

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
MAY 13, 2026**

ITEM 6

SUBJECT

San Diego Bay Shipyard Sediment Cleanup Site Update. (Gabriel Haro)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational item only; no recommendation.

KEY ISSUES

The San Diego Bay Shipyard Sediment Cleanup Site is one of the region's most significant cleanup efforts that was undertaken to reduce long-term risks from contaminated sediments within two active shipyards. The cleanup was performed under Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R9-2012-0024 (CAO), which was developed over several years and ultimately finalized through a negotiated settlement. Cleanup work was completed between 2013 and 2016, and ongoing monitoring tracks the recovery of sediment quality and marine life. This update provides the San Diego Water Board with a summary of monitoring results through Year 5 and the planned approach for Year 10 post-remedial monitoring (see Discussion for monitoring details).

PRACTICAL VISION

Chapter 1 of the 2021 Practical Vision, [Strategize for Healthy Waters](#), directs the Water Board to prioritize outcome-focused work that protects key beneficial uses in key areas. This item advances this goal by applying measurable, long-term actions to improve conditions in San Diego Bay. The cleanup work and associated post-remedial monitoring at the Shipyard Sediment Cleanup Site are consistent with the goals of the 2015 [Strategy for a Healthy San Diego Bay](#).

Chapter 2 of the 2021 Practical Vision, [Monitor and Assess](#), highlights the San Diego Water Board's commitment to producing and sharing clear, accessible information about water quality conditions. This item supports that commitment by providing a transparent update on post-remedial monitoring at the San Diego Bay Shipyard Sediment Cleanup Site.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this item is to update the Board on the ongoing implementation of the CAO for the San Diego Bay Shipyard Sediment Cleanup Site. The CAO establishes the remedial footprint, cleanup goals, and post-remedial monitoring needed to evaluate site conditions following the 2013-2016 remedial action. As this site was one of the earlier sediment cleanups undertaken in San Diego Bay, staff's approach and technical tools have continued to evolve since the CAO was adopted. This update acknowledges these developments and provides current context for the Board.

Representatives for the San Diego Bay Environmental Restoration Fund (Shipyard Trust),

which manages the cleanup work on behalf of the Dischargers¹, will summarize the CAO and the remedial action performed between 2013 and 2016, and describe the success criteria established in the CAO for post-remedial monitoring. The CAO states that post-remedial monitoring must occur at specific time periods following the completion of remediation. The CAO specifies that post-remedial monitoring is required in Years 2, 3, 4, and 5, and may be required in Year 10 based on the results of Year 5 monitoring. Each monitoring year specifies which remedial goals must be evaluated and may include a review of sediment chemistry, toxicity and biological effects benchmarks, and assessment of benthic community conditions, depending on year. Although certain activities may be performed at other times when access allows (e.g., bathymetric surveys), all monitoring events associated with a specific year are reported together.

The Shipyard Trust presentation will focus on Remedial Performance Monitoring conducted in Year 2 (2018) and Year 5 (2021), and will also outline the planned Year 10 monitoring (scheduled for July 2026). The CAO relies on site-wide surface-weighted average concentrations (SWACs) and associated trigger concentrations for the primary contaminants of concern, including total polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), as well as other lines of evidence (e.g., toxicity, chemistry, and other biological effects benchmarks). Under the CAO, verification of remedial performance occurred at Years 2 and 5, and Year 10 monitoring is required if any Year 5 remedial goals were not achieved.

Year 2 (2018) post-remedial monitoring confirmed that all remedial goals were met. Year 5 (2021) post-remedial monitoring confirmed that all remedial goals were met, except for the site-wide SWAC for total PCBs. The CAO-required benthic community assessments in Years 3 (2019) and 4 (2020) indicated that benthic recovery is well underway in the remedial areas.

The planned Year 10 monitoring in 2026 will focus on recalculating the site-wide SWAC for total PCBs using sediment chemistry data collected in Year 10. Surface sediment will be collected from all 65 monitoring stations, composited into six area-weighted polygon groups, and analyzed for total PCBs using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Method 8270C Selected Ion Monitoring (SIM). Sampling is planned for July 2026, consistent with the timing used for previous post-remedial monitoring events.

In addition to the Year 10 monitoring, additional investigation will be performed to address the elevated PCB concentrations observed during Year 5 post-remedial monitoring, including characterizing the nature and extent of the exceedance. To support this effort, an Exceedance Investigation and Characterization Study (EICS) was prepared to evaluate the extent and potential sources of the exceedance, with a particular focus on the North Shipyard near Pier 3. An EICS Work Plan will be implemented concurrently with the Year 10 post-remedial monitoring, to the extent feasible.

LEGAL CONCERNS

None.

¹ The Dischargers are the Responsible Parties named in the CAO, which are the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company, BAE Systems San Diego Ship Repair, Inc., City of San Diego, Campbell Industries, San Diego Gas and Electric, United State Navy, and the San Diego Unified Port District.

COMPLIANCE RECORD

The San Diego Water Board issued two notices of violations to the Dischargers in April and May 2012 for failure to comply with Directive H.1 (Cost Recovery) of the CAO.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The agenda notice for today's meeting was posted on the San Diego Water Board's website and sent to subscribers to the email list for Board meetings. This satisfies the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements to publish the meeting notice and agenda.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Figure 1 – Site Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Post-Remedial Monitoring Composite Groups, Both Shipyards