



Enforcement News

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Water Board Approves \$1,254,414 Settlement for Sewage Discharges to Los Penasquitos Creek, Lagoon, and Pacific Ocean

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN DIEGO --- On May 8, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board), approved a \$1,245,414 penalty settlement against the City of San Diego for sewage discharges from Pump Station 64 during the September 8, 2011 area-wide power outage.

Approximately 2.4 million gallons of sewage spilled into Los Penasquitos Creek, Los Penasquitos Lagoon, and the Pacific Ocean when the City's redundant power supply system failed, causing a backup in collection infrastructure and the subsequent overflow. The sewage affected Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve and Torrey Pines State Beach, which support vibrant recreation, wildlife, and commercial uses.

Half of the \$1,245,414 penalty will be suspended and dismissed upon the City's successful completion of installation of backup generators for six locations throughout the City's service area where similar power failures could affect wastewater infrastructure, including Pump Station 64. The City's total budget for the purchase and installation of these backup generators is \$17,746,000. The remaining \$622,707 of the penalty will be deposited in the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account to be used to remediate pollution in the State's waters.

"The San Diego Water Board is committed to protection and restoration of the extraordinary salt marsh habitat that makes Los Penasquitos Lagoon a jewel of California. We expect the unacceptable recurrence of sewage spills from Pump Station 64 to come to a close with the installation of backup generators," said James Smith, Assistant Executive Officer.

For more information in this order, please see item #8 on the Regional Board Meeting agenda found here: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_info/agendas/2013/May/May8.shtml

The San Diego Water Board protects and restores water quality in the southwest portion of the State, including parts of San Diego, Riverside, and Orange counties. For more information: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/>