

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region
David Gibson, Executive Officer



Executive Officer's Report
December 8, 2020

Table of Contents

Part A – San Diego Region Staff Activities	2
1. Personnel Report	2
2. U.S. EPA Meetings on United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Border Funds (<i>Attachment A-2</i>).....	2
Part B – Significant Regional Water Quality Issues.....	5
1. 2018 Triennial Review Project No. 1: Tijuana River Valley Water Quality Restoration TMDLs	5
2. 2018 Triennial Review Project No. 3: Contact Water Recreation (REC-1) Water Quality Objectives	6
3. Basin Plan Mapping Project Made Available to the Public	8
4. 2021 Regional Enforcement Priorities	9
5. Enforcement Actions for September and October 2020 (<i>Attachment B-5</i>)	10
6. Sanitary Sewer Overflows and Transboundary Flows from Mexico in the San Diego Region – September 2020 (<i>Attachment B-6</i>)	10
Part C – Statewide Issues of Importance to the San Diego.....	13
1. Reporting Information from CalEPA Complaints Database	13

The December report for the Tentative Schedule of Significant NPDES Permits, WDRs, and Actions; Agenda Items Requested by Board Members; and the attachments noted above are included at the end of this report.

Part A – San Diego Region Staff Activities

1. Personnel Report

Staff Contact: Dulce Romero

An updated staff list of the San Diego Water Board can be viewed at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_info/agendas/2020/dec/StaffList_Dec2020.pdf.

Recruitment

The recruitment process continues to fill a Senior Water Resources Control Engineer position in the Groundwater Protection Unit, a Scientific Aid position in the Wetland and Riparian Protection Unit, and one Student Assistant position (Engineering and Architectural Sciences) in the Groundwater Protection Unit.

Retirement

After over 20 years of State service Craig Carlisle, Senior Engineering Geologist overseeing the Site Restoration & Agricultural Program Unit, will retire on December 31, 2020. Craig has worked in several programs at the San Diego Water Board including Basin Planning, Underground Storage Tanks, Commercial Agriculture, Department of Defense, and Site Cleanup. Craig's management of the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup program since 2008 has led to cleanup and closure of nearly two hundred leaking underground tank sites and the restoration of the beneficial uses of groundwater throughout the Region. Craig is looking forward to spending more time surfing, hiking, playing golf, and travelling and visiting with his grandkids once the pandemic allows.

Information on our vacancies can be found on the CalCareers and San Diego Water Board websites:

<https://calcareers.ca.gov/CalHRPublic/Search/AdvancedJobSearch.aspx>

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/employment/

2. U.S. EPA Meetings on United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Border Funds (*Attachment A-2*)

Staff Contact: David Gibson

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) held an Eligible Public Entities Coordinating Group (EPECG) meeting on November 19, 2020 (Attachment A-2a). Vice Chair Celeste Cantu and Executive Officer Dave Gibson represented the San Diego Water Board at the meeting. The EPECG includes representatives from:

- CalEPA
- California Natural Resource Agency
- City of Chula Vista
- City of Coronado
- City of Imperial Beach
- San Diego County
- San Diego Water Board
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Customs & Border Protection
- U.S. Department of Commerce

- City of San Diego
- North American Development Bank
- Port of San Diego
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)
- U.S. Navy

The US EPA update provided the EPECG with the status of two short-term projects: 1) river diversion from the Tijuana River to the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plan (SBIWTP), and 2) a sediment and trash control capture and diversion basin in Smuggler’s Gulch. The short-term river diversion project was suspended due to the onset of the rainy season and the failure of US EPA, IBWC, and the County of San Diego to complete a Memorandum of Understanding. Unfortunately, this also resulted in the loss of \$200,000 the San Diego Water Board sought from the State Water Resources Control Board Clean Up and Abatement Account (CAA) to offset construction expenses for the diversion. If needed next year, a second attempt to provide for this CAA funding option may be considered to protect downstream water quality and beneficial uses while the USMCA process selects and constructs a permanent solution (e.g. Project 1). The San Diego Water Board would regulate such a short-term diversion to SBIBWTP through a Time Schedule Order for the NPDES Permit.

The Smuggler’s Gulch project, led by the County of San Diego, is on track. A Proposition 68 funds concept proposal was submitted to the California Coastal Conservancy for consideration; these funds target border pollution projects identified in the SB 507 Needs and Opportunities Assessment Report. If ranked competitively, the County and supporting agencies (San Diego Water Board and the City of San Diego) will submit a full proposal in January 2021. If awarded funding in April 2021, costs would be approximately \$12 million, and construction could be complete by 2022. An operations and management plan is being prepared as part of the application process and includes eventual federal contribution for compliance with the Solid Waste Total Maximum Daily Load under development. US EPA has provided support for the project with contract resources through the USMCA process.

The update also included a detailed description of the main projects (Table 1 below) being studied for development and construction with the \$300 million dollars of the USMCA funding provided to US EPA by Congress. These projects include the top priority (Project 1) of the San Diego Water Board and state and local agencies, as identified in Resolution R9-2019-0246 (Attachment A-2b), but also includes several projects to address long standing sewerage deficiencies in Mexico.

Table 1	
USMCA Projects	Described in June 2020
Project 1:	Divert, treat, and discharge Tijuana River flows in U.S. to reduce wet-weather flows up to 163 MGD (Top Priority of San Diego Water Board and Local and State Agencies per Resolution R9-2019-0246).
Project 2	Divert Tijuana River in Mexico; treat and discharge in U.S. to eliminate dry-weather Tijuana River flows

Project 3	Shift more wastewater treatment to U.S. (via SBIWTP) to reduce flows in Tijuana River and to the facility at San Antonio de los Buenos in Tijuana.
Project 4	Shift wastewater treatment of canyon flows to U.S. (via expanded SBIWTP) to reduce flows in Tijuana River and San Antonio de los Buenos (complements Project 3)
Project 5	Enhance Mexico wastewater collection system to reduce flows into Tijuana River
Project 6	Divert or reuse treated wastewater from existing Wastewater Treatment Plants in Mexico to reduce flows into Tijuana River
Project 7	Construct new infrastructure to address trash and sediment in U.S. during wet-weather flows
New Projects	Added in October 2020
Project 8	Upgrade San Antonio de los Buenos to reduce untreated wastewater to coast
Project 9	Shift more wastewater treatment to U.S. (via SBWRP) to reduce flows in Tijuana River and San Antonio de los Buenos
Project 10	Reduce trash and sediment in Tijuana River and Goat Canyon via source control projects in Mexico

The EPECG Meeting also included an update by Dr. Falk Fedderson of Scripps Institution of Oceanography regarding on shore currents and the ability of wastes from the discharge at San Antonio de los Buenos and the Tijuana River to reach beaches in Playa de Tijuana, Imperial Beach, and Coronado under certain conditions. Although dry weather modeling demonstrates the importance of addressing sewage pollution from San Antonio de los Buenos, modeling addressing wet weather flows in the Tijuana River continue to demonstrate the need for U.S. side controls including Project 1.

US EPA held a public stakeholder meeting on Friday November 20, 2020 (Attachment A-2c). US EPA shared the presentation it gave to the EPECG the previous day and added a brief update on a short-term project to divert wastewater to Point Loma. That project was found to be infeasible after detailed discussions between the San Diego Water Board, City of San Diego, and US EPA, due primarily to flow constrictions between Pump Station 1 and Pump Station 2 that could result in overflows if overloaded in high flow events (e.g. inflow and infiltration during rain events). Other options for the use of this pipeline and capacity at Point Loma may be considered in one or more long term USMCA project alternatives.

Copies of the attachments are available by contacting Christina Blank at Christina.Blank@Waterboards.ca.gov.

Part B – Significant Regional Water Quality Issues

1. 2018 Triennial Review Project No. 1: Tijuana River Valley Water Quality Restoration TMDLs

Staff Contact: Melissa Corona

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Lead: Melissa Corona

Supervisor: Cynthia Gorham

Report Date: December 2020

Report Period: August 2020-October 2020

Overall Status: On track

Website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/tmdls/tijuanarivervalle.html

Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for indicator bacteria and trash in the Tijuana River because the San Diego Water Board has identified human health and ecosystem impacts in the Tijuana River Valley as regional priorities for many years. The TMDL development process includes timely communication with the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team, selecting numeric targets, identifying pollutant load reductions, and evaluating potential management actions.

Although the Tijuana River is on the 2014/2016 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments for impairments due to a total of 20 pollutants, control of the anthropogenic sources of indicator bacteria and trash is likely to result in a significant reduction of the remaining pollutants.

Project Objective:

The objective is to reduce pollutant loads entering the Tijuana River in order to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Tijuana River as well as the downstream Tijuana River Estuary and coastal waters.

Triennial Review Commitments:

Development of TMDLs for indicator and trash with implementation plans to restore impaired waters in the Tijuana River Valley.

Key Milestone	Target Date	Status
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting	May 15, 2019	Completed
Peer review of draft TMDL technical report	Spring 2021 (Revised from Summer 2020-21)	On track
Public review of draft TMDL technical report	Summer 2021 (Revised from Winter 2020-21)	On track
Basin Plan amendment package to San Diego Water Board for adoption	Fall 2021 (Revised from August 2021)	On track

B. PROGRESS REPORT: Tijuana River Valley TMDLs

Reporting Period Events

Accomplishments during period	n/a
Collaboration during period	n/a
Activities planned but not completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal review and revision of the draft TMDL staff report has not been completed.• Preparation of external scientific peer review materials has not been completed.
Key issues during period	The time needed for completion of the draft TMDL report for peer review has been extended due to additional internal review/revisions and discussions with permitting staff and legal counsel regarding revisions to the implementation plan.

Looking Forward

Activities planned for next period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completion of draft TMDL staff report internal review and revision.• Preparation of external scientific peer review materials.
Key issues on the horizon	This project could be affected by a number of efforts involving the Tijuana River Valley, including the San Diego Water Board's involvement in a lawsuit against the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), action on an investigative order issued to USIBWC in February 2020 for monitoring of water and sediment quality, efforts regarding IBWC Minute 320, and efforts led by the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team.

2. 2018 Triennial Review Project No. 3: Contact Water Recreation (REC-1) Water Quality Objectives

Staff Contact: Michelle Santillan

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Lead: Michelle Santillan

Supervisor: Cynthia Gorham

Report Date: December 2020

Report Period: August 2020-October 2020

Overall Status: On track

Website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/issue3.shtml

Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to implement and track progress of recommendations outlined in the [2014 Triennial Review Project Summary Report \(2018\)](#). The goal is to focus on short-term actions that can be completed within the next three years.

Project Objective:

1. To protect REC-1 beneficial uses,
2. To adopt new and/or updated regulations based upon the latest technical findings and scientific understanding,

3. To facilitate effective use of resources by regulated parties, and
4. To ensure judicious use of San Diego Water Board resources.

Triennial Review Commitments:

Staff committed to focus on short-term actions that can be completed within the next three years that were identified in the 2018 recommendations report for the 2014 Triennial Review REC-1 project. These actions may include:

1. Updating the municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) permit,
2. Updating waste discharge requirements for sanitary sewer systems,
3. Issuing an Investigative Order for the San Diego River Watershed, and
4. Updating Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan to reflect the latest statewide water quality standards for bacteria in the Water Quality Control Plans for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California, and for Ocean Waters of California.

Key Milestone	Target Date	Status
Draft Basin Plan Amendment for Public Review	May 2019	Released in December 2019
Public Hearing for San Diego River Watershed Investigative Order	June 2019	Adopted by San Diego Water Board on June 12, 2019
Basin Plan Amendment for Board Consideration	December 2019	Adopted by San Diego Water Board on March 5, 2020
Updates to Basin Plan Amendment for Public Review	October 2020	On Track
Updated Basin Plan Amendment for Board Consideration	December 8, 2020	On Track
Public Workshop for MS4 Permit Renewal	TBD	
Public Hearing for MS4 Permit Renewal	Winter 2021	
Draft Revisions to Regional WDRs for Sanitary Sewer Systems	TBD	Staff participated in the State Water Board effort to identify proposed revisions to statewide requirements for sanitary sewer systems.

B. PROGRESS REPORT: REC-1 Water Quality Objectives

Reporting Period Events

Accomplishments during period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Basin Plan Amendment to incorporate the latest statewide bacteria water quality objectives was adopted by the Board in March 2020 (Resolution No. R9-2020-0036). Since then, significant formatting changes and other non-substantive edits have been made to the Basin Plan Amendment to make it compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
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	<p>Furthermore, additional clarifying language related to the tribal beneficial uses was added. The changes are still considered to be non-regulatory in nature, however, in order to be transparent, the San Diego Water Board is recirculating the updates for a second public review period prior to submitting them to the State Water Board for further approval. The public review period extended from October 16, 2020 to November 30, 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are reviewing REC-1 data through June 2019 and conducting assessments using the new statewide bacteria standards. Staff will provide draft Clean Water Act 303 (d) list/ 305 (b) Report decisions to the State Water Board in January 2021 and anticipate presenting those recommended listing decisions to the San Diego Water Board at its February 2021 meeting. • Work funded by MS4 Copermittees for the development of risk based HF183 thresholds protective of the water contact recreation beneficial use has been published in Microbial Risk Analysis.
Collaboration during period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MS4 team met with responsible parties in August 2020 to discuss the Investigative Order sampling workplan. Sampling is anticipated to begin in December 2020. • The internal bacteria workgroup met in September 2020.
Activities planned but not completed	None
Key issues during period	None

Looking Forward

Activities planned for next period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will prepare the Basin Plan Amendment for State Water Board approval.
Key issues on the horizon	None

3. Basin Plan Mapping Project Made Available to the Public

Staff Contact: Michelle Santillan

The California Water Boards have released the Basin Plan Mapping Project (BPMP), a Geographic Information System (GIS) dataset that contains information about the beneficial uses and waterbody segments identified in regional Basin Plans. The BPMP is a collaborative effort between the State Water Board and the 9 Regional Water Boards across California. The interactive map allows users to search for areas and/or water bodies of interest and provides water body beneficial uses throughout the state. The BPMP is available on the State Water Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/data_databases/basin_plan_portal.html

The California Basin Plan GIS Data Library was also created as part of the BPMP. The GIS Data Library provides a central location for managing and sharing Basin Plan GIS layers, maps, and applications; all information is available to the public.

The San Diego Water Board used the base layer for the BPMP and added additional features to create the San Diego Basin Plan Map web application. Additional features include watersheds with applicable Total Maximum Daily Loads, surface waters identified as impaired on the 2014-2016 Clean Water Act 303(d) list, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Protected Areas, and Department of Water Resources Groundwater Basins. The San Diego Basin Plan Map web application is available on the San Diego Water Board webpage at:

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

4. 2021 Regional Enforcement Priorities

Staff Contact: Chiara Clemente

To help ensure the fairness and impartiality of formal enforcement proceedings, the functions of those who will act in a prosecutorial role by presenting evidence for consideration by the San Diego Water Board (Prosecution Team) are separated from those who will provide advice to the San Diego Water Board (Advisory Team). Advisory and prosecution staff members (led by the Executive Officer and Assistant Executive Officer, respectively) met in November for an annual evaluation of regional enforcement priorities, in accordance with the State Water Board's [2017 Enforcement Policy](#) and the San Diego Water Board's subsequent [Resolution No. R9-2018-0043](#). Since the 2018 Resolution, the Board's direction has been to prioritize enforcement of violations that affect one or more [key beneficial use categories](#) (i.e. municipal water supply, fish and shellfish consumption, recreation, and ecosystem health) in a key area for the specific use. In accordance with Resolution No. R9-2018-0043, this report serves as notice to the Board and the public that the Executive Officer does not recommend any changes to the regional enforcement priorities for 2021.

Examples of priority enforcement scenarios might include sanitary sewer overflows that result in beach closures at intensively used beaches, unauthorized discharges with pollutants that affect a local water supply, unreasonable delays in bay sediment cleanups, or unpermitted alteration of high quality or reference stream areas. Selection of new enforcement cases by the Prosecution Team revolves around a discussion of these types of violations.

As directed by the Board during its endorsement of the 2018 regional enforcement priorities, secondary factors for consideration include statewide prioritization criteria listed in the 2017 Enforcement Policy. Those factors include compliance history, magnitude of the impacts (i.e. degree of harm), strength of the evidence, available staff resources, and considerations for environmental justice and the human right to water. In absence of violations that are of regional priority, these criteria often tend to drive the selection of new enforcement cases.

The regional enforcement priorities target pollution or contamination in the most important water bodies, and investigations typically begin in response to known discrete incidents such as spills or reported permit violations in those waters. In 2019, staff initiated a pilot effort to conduct compliance investigations based on water quality data. The objective of this exercise is to improve water quality in these key areas and identify potential non-compliance, preferably without prolonged enforcement proceedings. Staff identified a handful of sites in key areas or areas of special importance with anomalous water quality data and used recently acquired mapping tools and sampling capabilities

to investigate the source(s). These efforts continued in 2020 where staff worked cooperatively with local agencies to verify, sample, and otherwise investigate sources of contamination in or to these key areas. Through this continued effort in 2020, illicit discharges to Mission Bay and Carlsbad Highlands Ecological Reserve were identified and terminated. Staff plans to continue this effort into 2021 as another path for using enforcement resources to achieve meaningful environmental outcomes.

5. Enforcement Actions for September and October 2020 (Attachment B-5)

Staff Contact: Chiara Clemente

During the months of September and October 2020, the San Diego Water Board issued 1 Administrative Civil Liability Settlement Order, 1 Investigative Order, 3 Notices of Violation, and 5 Staff Enforcement Letters. A summary of each written enforcement action taken is provided in the attached table. The State Water Board's [Enforcement Policy](#) contains a brief description of the kinds of enforcement actions the Water Boards can take.

Additional information on violations, enforcement actions, and mandatory minimum penalties is available to the public from the following on-line sources:

State Water Board Office of Enforcement webpage:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/enforcement/

California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS):

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs/publicreports.shtml

State Water Board GeoTracker database: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>

6. Sanitary Sewer Overflows and Transboundary Flows from Mexico in the San Diego Region – September 2020 (Attachment B-6)

Staff Contact: Keith Yaeger

Sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) discharges from public sewage collection systems and private laterals, and transboundary flows from Mexico into the San Diego Region can contain high levels of suspended solids, pathogenic organisms, toxic pollutants, nutrients, oil, and grease. SSO discharges and transboundary flows can pollute surface and ground waters, thereby threatening public health, adversely affecting aquatic life, and impairing the recreational use and aesthetic enjoyment of surface waters. Typical impacts of SSO discharges and transboundary flows include the closure of beaches and other recreational areas, the inundation of property, and the pollution of rivers, estuaries, and beaches.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)

State agencies, municipalities, counties, districts, and other entities (collectively referred to as public entities) that own or operate sewage collection systems report SSO spills through an on-line database system, the *California Integrated Water Quality System* (CIWQS). These SSO spills are required to be reported under the [Statewide General](#)

[SSO Order](#)¹, the [San Diego Regional General SSO Order](#)², and/or individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. Some federal entities³ report this information voluntarily. Most SSO reports are available to the public on a real-time basis at the following State Water Board webpage:
https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/readOnly/PublicReportSSOServlet?reportAction=criteria&reportId=sso_main.

Details on the reported SSOs are provided in the following attached tables:

- Table 1: September 2020 - Summary of Public and Federal Sanitary Sewer Overflow Events
- Table 2: September 2020 - Summary of Private Lateral Sewage Discharge Events
- Table 3: September 2020 - Summary of Sewage Discharges by Source

A summary view of information on SSO trends is provided in the following attached figures:

- Figure 1: Number of SSOs per Month
- Figure 2: Volume of SSOs per Month

These figures show the number and total volume of sewage spills per month from September 2019 to September 2020. During this period, 37 of the 63 collection systems in the San Diego Region regulated under the Statewide SSO Program reported one or more sewage spills. Twenty-six collection systems did not report any sewage spills. A total of 320 sewage spills were reported and over 14.6 million gallons of sewage reached surface waters.

Additional information about the San Diego Water Board sewage overflow regulatory program is available at
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/sso/index.shtml.

Transboundary Flows

Water and wastewater in the Tijuana River and from canyons located along the international border ultimately drain from the City of Tijuana, Mexico into the United States (U.S.). The water and wastewater flows are collectively referred to as transboundary flows. The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) operates canyon collectors that capture dry weather transboundary flows for treatment at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) at the U.S./Mexico border. Dry weather transboundary flows that are

¹ State Water Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems* as amended by Order No. WQ 2013-0058-EXEC, *Amending Monitoring and Reporting Program for Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems*.

² San Diego Water Board Order No. R9-2007-0005, *Waste Discharge Requirements for Sewage Collection Agencies in the San Diego Region*.

³ Marine Corp Base Camp Pendleton reports sewage spills to CIWQS as required by its individual NPDES permit, Order No. R9-2013-0112, NPDES Permit No. CA0109347, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Southern Regional Tertiary Treatment Plant and Advanced Water Treatment Plant, Discharge to the Pacific Ocean via the Oceanside Ocean Outfall*. The U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the U.S. Navy voluntarily report sewage spills through CIWQS.

not captured by the canyon collectors for treatment at the SBIWTP, such as flows within the main channel of the Tijuana River⁴, are reported by the USIBWC pursuant to [Order No. R9-2014-0009](#), the NPDES permit for the SBIWTP discharge. These uncaptured flows can enter waters of the U.S. and/or State, potentially polluting the Tijuana River Valley and Estuary, and south San Diego beach coastal waters.

During the month of September 2020, there were four reported dry weather transboundary flows that resulted in nearly 3 million gallons of contaminated water⁵ flowing from Mexico into the United States. Details on the transboundary flows reported in September 2020 are provided in the attached tables:

- Table 4: September 2020 - Summary of Transboundary Flows from Mexico by Event
- Table 5: September 2020 - Summary of Transboundary Flows from Mexico by Weather Condition

According to the 1944 *Water Treaty for the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande* and stipulations established in [IBWC Minute No. 283](#), the USIBWC and the Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (CILA)⁶ share responsibility for addressing border sanitation problems, including transboundary flows. Efforts on both sides of the border have led to the construction and ongoing operation of several pump stations and treatment plants to reduce the frequency, volume, and pollutant levels of transboundary flows. This infrastructure includes but is not limited to the following:

- The SBIWTP, located just north of the U.S./Mexico border, provides secondary treatment for a portion of the sewage from Tijuana, Mexico and transboundary flows conveyed from canyon collectors located in Smuggler's Gulch, Goat Canyon, Canyon del Sol, Stewart's Drain, and Silva Drain. The secondary-treated wastewater is discharged to the Pacific Ocean through the South Bay Ocean Outfall, in accordance with USIBWC's NPDES permit, Order No. R9-2014-0009.
- Several pump stations and wastewater treatment plants in Tijuana, Mexico.
- The River Diversion Structure and Pump Station CILA in the City of Tijuana diverts dry weather transboundary flows from the Tijuana River. The flows are diverted to a discharge point at the Pacific Ocean shoreline, approximately 5.6 miles south of the U.S./Mexico border; or the flows can be diverted to SBIWTP or another wastewater treatment plant in Tijuana, depending on how Tijuana's public utility department (CESPT) directs the flow into the collection system. The River Diversion Structure is not designed to collect wet weather river flows and any river flows over 1,000 liters per second (35.3 cubic feet per second, 22.8 MGD).

⁴ Tijuana River transboundary flows typically consist of a mixture of groundwater, urban run-off, storm water, treated sewage wastewater, and untreated sewage wastewater from infrastructure deficiencies and other sources in Mexico.

⁵ As used in this report, the term "contaminated water" is intended to refer to water that either meets the definition of "contamination" under Water Code section 13050(k) or that creates, or threatens to create, a condition of "pollution" under Water Code section 13050(l).

⁶ The Mexican section of the IBWC.

Additional information about sewage pollution within the Tijuana River Watershed is available at

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/tijuana_river_valley_strategy/sewage_issue.html.

Part C – Statewide Issues of Importance to the San Diego

1. Reporting Information from CalEPA Complaints Database

Staff Contact: Chiara Clemente

In 2016 CalEPA launched an on-line tool that provides a one-stop website for the public to report environmental complaints. Each CalEPA board, division, and office (BDO) provides the link to this site on its home page.⁷ Public users can upload complaints online, with attachments, and choose whether to submit anonymously or receive email updates as the complaint is investigated. Based on the nature of the complaint, each complaint is assigned to one or more BDOs for investigation. The BDOs can refer the complaint and upload their findings into the database for other investigatory agencies to view. Through this database, CalEPA has expanded its ability to track each BDO's efforts and provides annual progress reports.

For Fiscal Year 2019-2020:

- The water boards received 917 complaints through the database.⁸ Of those, the San Diego Water Board received 115 complaints, second in number only to Regions 4 (Los Angeles) and 5 (Central Valley).
- San Diego Water Board staff investigated and closed 85 complaints. In many cases, there was insufficient evidence to support the allegations in the complaint. In some cases, however, the complaints resulted in identifying and addressing violations, thereby improving water quality. The investigations were conducted either directly (i.e. through water board staff inspections) or indirectly, through referral to local agencies for investigation per their local ordinances (e.g. septic system requirements or illicit discharge detection and elimination programs pursuant to municipal storm water requirements). There is a great deal of collaboration and reliance on the local agencies through this complaints database system.
- The remaining complaints are either pending staff review (3) or have been referred to local agencies for investigation (27) and are awaiting findings. Once the findings from the local agencies are uploaded to the database, program staff will evaluate whether to close the complaint or investigate further.

Staff's level of effort investigating each complaint is relative to the allegations, the potential threat of such allegations to key uses, and the resources available to investigate. Most of the complaints received involve illicit discharges to or from municipal storm drain systems. Other allegations include failing septic systems, inadequate construction Best Management Practices, habitat disturbance, or unauthorized grading. In some cases, such as complaints related to land use planning decisions, the water boards have limited regulatory authority.

⁷ <https://calepacomplaints.secure.force.com/complaints/>

⁸ Note that some complaints are still received externally through emails and telephone calls, and not entered in the CalEPA database.

The BDOs continue to meet at least monthly to discuss changes to the database, and program improvements are still planned for the short and long-term future. The Board's enforcement coordinator, Chiara Clemente, participates in these meetings and disseminates pertinent information to other complaint managers throughout the office.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION

Significant NPDES Permits,
WDRs, and Actions of the
San Diego Water Board

December 8, 2020

APPENDED TO EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
SIGNIFICANT NPDES PERMITS, WDRs, AND ACTIONS
OF THE SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD**

Action Agenda Items – San Diego Water Board

January 2021
No Meeting Scheduled

February 10, 2021
Remote Meeting

Action Agenda Item	Action Type	Draft Complete	Written Comments Due	Consent Item
Amendment No. 2 to Order No. R9-2005-0258, Waste Discharge Requirements for Skyline Ranch Country Club Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Diego County. <i>(Bushnell)</i>	Waste Discharge Requirement Amendment	50%	6-Jan-21	Yes
Addendum No. 2 to Order No. 88-54, Waste Discharge Requirements for Calmat Company, San Diego County <i>(Bushnell)</i>	Waste Discharge Requirement Addendum	50%	6-Jan-21	Yes
Rescission of Order No. 94-115, Waste Discharge Requirements for J. Mark Grosvenor, Trustee Stallion Oaks Ranch, San Diego County <i>(Komeilyan)</i>	Waste Discharge Requirements Rescission	50%	6-Jan-21	Yes
Amendment to Order No. R9-2010-0004, as amended by Order No. R9-2011-0039: Waste Discharge Requirements for the United State Marine Corps, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Las Pulgas Landfill, San Diego County. <i>(Grove)</i>	Waste Discharge Requirement Amendment	90%	4-Jan-21	Yes
Discussion of Draft Findings for the 2022 Clean Water Act Sections 303(d) and 305(b) Integrated Report. <i>(Nagoda)</i>	Informational Item	30%	TBD	NA
San Diego Water Board Practical Vision Update. <i>(Gibson)</i>	Resolution	33%	NA	TBD

**March 10, 2021
Remote Meeting**

Agenda items for the March Board meeting will be determined at a later time.

Agenda Items Requested by Board Members**June 10, 2020**

Requested Agenda Item	Board Member	Status
San Diego State University (SDSU) to present the findings of its preliminary homeless encampment bacteria report.	Strawn	Ongoing
Orange County Water District to present its PFAS Pilot Program and a representative from OEHHA to discuss the appropriate laboratory analytical test methods for PFAS at a future Board Meeting.	Abarbanel, Olson	April 2021

August 12, 2020

Requested Agenda Item	Board Member	Status
Update on how municipalities in the Region are dealing with increased trash in public spaces (specifically beaches) given intensified use during the COVID pandemic.	Warren	Winter 2021
Any agreement or resolution to use Supplemental Environmental Project funds to supplement SCCWRP Ambient Monitoring Programs include an effort to avoid spending SEP funds on administrative costs.	Abarbanel	Summer 2021

September 9, 2020

Requested Agenda Item	Board Member	Status
Update on new scientific information regarding climate change and how we are including climate change considerations in our work.	Abarbanel	February 2021

October 14, 2020

Requested Agenda Item	Board Member	Status
Notify Board Members when staff plan to attend community of public environmental meetings for outreach purposes so they can participate should they desire.	Warren	Ongoing

November 2020

Requested Agenda Item	Board Member	Status
Staff to keep Board Member informed of any water quality concerns within the San Diego Region that should be shared with the Water Quality Subcommittee for the Western States Water Council.	Olson	Ongoing
Notification of dates when the San Diego City Council will consider taking an action on the De Anza Cove Amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan and any related CEQA actions.	Abarbanel	Ongoing
Updates on the City of San Diego's planning process for the De Anza/ReWild project when available.	Warren	Ongoing
Monthly check-in about the progress of the Lake San Marcos project.	Olson	Ongoing

Enforcement Actions for September and October 2020

NPDES WASTEWATER

Enforcement Date	Enforcement Action	Entity/ Facility/Location	Summary of Violations and Enforcement	Applicable Permit/Order Violated
9/10/2020	Notice of Violation No. R9-2020-0243	South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, International Boundary and Water Commission, US & Mexico Section, San Diego	Failure to conduct binational technical committee meetings	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Order No. R9-2014-0009
9/14/2020	Notice of Violation No. R9-2020-0244	South Bay International Water Treatment Plant, International Boundary and Water Commission, US & Mexico Section, San Diego	Exceedance of settleable solids effluent limitation, and failure to identify exceedance in self-monitoring reports	NPDES Order No. R9-2014-0009
9/15/2020	Staff Enforcement Letter	San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, Groundwater Extraction, San Diego International Airport Cistern Project, San Diego	Exceedance of effluent limitation for Total Recoverable Copper	NPDES General Order No. R9-2015-0013
10/23/2020	Staff Enforcement Letter	CVS Pharmacy, CVS Permanent Groundwater Extraction 5455 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla	Late and deficient reporting	NPDES General Order No. R9-2015-0013
10/23/2020	Staff Enforcement Letter	BSK Del Partners LLC, Groundwater Extraction, Hotel del Coronado, Coronado	Late reporting	NPDES General Order No. R9-2015-0013
10/23/2020	Staff Enforcement Letter	Department of Public Works, County of San Diego, Groundwater Extraction, Willows Road Bridge, San Diego County	Late reporting	NPDES General Order No. R9-2015-0013

Enforcement Actions for September and October 2020

NPDES STORMWATER

Enforcement Date	Enforcement Action	Entity/ Facility/Location	Summary of Violations and Enforcement	Applicable Permit/Order Violated
10/13/2020	Staff Enforcement Letter	Friendly Recycling, Spring Valley	Failure to meet No Exposure Certification (NEC) criteria	NPDES Industrial General Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS (SSOs) & UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGES

Enforcement Date	Enforcement Action	Entity/ Facility/Location	Summary of Violations and Enforcement	Applicable Permit/Order Violated
10/14/2020	Administrative Civil Liability No. R9-2020-0150	City of San Diego (Public Utilities), Wastewater Collection System, San Diego	Settlement agreement totaling \$2,541,874 for January 2016 discharge of 6,750,734 gallons of untreated sewage to Tecolote Creek and Mission Bay with a Supplemental Environmental Project	Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) General Order No. R9-2007-0005 and General Order No. 2006-003-DWQ
10/6/2020	Investigative Order No. R9- 2020-0250	Creekside Meadows Apartments Inc., Creekside Meadows Apartment Complex, Alpine	Unauthorized discharge of raw sewage to Alpine Creek, upstream of El Capitan Reservoir	Basin Plan prohibitions 1 and 9. Order issued pursuant to California Water Code Section 13267

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS: AGRICULTURE

Enforcement Date	Enforcement Action	Entity/ Facility/Location	Summary of Violations and Enforcement	Applicable Permit/Order Violated
9/14/2020	Notice of Violation No. R9- 2020-0245	Eric Girard, Temecula	Failure to submit a Notice of Intent; discharging without a permit	Order No. R9-2016- 0004, WDR for Commercial Agricultural Operations; CWC Section 13260

Table 1: September 2020 – Summary of Public and Federal Sanitary Sewer Overflow Events

Responsible Collection System Agency	Total Volume (Gallons) ¹	Total Recovered (Gallons) ²	Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons) ³	Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain and Recovered (Gallons) ⁴	Total Discharged to Land (Gallons) ⁵	Surface Water Body Affected ⁶	Miles of Pressure Sewer	Miles of Gravity Sewer	Population in Service Area ⁷
City of Encinitas	29	0	0	0	29	Not Applicable	4.4	124.0	36,200
City of Escondido	40	40	0	0	40	Not Applicable	8.5	344.0	148,000
City of Laguna Beach	300	300	0	0	300	Not Applicable	9.0	86.0	18,000
City of San Diego	274	274	0	0	274	Not Applicable	112.5	2,925.1	2,500,000

¹ Total Volume = total amount that discharged from sanitary sewer system to a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

² Total Recovered = total amount recovered from a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

³ Total Reaching Surface Waters = total amount reaching separate storm drain (not recovered), drainage channel, and/or surface water body, but does not include amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered.

⁴ Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain and Recovered = total amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered.

⁵ Total Discharged to Land = total amount reaching land.

⁶ Agencies are only required to note the surface water body affected if the discharge reaches or has the potential to reach a surface water. If the discharge did not reach a surface water and does not have a potential to reach a surface water (i.e., a discharge to land or a discharge to a separate storm drain that is fully recovered) the surface water body affected is listed as “Not Applicable.” If the discharge was to a surface water body or to a separate storm drain and was not fully recovered, and the surface water body was not reported, the surface water body affected is listed as “Not Reported.”

⁷ As reported in the Collection System Questionnaire required under Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ.

Responsible Collection System Agency	Total Volume (Gallons)¹	Total Recovered (Gallons)²	Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)³	Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain and Recovered (Gallons)⁴	Total Discharged to Land (Gallons)⁵	Surface Water Body Affected⁶	Miles of Pressure Sewer	Miles of Gravity Sewer	Population in Service Area⁷
City of San Diego	190	190	0	0	190	Not Applicable	112.5	2,925.1	2,500,000
City of San Diego	182	182	0	0	182	Not Applicable	112.5	2,925.1	2,500,000
County of San Diego Sanitation District	171	0	0	0	171	Not Applicable	5.5	422.0	154,716
United States Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton	150	100	50	100	0	Las Pulgas Creek	39.2	125.0	83,340

Table 2: September 2020 – Summary of Private Lateral Sewage Discharge Events

Responsible Collection System Agency	Total Volume (Gallons)¹	Total Recovered (Gallons)²	Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)³	Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain & Recovered and/or Discharged to Land (Gallons)⁴	Surface Water Body Affected⁵	Population in Service Area⁶	Number of Lateral Connections
City of Laguna Beach	50	50	0	50	Not Applicable	18,000	6,650
City of San Diego	75	75	0	75	Not Applicable	2,500,000	265,012
City of San Diego	55	55	0	55	Not Applicable	2,500,000	265,012
City of San Diego	19	19	0	19	Not Applicable	2,500,000	265,012
City of Vista	50	50	0	50	Not Applicable	91,800	16,823
El Toro Water District	763	607	156	607	Drainage Channel	48,821	9,549
Leucadia Wastewater District	1,913	1,800	113	1,800	Not Reported	62,607	20,682

¹ Total Volume = total amount that discharged from private lateral to a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

² Total Recovered = total amount recovered from a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

³ Total Reaching Surface Waters = total amount reaching separate storm drain (not recovered), drainage channel, and/or surface water body, but does not include amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered.

⁴ Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain & Recovered and/or Discharged to Land = total amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered and/or total amount reaching land.

⁵ Agencies are only required to note the surface water body affected if the discharge reaches or has the potential to reach a surface water. If the discharge did not reach a surface water and does not have a potential to reach surface water (i.e., a discharge to land or a discharge to a separate storm drain that is fully recovered) the surface water body affected is listed as "Not Applicable." If the discharge was to a surface water body or to a separate storm drain and was not fully recovered, and the surface water body was not reported, the surface water body affected is listed as "Not Reported."

⁶ As reported in the Collection System Questionnaire required under Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ.

Responsible Collection System Agency	Total Volume (Gallons)¹	Total Recovered (Gallons)²	Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)³	Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain & Recovered and/or Discharged to Land (Gallons)⁴	Surface Water Body Affected⁵	Population in Service Area⁶	Number of Lateral Connections
South Coast Water District	44	44	0	44	Not Applicable	42,000	14,762
South Coast Water District	20	20	0	20	Not Applicable	42,000	14,762

Table 3: September 2020 – Summary of Sewage Discharges by Source

Spill Type	Month/Year	Number of Spills	Total Volume (Gallons)¹	Total Recovered (Gallons)²	Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)³	Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain & Recovered and/or Discharged to Land (Gallons)⁴
Public Spills	August 2020	5	36,925	14,800	11,500	25,425
Federal Spills	August 2020	Public Spills	September 2020	7	1,186	986
Private Spills	August 2020	Federal Spills	September 2020	1	150	100
All Spills	August 2020	Private Spills	September 2020	9	2,989	2,720

¹ Total Volume = total amount that discharged from sanitary sewer system to a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

² Total Recovered = total amount recovered from a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.

³ Total Reaching Surface Waters = total amount reaching separate storm drain (not recovered), drainage channel, and/or surface water body, but does not include amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered.

⁴ Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain & Recovered and/or Discharged to Land = total amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered and/or total amount reaching land.

Figure 1: Number of SSOs per Month

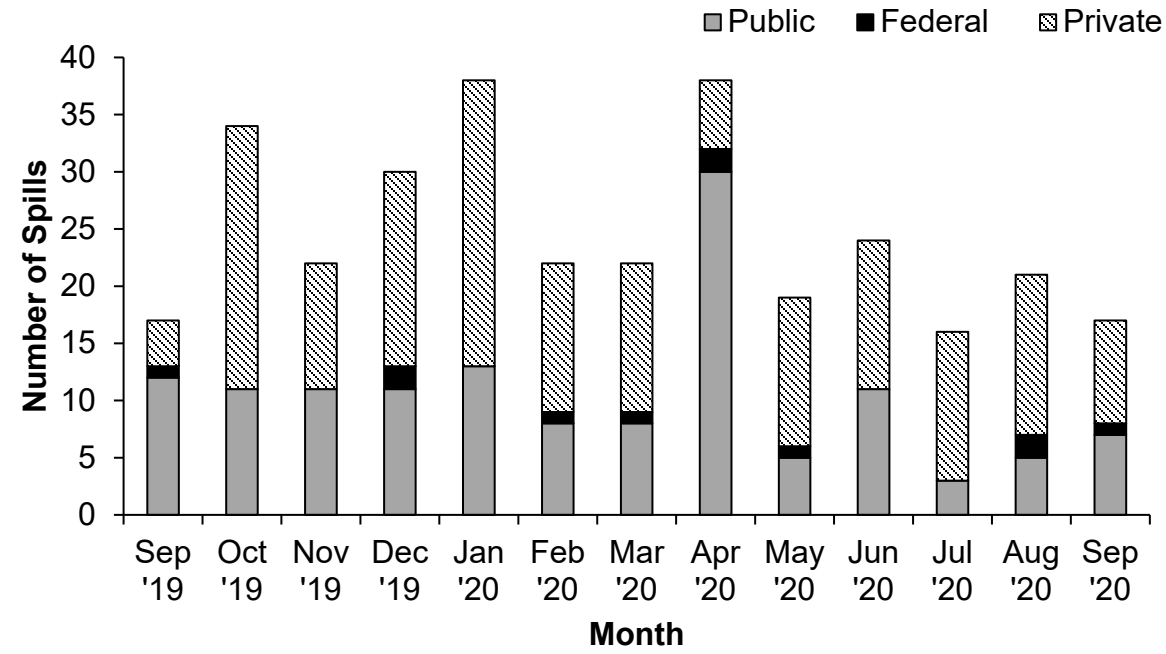


Figure 1: The number of public, federal, and private sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) per month from September 2019 to September 2020.

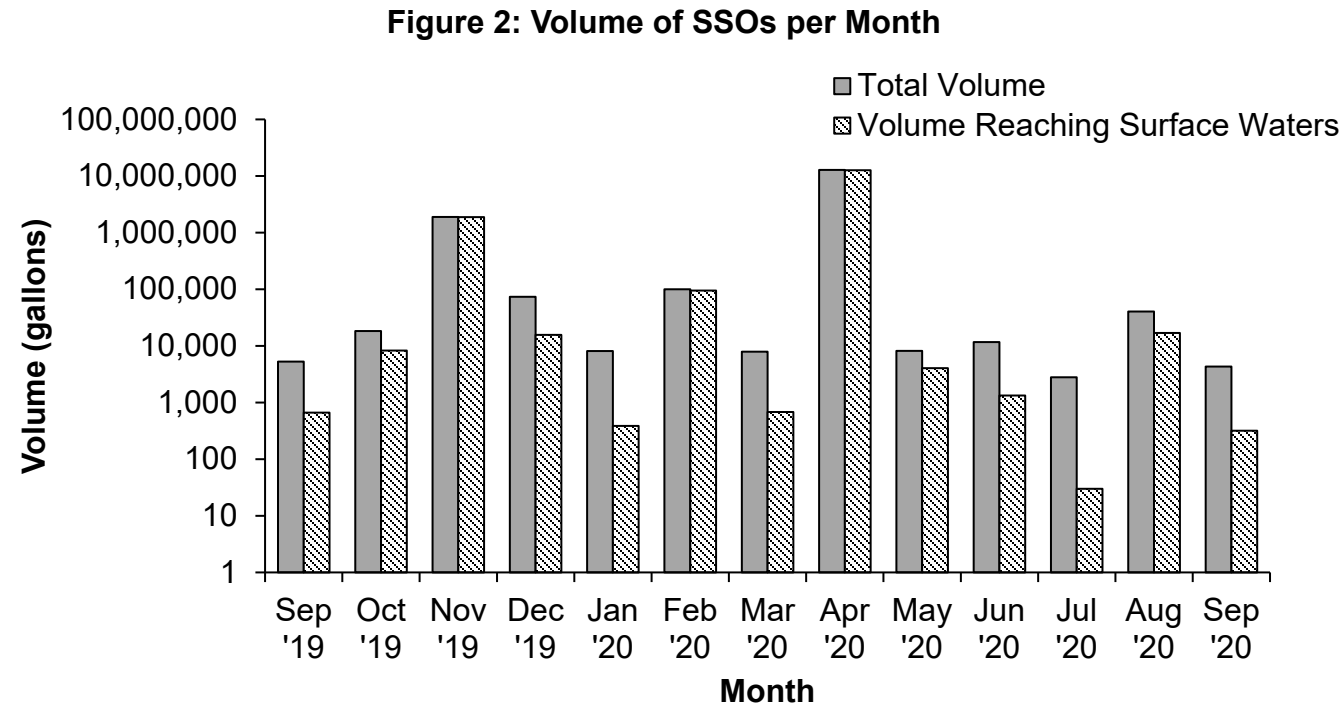


Figure 2: The volume of public, federal, and private sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) per month from September 2019 to September 2020. Note the logarithmic scale on the vertical axis showing the wide variation in SSO volumes.

Table 4: September 2020 – Summary of Transboundary Flows from Mexico by Event¹

Location	Date(s) of Transboundary Flow	Weather Condition ²	Total Volume (Gallons)	Total Recovered (Gallons)	Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)	Additional Details
Tijuana River	9/1/2020 through 9/2/2020	Dry	1,714,000	0	1,714,000	Trash and debris blocked the intake screens of Pump Station CILA allowing flow in the Tijuana River to bypass the River Diversion Structure and cross the U.S./Mexico border.
Tijuana River	9/2/2020 through 9/3/2020	Dry	283,000	0	283,000	Trash and debris blocked the intake screens of Pump Station CILA allowing flow in the Tijuana River to bypass the River Diversion Structure and cross the U.S./Mexico border.
Stewart's Drain	9/5/2020	Dry	33,900	0	33,900	Sudden surge of water from Mexico.
Tijuana River	9/19/2020	Dry	877,315	0	877,315	Trash and debris blocked the intake screens of Pump Station CILA allowing flow in the Tijuana River to bypass the River Diversion Structure and cross the U.S./Mexico border.

¹ Transboundary flow volumes are obtained from self-monitoring reports submitted by USIBWC under Order No. R9-2014-0009.

² Order No. R9-2014-0009 requires monthly reporting of all dry weather transboundary flows defined as the preceding 72 hours have been without precipitation greater than 0.1 inch, based on the Goat Canyon Pump Station rain gauge. Wet weather transboundary flows are not required to be reported and information is provided voluntarily.

Table 5: September 2020 - Summary of Transboundary Flows from Mexico by Weather Condition

Weather Condition¹	Month/Year	Total Volume (Gallons)	Total Recovered (Gallons)	Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)
Dry Weather	September 2020	2,908,215	0	2,908,215
Wet Weather	September 2020	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

¹ Order No. R9-2014-0009 requires monthly reporting of all dry weather transboundary flows. Wet weather transboundary flows are not required to be reported. All wet weather transboundary flow information is provided voluntarily.