
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

July 31, 2025

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Sent by email: kswanson@padre.org

In reply refer to/attn.:
900911:BBushnell

Subject: Notice of Applicability for Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, San Diego County

Kyle Swanson:

This Notice of Applicability (NOA) updates Padre Dam Municipal Water District's (District) enrollment in the State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2016-0068-DDW, *Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use* (General Order). The District distributes recycled water from the East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority's Water Recycling Facility (Facility) to use sites within its service area, and the General Order establishes requirements for the distribution and reuse of recycled water.

The District currently produces and distributes recycled water under 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* (Order No. 97-49). The District replaced the Ray Stoyer Water Recycling Facility with the Facility. The East County Joint Powers Authority (East County JPA) will produce disinfected tertiary recycled water at the Facility, which the District will distribute to use sites in its service area. The San Diego Water Board will regulate the East County JPA's production of recycled water through 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), which is anticipated to be adopted in 2025. Tentative Order No. R9-2025-0060 will replace Order No 97-49. This NOA and the District's updated enrollment in the General Order are effective on June 1, 2026.

An electronic copy of the General Order is available online at the following website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2016/wq2016_0068_ddw.pdf

NOA FINDINGS AND REQUIREMENTS – The District must comply with all applicable requirements in the General Order and any additional requirements included in this NOA, upon the effective date of enrollment in the General Order.

1. FACILITY AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION

The Facility is located at 12001 North Fanita Parkway, Santee in San Diego County. East County JPA owns the Facility, while the District operates the Facility. The District owns and operates a recycled water distribution system that provides recycled water to various landscape irrigation and construction sites within its service area. A small portion of recycled water is used for street sweeping.

2. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

The General Order regulates recycled water distribution and use from new and existing recycled water systems. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) the action to enroll the Facility is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations title 14, sections 15301-15303.

3. GENERAL ORDER AND NOA REQUIREMENTS

The District must be familiar with the requirements contained in the General Order, this NOA, and the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) in section 4 below. The District must comply with the prohibitions and specifications contained within the General Order, which are applicable to all recycled water systems.

Pursuant to Water Code section 13523.1(b)(3), the General Order requires the District to establish and enforce rules and regulations governing the design, construction and use of recycled water distribution systems by its customers. The rules and regulations must be consistent with the following criteria:

- Title 22, California Code of Regulations (title 22), division 4, chapter 3 (Water Recycling Criteria).
- Title 17, California Code of Regulations (title 17), division 1, chapter 5, subchapter 1, group 4, articles 1 (general provisions) and 2 (backflow preventers).
- Any measures that are deemed necessary for protection of public health, such as the *American Water Works Association (AWWA) California/Nevada Section, Guidelines for the Distribution of Non-Potable Water*¹ and *Guidelines for*

¹ Referenced material can be found at the following webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/ground_water_basin/recycled_subsurface/docs/Guidelines_for_the_Distribution_of_Nonpotable_Water.pdf

*Retrofitting to Recycled Water*² or alternate measures that are acceptable to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW).

The District must update its Rules and Regulations for the Use of Recycled Water and ensure the rules and regulations at a minimum contain the following:

General Rules and Regulations

- The use of recycled water must not cause a condition of pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by Water Code section 13050.
- The San Diego Water Board may initiate enforcement action against any recycled water user who discharges recycled water in violation of any applicable discharge requirement prescribed by the San Diego Water Board or in a manner which creates or threatens to create conditions of pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined in Water Code section 13050
- The District, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board), DDW, and the County Department of Environmental Health and Quality (County DEHQ), or an authorized representative of these parties, upon presentation of proper credentials, must have the right to enter upon the recycled water use site during reasonable hours, to verify that the user is complying with the District's rules and regulations.
- The District may terminate service to a recycled water user who uses, transports, or stores such water in violation of its rules and regulations.
- The recycled water user must provide written notification, in a timely manner, to the District of any material change or proposed change in the character of the recycled water use.
- The recycled water user must submit plans and specifications for the recycled water distribution facilities to the District prior to the District initiating recycled water service.
- The recycled water user must designate a recycled water supervisor who is responsible for the recycled water system at each use area under the user's control. Specific responsibilities of the recycled water supervisor include the proper installation, operation, and maintenance of the irrigation system; maintaining project compliance with the District's rules and regulations; prevention of potential hazards; and preservation of the recycled water distribution system plans in "as built" form. Designated recycled water

² Referenced material can be found at the following webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/ground_water_basin/recycled_subsurface/docs/Guidelines_for_the_On-Site_Retrofit_of_Facilities_Using_Disinfected_Tertiary.pdf

supervisors must obtain instruction in the use of recycled water from an institution approved by DDW and the County DEHQ, as required.

- Recycled water must not be applied to a recycled water use area within 24 hours of forecasted precipitation with a greater than 50-percent probability of occurring,³ during precipitation events, or when the recycled water use area surface soil is saturated.
- All recycled water storage facilities owned and/or operated by recycled water users must be protected against erosion, overland runoff, and other impacts resulting from a 100-year, 24-hour frequency storm unless the San Diego Water Board approves alternative storm protection measures for the facility.
- All recycled water storage facilities owned and/or operated by recycled water users must be protected against 100-year frequency peak stream flows as defined by the San Diego County Flood Control District unless the San Diego Water Board approves alternative storm protection measures for the facility.
- A copy of the recycled water rules and regulations, irrigation system layout map, and recycled water system operations manual must be maintained at the use area or in a place easily accessible by site supervisor. These documents must always be available to operating personnel.
- Irrigation with disinfected tertiary recycled water must not take place within 50 feet of any domestic water supply well unless all the following conditions have been met:
 - A geological investigation demonstrates that an aquitard exists at the well between the uppermost aquifer being drawn from and the ground surface;
 - The well contains an annular seal that extends from the surface into the aquitard;
 - The well is housed to prevent any recycled water spray from contacting the wellhead facilities;
 - The ground surface immediately around the wellhead is contoured to allow surface water to drain away from the well; and
 - The owner of the well approves of the elimination of the buffer zone requirement.

³ Fifty percent probability of occurring as forecasted by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration for the closest weather station to the use site.

- Impoundment of disinfected tertiary recycled water must not occur within 100 feet of any domestic water supply well.
- Irrigation with, or impoundment of, disinfected secondary-2.2⁴ or disinfected secondary -2.3⁵ recycled water must not take place within 100 feet of any domestic water supply well.
- Irrigation with, or impoundment of, undisinfected secondary recycled water must not take place within 150 feet of any domestic water supply well.
- Recycled water facilities must be operated in accordance with best management practices (BMPs) to prevent direct human consumption of recycled water and to minimize misting, ponding, and runoff. BMPs must be implemented that will minimize both public contact and discharge to areas not under the recycled water users' control.
- Irrigation with recycled water must be conducted during periods of minimal human use of the service area. Consideration must be given to allow a maximum dry-out time before the irrigated area will be used by the public.
- All drinking fountains located within the approved use area must be protected by location and/or structure from contact with recycled water spray, mist, or runoff. Protection must be by design, construction practice, or system operation.
- Facilities that may be used by the public, including but not limited to eating surfaces and playground equipment, and located within the approved use areas, must be protected to the maximum extent possible, by siting and/or structure from contact by irrigation with recycled water spray, mist, or runoff. Protection must be by design, construction practice, or system operation.
- Spray irrigation with recycled water, other than disinfected tertiary recycled water, must not take place within 100 feet of the property line of a residence or a place where public exposure could be like that of a park, playground, or schoolyard.
- All use areas where recycled water is used and that are accessible to the public must be posted with conspicuous signs that are visible to the public, in a size no less 4 inches high by 8 inches wide that include the following wording: "RECYCLED WATER - DO NOT DRINK.". Each sign shall display an international symbol similar to that shown in title 22, figure 60310-A.

⁴ Disinfected secondary-2.2 recycled water is defined in section 60301.220, title 22.

⁵ Disinfected secondary-2.3 recycled water is defined in section 60301.225, title 22.

- No physical connection must exist between any recycled water system and any separate system conveying potable water.
- The recycled water piping system must not include any hose bibs. Quick couplers that are different from those used on the potable water system may be used.
- The public water supply must not be used as a backup or supplemental source of water for a recycled water system unless the connection between the two systems is protected by an air gap separation which complies with the requirements of title 17, sections 7602(a) and 7603(a) and the approval of the public water system has been obtained. If a "Swivel-ell" type connection is used it must be used in accordance with the provisions of the DDW Policy Memo 95-004. Approved backflow prevention devices must be provided, installed, tested, and maintained by the recycled water user in accordance with the applicable provisions of title 17, division 1, chapter 5, subchapter 1, group 4, article 2.
- No person other than the District must make a connection to the recycled water distribution system.
- All recycled water piping and appurtenances in new installations and appurtenances in retrofit installations must be colored purple or distinctively wrapped with purple tape in accordance with Health and Safety Code, chapter 7.9, section 4049.54.
- Reuse site shut down tests and inspections must be monitored by DDW or the County DEHQ.
- Customer complaints concerning recycled water use that may involve public illness must be reported to the County DEHQ, DDW, and the District. The District must maintain a log of all customer complaints regarding recycled water.
- Any backflow prevention device installed to protect the public water system must be inspected and maintained in accordance with title 17, section 7605.
- Recycled water and fertilizer must be applied to landscapes at agronomic rates.
- Overwatering of landscapes and runoff are prohibited.
- Recycled water supervisors are responsible for determining onsite fertilizer needs, ensuring recycled water is applied to landscapes at agronomic rates, and completing training and education in compliance with the District's rules and regulations to: (1) minimize the potential for runoff or over-irrigation and, (2) determine the fertilizer needs of the landscape considering the nutrient value of recycled water.

General Requirements for Hauling or Transporting Recycled Water

The District's Rules and Regulations for Recycled Water Use must include requirements that ensure use and transport of recycled water from the fill stations will be protective of public health and the environment. At a minimum, the Rules and Regulations for Recycled Water Use must include the following requirements.

- The District or hauler must comply with the requirements in this NOA, unless DDW or the County DEHQ determine that alternative criteria provide equivalent or better protection of public health and the environment.
- Haulers interested in participating in this program must apply for a Recycled Water Use Permit issued by the District.
- Use areas receiving hauled recycled water must meet the same requirements of titles 17 and 22 as a similar use area receiving traditionally piped recycled water. These requirements must be addressed in the District's permitting process.
- Before trucks or containers can be filled for the first time, haulers are required to attend a brief on-site orientation or training to learn about using the filling station and proper handling and safe use of recycled water. Annual refresher training must be required. The District must maintain records of all training.
- Once the hauler completes the on-site orientation or training and a Recycled Water Program inspector verifies the tanker truck or containers meet the recycled water use requirements, the inspector will issue a signed Recycled Water Use Permit. The Recycled Water Use Permit must always be available for inspection. The hauler must always carry a copy of the permit in the vehicle while hauling recycled water.
- Recycled water must not be introduced into any potable water piping system and no connection must be made between the tank and any part of a potable water system.
- If the hauler requests to supply recycled water to a use area that uses any plumbed potable or recycled water distribution systems, the District must ensure the end use complies with all applicable requirements of titles 17 and 22, including cross-connection control testing and backflow prevention device installation, prior to allowing pick up of recycled water. Dual plumbed use areas can only receive recycled water from a recycled water agency that has been granted approval under title 22, section 60313(a).
- The hauler must keep a logbook for each vehicle, tank, or container used to transport recycled water. The logbook must always be available for inspections.

The hauler must always carry a copy in the vehicle while hauling recycled water. The logbook must include:

- Date of delivery and use;
 - Volume of water delivered and used;
 - Intended use of water; and
 - Name and address of the recipient/customer.
- The hauler or recycled water site supervisor must notify workers and the public when recycled water is used at a use site and inform workers and the public not to drink recycled water or use it for food preparation.
- Precautions must be taken to avoid contact between food and recycled water while the use site is wet.
- No irrigation or impoundment of recycled water is allowed within a minimum of 50 feet of any domestic drinking water well.
- The hauler must take adequate measures to prevent the overspray, ponding, or runoff of recycled water from the authorized use area.
- No connection must be made between a tank or container of recycled water and any part of a potable water system.
- The Recycled Water Use Permit issued by the District must always be available for inspection.
- Recycled water must not be applied where it could spray on external drinking water fountains, passing vehicles, buildings, or areas where food is handled or eaten.
- Tank trucks, containers, and appurtenances must be clearly identified as “non-potable,” equipped with a legally sized air gap, and must not be used to provide potable water. Containers and hoses associated with hauling recycled water must not be used for potable water. Commercial hauling trucks that may be filled with potable water for non-potable uses must have two separate filling systems, one dedicated to potable water and one dedicated to recycled water. When the truck is filled from a potable water source, there must be a water agency or municipality provided meter and backflow device between the truck fill line and the potable source.
- Vehicles, tanks, and containers must have water-tight valves and fittings, must not leak or spill contents during transport, and must be cleaned of contaminants. These requirements must be checked by the hauler before each use. Water-containing vessels that are open to the atmosphere during hauling are prohibited.

- Haulers must not overfill containers or trucks.
- Hoses used for the application of recycled water must be removable and must be stored in a disconnected condition during transport. Hoses must be inspected prior to filling to ensure they are in serviceable condition and free of leaks.
- In the event of an emergency concerning the recycled water hydrant, meter, fill pipe, or hose (spillage, leaks, etc.), the hauler must call the emergency contact number listed on the filling station sign for further instructions.
- The District may conduct use area visits to ensure proper use of recycled water according to all applicable requirements of titles 17 and 22, and Recycled Water Use Permit conditions. These visits may include follow-up phone calls or surveys of end users about completion of the hauling process and recycled water application.
- The District must clearly communicate conditions under which haulers may lose their permits. Those conditions must specify that failure to follow program requirements, including adhering to applicable State, County, or local codes, will result in suspension of the hauler's permit. Violations of such codes may also result in fines and applicable administrative fees.
- Residential hauling programs must have fill stations always staffed by a representative from the District to ensure proper handling and filling procedures.
- Residential hauling programs must limit one-time hauls to 300 gallons.
- The permitted hauler must notify the District prior to using recycled water for a use not approved by the District.

Rules and Regulations for Hauling or Transporting Recycled Water from Commercial Vehicle Fill Stations

- Trucks hauling recycled water that may also be filled with potable supplies for non-potable purposes must have a dedicated potable use fill line through an air gap separation. The fill lines must be labeled as potable or recycled water. As an alternative, the water supplier may install a reduced pressure principal backflow device on the potable system for filling trucks with potable water. Vehicles used to transport recycled water must not be used to carry water for potable purposes.
- The risers, hoses, and fittings for each supply must be color coded or painted blue for potable and purple for recycled water.

- The hoses, hydrants, and risers for each supply must have separate and unique fittings (e.g., 2-1/2-inch diameter on the potable system and 2-inch diameter on the recycled water system) to ensure the potable system cannot accidentally be used on the recycled system and vice versa.
- All vehicles used in transporting recycled water must be clearly marked with signage that reads: "CAUTION: RECYCLED WATER - DO NOT DRINK" in English and Spanish. The District must conduct annual inspections of the trucks to ensure that all requirements in the Order are met and that recycled water is being used in compliance with the requirements of the Order.
- Vehicles used for transportation or distribution of recycled water, or for street sweeping must have an air gap to ensure backflow protection.
- The use of recycled water for street sweeping or construction must comply with the appropriate local storm water ordinance. Typical compliance measures include preventing overspray, ponding, or runoff of recycled water from the use area.
- During each visit, haulers are required to enter the date, amount collected, locations the recycled water will be used, and approximate amounts on the fill stations log sheet.
- For Hydrant Meter Filling Stations, ensure the meter is shut off before disconnecting the fill line and no water is leaking from the meter or hydrant.
- For Gate Access Filling Stations, ensure no water is leaking from the fill pipe or hose and securely re-lock the gate after leaving the filling station.
- A truck or tank that contained material from a septic tank or cesspool must not be used to distribute recycled water.

Rules and Regulations for Use of Recycled Water for Firefighting

- Unused recycled water must not be released into storm drains, streams, rivers, or waterways.
- Fire hydrants supplied with recycled water must be clearly identified by purple paints, signs, tags, stencils or other such labeling, to notify firefighters that the fire hydrants are supplied with recycled water.
- Fire truck tanks must be disinfected following the use of recycled water for firefighting because fire trucks could be used to distribute drinking water during civil emergencies.

- Firefighting personnel must be adequately trained in safe use of recycled water. New and current firefighting personnel must receive periodic refresher courses regarding proper handling and use of recycled water.

4. MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The District must comply with the monitoring and reporting requirements below:

a. Annual Compliance Report

The District must submit an annual compliance report on recycled water users by April 1st of the following year containing the following information:

i. **Recycled water use site summary report**

- Name of each recycled water use site.
- Owner of each recycled water use site.
- Address of each site and number of hydrologic subareas underlying the recycled water use sites as identified in the San Diego Water Board's *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin*.
- Name of the recycled water on-site user supervisor.
- Phone number of the on-site user supervisor.
- Mailing address of the recycled water on-site use supervisor, if different from site address.
- Volume of recycled water delivered to each site for each of the 12 months in a calendar year.
- Total number of recycled water use sites.
- Indicate if any new users have been added and provide approval documents for new reuse sites.
- A map showing where the recycled water use areas are located within the hydrologic subarea(s).

ii. **Recycled water user site inspections.** The District must report the number of recycled water use site inspections conducted by its staff and identify the sites inspected for the reporting period.

iii. **Recycled water user violations of the District's rules and regulations.** The District must identify all recycled water users known to be in violation of its rules and regulations for recycled water users. The report must

include a description of the noncompliance, its cause, and the period of noncompliance. If the noncompliance has not been corrected; the anticipated timeframe until compliance will be achieved; and steps planned or taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance.

b. Recycled Water Spill Reporting

- i. The District must immediately notify the San Diego Water Board if there is an unauthorized discharge of:

- 50,000 gallons or more of recycled water that has been treated to at least disinfected tertiary recycled water, or
- 1,000 gallons or more of recycled water that is treated at a level less than disinfected tertiary recycled water to waters of the State.

Notification must occur as soon as: 1) the District has knowledge of the discharge, 2) notification is possible, and 3) notification can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures.

- ii. The District must notify the San Diego Water Board of the unauthorized discharge by phone or email:

- Phone – 619-516-1990; or
- Email – sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov

- iii. In addition, the District must submit a written report to the San Diego Water Board within 5 days of becoming aware of the unauthorized discharge. The written report shall describe the following:

- The location and cause of unauthorized discharge;
- The period of the unauthorized discharge, including exact dates and times;
- If the unauthorized discharge has been stopped;
- The anticipated time the unauthorized discharge is expected to continue;
- Any corrective actions taken; and
- Any steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence.

- iv. The San Diego Water Board may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis, if it the District notified the San Diego Water Board of the unauthorized discharge within 24 hours of becoming aware of the unauthorized discharge.

5. CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP

When control or ownership of the Facility changes, the District must notify the new owner or operator of the existence of this General Order by letter and immediately forward a copy of the letter to the San Diego Water Board Executive Officer.

6. ENFORCEMENT

The District must review and ensure this NOA completely and accurately reflects the Facility's discharge. If the District violates the terms or conditions listed in this NOA or the General Order, the San Diego Water Board may take enforcement action, including assessment of administrative civil liability. The District is responsible for compliance with the General Order and this NOA. Failure to comply with the requirements in the General Order and this NOA could result in an enforcement action as authorized by provisions of the California Water Code. Discharges of wastes other than recycled water are prohibited.

7. ANNUAL FEES AND SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

The annual fee for the distribution and use of recycled water can be found in Title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 2200.8. of the current fee schedule.⁶ The fee is to be paid each year until enrollment in the General Order is terminated by the San Diego Water Board. If the distribution and use of recycled water ceases, the District must provide written notice to enable the San Diego Water Board to terminate enrollment and billing.

The District must review the conditions specified in this NOA and the applicable sections of the General Order. The District must notify the San Diego Water Board if, for any reason, the District is unable to comply with any of the specified conditions.

The District must submit all future monitoring reports and documents required by this NOA and the General Order to the San Diego Water Board by email. Email submittals must include a signed cover/transmittal letter with the facility name, facility contact information, and reference code **900911:BBushnell**. Monitoring reports, documents, and other email submittals must be sent to sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov. Routine email correspondence may be sent directly to individual San Diego Water Board staff members.

Documents that are 50 megabytes or larger should be transferred to a compact disc (CD) or universal serial bus (USB) drive and mailed to the San Diego Water Board. Board staff may request specific individual items such as appendices to large/complex technical reports and/or large drawings, grading plans, or maps continue to be provided in paper format. If you have specific questions about email

⁶ Web link to Fee Schedule:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water_quality/

submission procedures, please contact our Mission Support Services Unit by phone at 619-516-1990, or via email at sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov.

Please contact Brandon Bushnell at 619-521-8044 or via email at Brandon.Bushnell@waterboards.ca.gov if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully,

David W. Gibson
Executive Officer

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DWG:rnm:fo:bb

Tech Staff Info & Use

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