

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT

NOVEMBER 12, 2025

ITEM NO. 6

SUBJECT

Consideration of Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority, East County Water Recycling Facility, San Diego County* (Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060).
(Brandon Bushnell)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060 (**Supporting Document 1**).

KEY ISSUES

- 1) Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060 establishes requirements for the treatment of domestic wastewater and production of recycled water at the East County Water Recycling Facility (ECWRF).
- 2) Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060 includes operation, treatment, design, and monitoring requirements based in part on recommendations from the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for the protection of public health. These requirements implement recycled water criteria specified in California Code of Regulations, title 22 (Title 22).
- 3) The distribution and use of the recycled water from the ECWRF will be administered by the Padre Dam Municipal Water District (Padre Dam) under their enrollment in Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW, *Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use* (Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW) and their updated Notice of Applicability issued to Padre Dam on July 31, 2025 (**Supporting Document 2**).

PRACTICAL VISION

Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060 is consistent with the Strategize to Achieve Resilient Local Water Supply chapter of the San Diego Water Board Practical Vision,¹ as it establishes requirements for the production of recycled water. The use of sustainable local water supply sources such as recycled water helps reduce the San Diego Region's

¹ Practical Vision:

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

dependence on imported water and increases the reliability of 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. R9-2025-0060. Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060, if adopted, establishes requirements for the treatment of domestic wastewater and production of recycled water at the ECWRF. Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060, if adopted, will supersede and replace Order No. 97-49, *Waste Discharge and Water Recycling Requirements for the Production and Purveyance of Recycled Water for Padre Dam Municipal Water District, San Diego County*.

The East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority (Discharger) consists of Padre Dam, the City of El Cajon, and the County of San Diego. The Discharger is constructing the ECWRF and the East County Advanced Water Purification Facility (ECAWP Facility), which are both part of the East County Advanced Water Purification Project (ECAWP Project). The ECWRF and the ECAWP Facility are located at 12001 North Fanita Parkway in Santee (**Supporting Document 3**). Both facilities will be operational in late 2026.

Currently, wastewater from the eastern portion of San Diego County is discharged to the City of San Diego's Metropolitan Sewerage System (Metro System). A portion of the East County wastewater flow was diverted by Padre Dam for treatment at the 2.0 million gallons per day (MGD) Padre Dam Ray Stoyer Water Recycling Facility (Ray Stoyer WRF). Padre Dam uses tertiary treated recycled water from the Ray Stoyer WRF to supply water to Santee Lakes, which is a regional recreational area and park owned and operated by Padre Dam. Padre Dam also supplies tertiary treated recycled water from the Ray Stoyer WRF for reuse via a non-potable (purple pipe) conveyance system.

As part of the ECAWP Project, wastewater flows from Padre Dam, the City of El Cajon, and the San Diego County Sanitation District service areas will be diverted to the new 16 MGD ECWRF, which will replace the Ray Stoyer WRF. Treatment processes at the ECWRF, in order of flow, will include:

- Screening and grit removal units;
- Primary clarifiers, with ferric chloride for chemical phosphorus removal;
- Flow equalization tank;
- Bioreactors for nutrient removal, that include a 4-stage Bardenpho process;
- Secondary clarifiers, with ferric chloride for chemical phosphorus removal;
- Granular media filters (GMFs);
- Chlorine contact basin (remnant from the former Ray Stoyer WRF chlorine contact basins); and

- Odor control unit.

Most of the flow from the ECWRF will be directed to the ECAWP Facility. The ECAWP Facility will produce advanced treated recycled water for: 1) augmenting Lake Jennings, a water supply source for the Helix Water District's R.M. Levy Drinking Water Treatment Plant, and 2) maintaining water levels in Santee Lakes. One of the seven recreational impoundments at Santee Lakes discharges to Sycamore Creek. Discharges of advanced treated recycled water from the ECAWP Facility to Lake Jennings and Sycamore Creek will be regulated under 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* (**see Supporting Document 1 of item 5**).

A small portion of the effluent from the ECWRF will be chlorinated and purveyed by the ECAWP JPA to Padre Dam for distribution to recycled water users, via Padre Dam's non-potable conveyance system. As requested by the Discharger, treatment of domestic wastewater and production of recycled water at the ECWRF will be regulated under Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060, while distribution of recycled water by Padre Dam for non-potable purposes will be regulated under Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW. Recycled water distributed will be used primarily at landscape irrigation and construction sites within Padre Dam's service area.

Key requirements of Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060 include:

- Effluent limitations based on secondary wastewater treatment standards and water quality objectives specified in the *Water Quality Control Policy for the San Diego Basin* (9);
- Operation, treatment, design, and monitoring requirements based in part on Title 22 and recommendations from DDW for the protection of public health; and
- Monitoring and reporting requirements for verifying and assessing compliance with effluent limitations.

Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060 establishes requirements for treatment of domestic wastewater to ensure recycled water can be used for non-potable purposes in a manner that protects public health and water quality.

PUBLIC NOTICE

San Diego Water Board staff notified the Discharger and known interested parties of this action on July 31, 2025 (**Supporting Documents 4 and 5**). Additionally, Board staff posted Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060 on its website on July 31, 2025. The public comment period closed on September 1, 2025. These actions satisfy the 30-day public notification and comment period requirements of Water Code section 13167.5.

San Diego Water Board staff received one comment letter from the Discharger during the 30-day comment period (**Supporting Document 6**). The Discharger requested the following changes to Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060:

- The compliance monitoring location for effluent flowrate should be changed from after the chlorine contact basin to the influent to the chlorine contact basin where a flow meter is already present.
- Add a footnote to Table 3 of Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060 to clarify that compliance monitoring for biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids shall be conducted at monitoring location INT-003 after the tertiary filters.

San Diego Water Board staff agreed with the Discharger's requests and revised Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060. Staff did not prepare a response to comment documents for this item, since all proposed revisions to Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060 were accepted. The revised Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060 displays additions as red-underline text and deletions as ~~red-strikeout~~ text (**Supporting Document 1**).

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Revised Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060
2. Notice of Applicability for Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW
3. East County Advanced Water Purification Project Map
4. Transmittal Letter
5. Notice of Public Hearing and Written Comment Period
6. Comment Letter