (where compliance is measured for the Lake Jennings discharge) and EFF-002A, the JPA requests that compliance for the total phosphorus effluent limitation for the Santee Lakes discharge be measured at EFF-001A</i>	Staff partially agree with the Discharger's request. The Tentative Order establishes a limit of 3.0 mg/L for total nitrogen and 0.025 mg/L for total phosphorus at monitoring location EFF-001A. These limits are protective of Lake Jennings and Santee Lakes and should mitigate the potential for biostimulatory effects in both receiving water bodies. However, staff recognize the potential for further reduction of total nitrogen and accumulation of total phosphorus in Santee Lakes from naturally occurring sources and sinks. Therefore, staff have applied mass emission rate limitations for both total nitrogen and total phosphorus at the overflow from Santee Lakes to Sycamore Creek.	Staff modified Table 12 of the Tentative Order and section 4.3.4.4 of Attachment F, as requested. Staff also added a definition to Attachment A Part 2 – Definitions of the Tentative Order to improve clarity.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
29	Table E-1 of Attachment E.	<i>The JPA requests that the definition for EFF-002A be changed to the following to provide clarity since the intent of this location is to represent samples that have undergone <u>post-treatment</u> (i.e., aeration and dechlorination) for Santee Lakes discharges (modified text underlined): "Discharge from <u>post-treatment</u> prior to Pond C or Lake No. 7 at Santee Lakes"</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified Table E-1 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order, as requested.
30	Section 1.3. of Attachment E.	<i>In the sentence "If an approved drinking water method is not available for the analyte, the Discharger may consider using an analytical method specified in 40 CFR part 136, Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the CWA as amended (40 CFR part 136) or a differing method subject to review and approval by DDW", add "(i.e., <u>primary MCLs, secondary MCLs, AIs, NLs, or DDW specified chemicals</u>)" after analytes. Otherwise, the option to use a 40 CFR 136 method is only allowed for AIs, NLs, and DDW-specified chemicals and excludes pMCLs and sMCLs. Note that there are cases where approved drinking water methods are not available for MCLs.</i>	Staff disagree with the Discharger's request. The general monitoring provisions included in the Tentative Order allow for the Discharger to request the use of differing methods with proper justification.	Staff did not modify the Tentative Order.
31	Table 3	<i>The JPA requests removal of the effluent limitation for flow at INT-003 (combined tertiary filter effluent). INT-003 represents</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff modified Table 3 of the Tentative Order, as requested.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
		<i>an internal point in the treatment process and there are no direct discharges from this location. Although the water recycling facility is designed for an average daily influent flow of 16 MGD, flow at INT-003 will be above that due to internal plant return flows. Tertiary filters feed the Ray Stoyer chlorine contact basin (CCB) and the Advanced Water Purification (AWP) facility and the JPA will comply with the flow limitation for the Ray Stoyer CCB, Lake Jennings, and Santee Lakes discharges. The flow sent to the AWP facility will be variable throughout the seasons (e.g., in winter on periods of low demand for title 22 recycled water, all the tertiary flow might be directed to the AWP facility).</i>		
32	Section 3.3.3. and Table E-14 of Attachment E.	<i>The JPA requests that total chlorine residual monitoring at EFF-002A be removed. The JPA requests clarification for the rationale to monitor total chlorine residual at two locations (EFF-002A and EFF-002B) and whether there is precedent from other projects for this requirement. Total chlorine residual is required to be monitored daily and performing the analysis at the two locations would pose an additional demand on the operations and laboratory</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request. Total chlorine residual monitoring is no longer required at monitoring location EFF-002A.	In response to comment numbers 27 and 33, staff deleted Staff removed section 3.3.3. and Table E-14 from Attachment E.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
		<i>staff. Given that no chlorine is added after discharge to the lakes, the JPA requests that total chlorine monitoring and compliance with the corresponding effluent limitation be applied only to EFF-002B.</i>		
33	Section 4.3.7.3. of the Tentative Order.	<i>The JPA requests that Footnote 3 be updated as follows to reflect the requirements in Section 4.3.7.3. of this Order (new text underlined): <u>"The Discharger, in coordination with Helix WD, must collect monthly samples for no less than 24 consecutive months prior to augmentation of Lake Jennings with advanced treated recycled water. The Discharger, in coordination with Helix WD, must resume sampling one month prior to commencing discharge of advanced treated recycled water to Lake Jennings. Once discharge starts, the Discharger, in coordination with Helix Water District, must conduct monthly monitoring for no less than the initial 24 months of discharge. After the completion of the initial 24 months of discharge, the Discharger, in coordination with Helix Water District, may request to the San Diego Board and DDW for reduced on-going monitoring."</u></i>	Staff partially agree with the Discharger's request. Staff agree to add the information regarding pre augmentation reservoir monitoring to the Tentative Order. However, the information will be added to section 6.2.1.1. of the Attachment F (Fact Sheet), as it is background information and not a requirement of the monitoring and reporting program as it occurred prior to the adoption of the Tentative Order.	Staff modified section 6.2.1.1. of Attachment F of the Tentative Order.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
34	Table E-26 of Attachment E.	<i>The JPA and Helix request that the monitoring for E. coli, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, electrical conductivity, and turbidity be required at a monthly frequency instead of weekly. The monthly frequency is required in 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR) 60320.326 and it is also reflected in Footnote 3 in Table E-26, which applies to these parameters (except pH). These parameters are also required for the monitoring prior to discharge. Helix initiated baseline monitoring per 22 CCR 60320.326 in January 2023 on a monthly frequency for 24 months and this monitoring has been completed. While this monitoring was ongoing, the JPA provided to RWQCB and DDW a memorandum with the data collected from January 2023 to July 2024. These data have been reviewed with RWQCB and DDW staff demonstrating a nutrient limited well mixed reservoir. During this time Helix did not observe adverse biostimulatory effects or algal blooms within the reservoir, which is consistent with Helix's historical observations. Lake Jennings is a terminal reservoir made up of imported water and fully controlled by Helix. This includes over fifty years of</i>	Staff partially agree with the Discharger's request. Staff modified the frequency for monitoring Escherichia coli (<i>E. coli</i>) in Lake Jennings from weekly to monthly. However, staff modified the monitoring frequency for temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, electrical conductivity, and turbidity from weekly to twice per month. These monitoring changes will help reduce the cost of compliance monitoring. Monitoring for parameters such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and turbidity can be used to predict or assess the potential for algal bloom formation and can help verify the Discharger's model results. The Discharger's model predicted the discharge of advanced treated recycled water will not result in adverse biostimulatory effects in Lake Jennings. In addition, see	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment number 13 and 27. Table E-26 is now Table E-25. Staff modified Table E-25 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
		<i>aeration to fully mix the reservoir to maintain water quality. The reservoir is not impacted by local conditions or other source waters. Monitoring at a weekly frequency would pose a significant burden on Helix and it would not provide additional benefit for evaluating baseline water quality or assess potential for algal blooms which is reflected in the data already collected and presented to RWQCB and DDW staff. The JPA, in coordination with Helix WD, will resume sampling for these parameters one month prior to discharge to demonstrate consistency of water quality in the previous 24-month sampling period.</i>	response to comment number 42.	
35	Table E-26 of Attachment E .	<i>Footnote 7 indicates that the following parameters shall be monitored in the lake starting the effective date of the order: total nitrogen, chlorophyll a, total and dissolved phosphorus, pH, nitrate nitrogen, nitrite nitrogen, unionized ammonia, and total toxins (measured separately): microcystin, cylindrospermopsin, anatoxin. Helix initiated baseline monitoring for total nitrogen, chlorophyll a, total and dissolved phosphorus, pH, nitrate nitrogen, and nitrite nitrogen in January 2023 together with the monitoring required per 22 CCR</i>	Staff partially agree with the Discharger's request. Staff modified the receiving water monitoring requirements for total nitrogen, chlorophyll a, total and dissolved phosphorus, pH, nitrate nitrogen, nitrite nitrogen, unionized ammonia, and total toxins to begin one month prior to discharge rather than the effective date of the Tentative Order. This will	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment numbers 13 and 27. Table E-26 is now Table E-25. Staff modified Table E-25 footnote 7 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order as requested.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
		<i>60320.326. The baseline monitoring was conducted for 24 consecutive months on a monthly basis. Helix also collected baseline unionized ammonia data in a separate monitoring campaign from June 2021 to June 2022. The baseline monitoring provided a large amount of data and sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the reservoir is nutrient limited and has low algal bloom potential. Helix will resume the monitoring for 22 CCR 60320.326 a month prior to the start of the discharge as required by DDW (and reflected in Section 4.3.7.3 of the Tentative Order) and would like to request that the same timeline be applied to the constituents included in Footnote 7 (i.e., total nitrogen, chlorophyll a, total and dissolved phosphorus, pH, nitrate nitrogen, nitrite nitrogen, and un-ionized ammonia), with the exception of total toxins.</i> <i>Total toxins monitoring was not included in the baseline monitoring already completed by Helix. For this parameter, Helix will start monitoring on the effective date of the Order. The JPA requests confirmation that the requirement for microcystin refers to "total microcystins".</i>	reduce the cost of compliance monitoring while also establishing a baseline for comparing pre and post discharge water quality in Lake Jennings. In addition, staff have confirmed that microcystins listed in Table E-25 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order refers to total microcystins.	

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
36	Footnote 5 of Tables E-27 and E-28 of Attachment E.	<i>The JPA requests that for the phosphorus series requirement at the receiving water locations for the Santee Lakes discharge, total orthophosphate be measured in lieu of dissolved orthophosphate. Measuring total orthophosphate provides a more conservative measurement as it is representative of dissolved and suspended orthophosphate while allowing for a more streamlined sample collection process as it removes the need for filtration.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment numbers 13 and 27. Tables E-27 and E-28 are now Tables E-26 and E-27, respectively. Staff modified footnote 5 for Tables E-26 and E-27 of Attachment E as requested.

Table 2. - Comments Received by Email on September 14 and 19, 2025, and San Diego Water Board Responses

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
37	Table E-33 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order.	<i>Discrepancy in due date for the Reservoir Nutrient Management Plan: Section 5.3.2.3. of the permit states that the due date for this plan is within 180 days of the effective date of the Order. The due date in Table E-33 is within 120 days of the effective day of the order. We understand that the correct due date is within 180 days, similar to the requirement for San Diego, and would like to request that the due date in Table E-33 be corrected.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment numbers 13 and 27. Table E-33 is now Table E-32. Staff modified Table E-33 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order as requested.
38	Table E-33 of Attachment E of	<i>Clarification for the due date for the Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
	the Tentative Order.	<i>Bloom Report (per Section 4.5.1.6 of the MRP): The due date for this report in Table E-33 is "Within 15 days of harmful algal bloom". Helix does the analysis to determine algal species externally and this process takes longer than 15 days. We would like to request that the due date be "Within 15 days of receiving laboratory results confirming harmful algal bloom"</i>		E in response to comment numbers 13 and 27. Table E-33 is now Table E-32. Staff modified Table E-32 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order, as requested.
39	Table 12 of the Tentative Order and section 4.3.4.4. of Attachment F	<i><u>Phosphorus limitation for the Santee Lakes discharge to Sycamore Creek.</u> As part of this point, we discussed whether the Santee Lakes are still considered part of the treatment and whether the mass loading limitations from the current permit would stay in place. We understand that there needs to be consistency in how the Santee Lakes are factored into the treatment for nutrients. Santee Lakes is part of the overall nutrient treatment, and we believe it would be appropriate and consistent with the past approach to reinstate the mass loading limitations at EFF-002B as they are in the current permit but remove the concentration-based limitations. That is, TN and TP at EFF-002B are 17 lb/yr and 1.7 lb/yr, respectively, based on 12-month running average based on 2 MGD of discharge flow.</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request. See response to comment number 28.	Staff modified Table 12 of the Tentative Order and section 4.3.4.4 of Attachment F, as requested. Staff also added a definition to Attachment A Part 2 – Definitions of the Tentative Order to improve clarity.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
40	Tables E-4 of Attachment E.	<u>Coliform monitoring location for Santee Lakes and Lake Jennings discharge.</u> <i>You mentioned that if the Santee discharge coliform monitoring was moved to EFF-001A, it would become a daily requirement. We would like to get some clarity on what the requirement is for the Santee discharge, since it is not clear if this monitoring performed on a daily basis is required for all discharges to Santee lakes or only for when the discharge is off-specification (off spec) for Lake Jennings (as seems to be per Table E-14, footnote 3) and weekly in all other situations.</i> <i>a. If the coliform monitoring for the Santee discharge is to be done daily regardless of the status of the Lake Jennings discharge (on spec or off spec), we would like to keep our request to consolidate the monitoring in EFF-001A (as daily) since coliform should not be different between EFF-002A and EFF-001A, and monitoring at EFF-001A allows the project to use one result for compliance with the two discharges.</i> <i>b. If the coliform monitoring for Santee discharge is done daily only when Lake Jennings discharge is off spec</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request. See Staff response to comment number 27.	See Staff response and action taken to comment number 27.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
		<i>and flow is directed to Santee Lakes, then we request to monitor coliform at only EFF-001A weekly with a footnote stating that the monitoring will be daily when Lake Jennings discharge is deemed off spec. Although this requires our lab to be prepared for this contingency measure, it saves significant amount of effort and labor (no weekend analysis is required for example) that we are interested in optimizing the effort for our rate payers and reduce our monitoring and reporting program (MRP) cost.</i>		
41	Table E-33 of Attachment E and section 5.3.4.8.5 of the Tentative Order..	<i><u>Due date for expanded local limits study report.</u> Based on the latest project schedule, the discharge to Lake Jennings will start early December 2026. If the due date of the study is within 180 days of the effective date of the Order, it will be due December 1, 2026, coinciding with the beginning of the discharge to Lake Jennings. If the study needs to be supported with samples from the source and product water, this timeline does not leave the JPA enough time to collect samples, analyze them, and provide a report. Based on this information, we would like to request that the local limits</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment numbers 13 and 27. Table E-33 is now Table E-32. Staff modified Table E-32 of Attachment E of the Tentative Order, as requested. Additionally, staff modified section 5.3.4.8.5 of the Tentative Order to be consistent with Table E-32 of Attachment E.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
		<i>study be due one year from the effective date of the Order.</i>		
42	Table E-26 of Attachment E.	Please note only one of the three attachments provided by the Discharger as part of this comment is included in the agenda package. However, the memorandum provided by the Discharger (Supporting Document 7a) includes all of the information contained in the other two attachments. <u><i>Discharger's Comment</i></u> <i>Thank you for reducing the receiving water monitoring frequency to twice per month following our discussion last Friday. We appreciate your consideration, and it is much better than weekly. However, we still believe that this frequency may not provide additional substantive data on Lake Jennings than what has already been provided in the 24-month monitoring data to establish that the reservoir is well-mixed, nutrient limited and has not been observed to have adverse biostimulatory effects or algal blooms. We got your determination prior to our response with the data demonstrating the non-variability of the two years of data for the constituents in question. Because we said we were going to send the data as part of the</i>	Staff agree with the Discharger's request.	Staff revised the table numbers in Attachment E in response to comment numbers 13 and 27. Tables E-26 is now Table E-25. Staff revised Table E-25 to reduce the monitoring frequency for E. coli, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, electrical conductivity, and turbidity in Lake Jennings to monthly.

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
		<i>discussion, we would like to still provide it to see if it has any additional impact on your determination for our request for monitoring of E. coli, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, electrical conductivity, and turbidity at a monthly frequency.</i> <i>Three files are attached to support our request for your review:</i> <i>The first file is a technical memorandum (Lake Jennings Monitoring - January 2023 to July 2024 Data Comparison), which was submitted to DDW and Regional Board on October 1, 2024, to support the JPA's and Helix's request to reduce the number of monitoring locations and water column samples for the monitoring. Data collected for the parameters required in 22 CR 60320.326 from January 2023 to July 2024 are presented. For the DDW-specified chemicals, data from January 2024 to July 2024 are included.</i> <i>The other two files are provided as excel spreadsheets. One file has profile data and the other,</i>		

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
		<i>data from grab samples. They contain the data presented in the memo plus data collected after July 2024 to complete the 24-months of monitoring. The DDW-specified chemicals continue to be monitored and data up to June 2025 is provided. The spreadsheets also contain data for the following parameters, which were not included in the memo:</i> <i>○ Nitrate and nitrite: data from January 2023 to December 2024</i> <i>○ Un-ionized ammonia: data from July 2021 to June 2022</i> <i>The monthly analysis of the results demonstrates that for each parameter the measurements are consistent over the two-year monitoring timeline. This supports the request to keep the monitoring at a monthly basis since an increased frequency does not provide additional granularity over the monthly data. Lake Jennings volume is a large natural system where frequent water quality fluctuations are not expected within a two-week period.</i>		

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
		<i>As a reference, comparing with the City of San Diego's permit, there isn't a default requirement to monitor twice per month year-round. This frequency applies only from April to October, with monthly monitoring the rest of the year. This frequency might be reasonable for a stratified reservoir like Miramar (more frequent sampling during lake turnover would allow to see changes in water column), but that is not the case for Lake Jennings, which will be well-mixed year-round due to the use of the aerator and air curtains. The City's permit requires weekly sampling frequency only in cases of algal bloom. The City's permit is less stringent than ours because it varies and requires weekly sampling as an event-based action. In the case of Lake Jennings, the normal year-round condition would be stable and more comparable to the time periods when the City permit allows for reduced monitoring.</i> <i>As we discussed earlier, a more frequent monitoring frequency than monthly would pose a significant burden on Helix's budget and personnel and not be the best use of public funds if it does not</i>		

No.	Tentative Order Section	Comment	San Diego Water Board Response	Action Taken
		<i>offer a benefit. Collecting these samples is time intensive as it is done in a boat, requiring time to get to the lake monitoring location as well as the time to perform all the necessary safety procedures. The JPA-reported annual MRP cost estimate does not include the twice per month monitoring frequency. The JPA would like to revise the MRP cost estimate to reflect an accurate cost estimate if twice per month monitoring is deemed necessary.</i> <i>Lastly, from our discussion on September 12, we understand that we can request a reduction in monitoring at any time during the permit period. We would like to request that this text be added to the permit for clarity.</i>		

Changes Made to the Tentative Order Not Related to Written Comments Received

Staff made the following changes to the revised Tentative Order:

1. Eliminated the \$5,000 dollar amount from sections 5.3.4.12.1 and 5.3.4.12.7. which were thresholds for including assets in the asset management plan. Due to the scale and magnitude of the Facilities, eliminating the \$5,000 threshold gives the Discharger some flexibility in determining the appropriate critical assets to include in the asset management plan. Staff will review the asset management plan upon submittal to determine whether it meets the

requirements of the Order.

2. Moved table note 1 from Table E-1 in Attachment E of the Tentative Order to table note 5 for Table E-14. Staff made this change to improve organization of the monitoring requirements and aid in the Discharger's compliance with those monitoring requirements.