**California Regional Water Quality Control Board**
**San Diego Region**

**David Gibson, Executive Officer**

**Executive Officer's Report**
**August 14, 2024**

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**The August 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 San Diego Water Board staff list is available online at: San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Staff List (ca.gov).

Recruitment

We are recruiting for five positions: one Scientific Aid and one Water Resource Control Engineer in the Surface Water Protection Branch, and two Water Resources Control Engineers and one Engineering Geologist in the Site Restoration and Groundwater Protection Branch.

Filled Vacancies

The Surface Water Protection Branch welcomes our new Environmental Scientist, Dr. Lauren Kim. Lauren's main responsibilities include working in the dredge and/or fill program to protect impacts to streams, wetlands, and other aquatic resources through issuing Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications and Waste Discharge Requirements. She will also be the liaison with Caltrans and assist with the dredge and/or fill permitting process for transportation projects. Lauren has a PhD in Physical Oceanography from Scripps Institution of Oceanography from UCSD.

The Healthy Waters Branch welcomes our new Water Resources Control Engineer, Riley Nolan. Riley worked as a Water Resources Control Engineer in the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights for the past 3.5 years. In his prior role, Riley worked on the development and implementation of emergency regulations for water right curtailments in response to drought in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed. Riley also worked on statewide diversion measurement and reporting regulations and led water rights investigations of hydroelectric and irrigation projects in the Eel River, Russian River, and Merced River watersheds. Riley received his B.S. in BioResource and Agricultural Engineering and a minor in Spanish from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in December 2020. In his free time, Riley enjoys backpacking, cooking, racquetball, gardening, languages and traveling.

Retirement

After 31 years at the San Diego Regional Water Board, Engineering Geologist Brian McDaniel retired on July 30. Brian began working with the Water Boards in 1993 in the landfill and Department of Defense programs and then spent many years in the site cleanup program helping remediate contamination in the region's soils and groundwater. You might now find Brian visiting National Parks, on a golf course, or on one of the many San Diego bike paths. We appreciate all of Brian's hard work protecting water quality and his dedication to the Water Boards. He will be greatly missed.

Information regarding our vacancies is located 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. San Diego Water Board Outreach During 2024 San Diego County Fair

*Staff Contact: Laurie Walsh*

During June and July 2024 San Diego Water Board staff participated in a regional outreach event at the San Diego County Fair. San Diego Water Board staff hosted a table in the EcoBooth at the Fair and were able to engage with 200-500 members of the public each day. Staff shared information about the State and Regional Water Quality Control Board's mission to protect water quality and beneficial uses and how the Board's efforts benefit all San Diego County residents. Partnering with the San Diego Water Board staff in the booth was Will Svec, Source Control Inspector with the Encinia Wastewater Authority. In addition to talking to the public about our work and handing out written materials on basin planning, beneficial uses, and water quality enforcement, staff handed out native plant seeds and used 3D models to demonstrate the wastewater treatment process and how stormwater runoff impacts our waters. Staff participating but not photographed include Sarah Mearon from the Site Restoration Unit.

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| *Frank Melbourn*<br>*Compliance Assurance Unit* | *Nic White*<br>*Stormwater Management Unit* |

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| *Michelle Santillan and Riley Nolan*<br>*Restoration and Protection Planning Unit* | *Jody Ebsen*<br>*Restoration and Protection Planning Unit* |
|  |  |
| *Kate Buckley*<br>*Compliance Assurance Unit* | *Laurie Walsh*<br>*Surface Water Branch* |

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| *Chiara Clemente*<br>*Compliance Assurance Unit* | *Nic White and Joann Lim*<br>*Stormwater Management Unit and*<br>*Source Control Regulation Unit* |
|  |  |
| *James Chhor*<br>*Source Control Regulation Unit* | *Riley Nolan*<br>*Restoration and Protection Planning Unit* |


*Frank Melbourn, Will Svec, Laurie Walsh*

## 3. United States and Mexico Border Water Quality Update

*Staff Contacts: David Gibson and Melissa Corona*

All dates are in 2024 unless otherwise specified. The following are significant updates since the June 2024 Executive Officer Report:

- On May 22, the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) reported that it completed its clean-up of trash from the USIBWC Flood Control Channel. Approximately 1,130 tons were removed. This included trash deposited by the Tijuana River on the West Coast Turf sod farm during a large storm event on January 22.

- On June 3, USIBWC requested that the San Diego Water Board extend the date in its Time Schedule Order (TSO) to achieve compliance with secondary effluent limitations from August 15 to September 30. The San Diego Water Board responded by letter to USIBWC on July 9, explaining why it would not extend the compliance date or otherwise amend the TSO.
- USIBWC reports that since June 8, the number of influent pumps that are operational has increased from three of six to five of six. The two new pumps delivered in December 2023 have been successfully installed for bypass needs during influent meter installation.
- On June 17, a surge tank pressure relief failed at the Hollister Pump Station. Since that date, the pump station has been out of service, resulting in ongoing transboundary flows through Smuggler's Gulch and Goat Canyon that reach the Tijuana River and Estuary. USIBWC contracted an inspector to assess the tank's condition. USIBWC will return the pump station to service following tank repairs and maintenance, and then order at least one new surge tank, possibly two.
- On June 17, USIBWC submitted a revised Tijuana River Valley Monitoring Program (TRVMP) Work Plan to the San Diego Water Board. The San Diego Water Board reviewed the revised TRVMP Work Plan and determined it to still be incomplete. In its submittal letter, USIBWC explains that it is not able to provide all of the minimum required information in the TRVMP Work Plan until USIBWC hires a private contractor to conduct the monitoring program work.
- On June 20, the Baja California governor's office hosted a binational border water quality meeting for various local, state, and federal stakeholder agencies and elected officials. At the meeting, USIBWC committed to partnering with agencies in Mexico to conduct a technical investigation to identify sources contributing to the ongoing Tijuana River transboundary flows.
- In mid-July, grit impacted primary sedimentation tanks (PSTs) at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP), resulting in only one PST in service of five total PSTs.
- On August 14, the USIBWC Commissioner, Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, is scheduled to provide an oral report to the San Diego Water Board USIBWC's status on achieving compliance with secondary treatment effluent limitations at the SBIWTP.

Status of Border Infrastructure Repairs and Improvements

The Tijuana River diversion structure, Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas pump station (PBCILA), and pump station PB1, which are all within the City of Tijuana, are part of the infrastructure needed to prevent transboundary flows from crossing into the U.S. through the Tijuana River main channel. Minute 283 of the 1944 U.S.-Mexico treaty, entitled *Utilization of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande* (1944 Water Treaty), approved in July 1990, includes a commitment from the Government of Mexico to not allow wastewater discharges to cross the border into the Tijuana River Valley. The diversion and conveyance

infrastructure needed to fulfill this commitment is not in full operation. PB1 is not operating at full capacity and upstream PBCILA is not in operation. The Baja California water utility for the City of Tijuana (CESPT) is working on a project to realign and upgrade the sewage collection system, which reduces the current operating capacity of PB1. CESPT estimates that the project will be complete by October. When the infrastructure is operating as intended, during dry weather it diverts and conveys untreated wastewater from the river to a shoreline discharge point about 5 miles south of the border at Punta Bandera.

Minute 328 of the 1944 Water Treaty, approved in July 2022, outlines specific border pollution-related projects planned for 2022-2027 and potential projects for the unspecified future. On July 25, USIBWC issued a press release on a new web portal the public can use to view the location and status of projects included in Minute 328.[1] Minute 328 projects in progress include expanding the SBIWTP, replacing the San Antonio de los Buenos Wastewater Treatment Plant (SABWTP), repairing the International Collector, repairing Los Laureles Pump Station 1, repairing the PB1 pump station, and installing back-up power supply for PB1 in the U.S.

USIBWC accepted technical and cost proposals from three qualified bidders until June 11 and expects to select one in mid-August as USIBWC's design-build contractor for the SBIWTP rehabilitation and expansion project. Construction is expected to start within one year of the contract award. The SBIWTP average treatment capacity will be expanded from 25 million gallons per day (MGD) to 50 MGD.

The SBIWTP expansion is a core project of the USIBWC and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) June 2023 Joint Record of Decision (ROD) for projects to reduce transboundary water pollution. The cost of the SBIWTP expansion is expected to be approximately $610 million. In 2020, the U.S. federal government, through USEPA, committed $300 million in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). An additional funding request of $310 million was announced by President Biden on October 25, 2023, in response to bipartisan efforts by local representatives to increase available funding to match the expected cost of the SBIWTP expansion. If Congress authorizes and allocates the needed supplemental funding, USIBWC expects the construction to be completed in 2027.

Last March, Congress authorized $156 million for USIBWC projects in the federal Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Bill (HR 2882). A portion of this funding will go toward the SBIWTP expansion. USIBWC and USEPA have contingency plans if the remaining funds needed are not authorized. This includes expanding primary treatment to 50 MGD in the first phase and completing the expansion for secondary when full funding is authorized and allocated.

As of last January, the SABWTP is under construction. The project is fully funded by Mexico and will include rehabilitation of the existing plant and treatment upgrades. The Mexican Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA) is leading the construction. On June 20, SEDENA provided a tour of the construction site to U.S. and Mexican stakeholder agencies and elected officials that were present for an onsite binational meeting. The new SABWTP will treat 18 MGD, which will reduce the volume of untreated wastewater that is currently discharged to the

[1] ibwc.gov/press-releases

shoreline discharge point at Punta Bandera. Completion of the project is scheduled for this September.

Like the SBIWTP expansion, the new SABWTP is a core project of the June 2023 ROD. To date, no funding has been identified for any of the other eight projects included in the ROD to address transboundary flows. Without full implementation of the ROD, transboundary flows of polluted water and trash are likely to continue to impact the Tijuana River Valley, Tijuana River Estuary, and coastal waters from the international border to the City of Coronado.

Repairs to the damaged 60-inch International Collector pipeline have been completed and it will be relined. The schedule to reline it is contingent upon realigning the pipeline for a Mexican highway construction project.

The rehabilitation of Los Laureles Pump Station 1 is underway. When in operation, the pump station conveys sewage from Los Laureles Canyon in Tijuana to the SABWTP. Currently, the SAWBTP does not provide reliable wastewater treatment and flows are discharged to the shoreline at Punta Bandera. Until the pump station has been repaired, ongoing dry weather transboundary flows will continue to flow to Goat Canyon.

CESPT has completed the design for pump station PB1 Minute 328 rehabilitation and USIBWC has engaged San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) on installation of back-up power supply for PB1 in the U.S. Once construction begins, the project is expected to take two years.

On August 13, USIBWC will host a focus group meeting to discuss moving forward on USMCA projects for the Tijuana River. This includes proposed river diversion and treatment, trash capture, and water recycling projects. USIBWC Commissioner Giner is scheduled to participate in the meeting.

<u>Status of Compliance at the SBIWTP</u>

Average flows into the SBIWTP are approximately 20 MGD. While repairs and rehabilitation efforts described below are underway, USIBWC remains out of compliance with Order No. R9-2021-0001 as amended by Order No. R9-2023-0009, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System No. CA0108928, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean Through the South Bay Ocean Outfall* (NPDES Permit) and Cease and Desist Order No. R9-2021-0107 as amended by Order No. R9-2021-0220, *United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean Through the South Bay Ocean Outfall* (CDO). Violations include exceedances of secondary treatment effluent standards in the NPDES Permit.

So far, the San Diego Water Board has issued nine notices of violation (NOVs) to USIBWC. The San Diego Water Board intends to continue issuing NOVs until USIBWC has attained compliance with the secondary treatment standards in the NPDES Permit. The NOVs are available in the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS).[2]

On March 29, USIBWC submitted a TRVMP Work Plan to the San Diego Water Board. The TRVMP Work Plan was due by September 29, 2021, per the NPDES Permit. The San Diego Water Board reviewed the TRVMP Work Plan and determined it to be incomplete. On May 1, the San Diego Water Board sent a comment letter to USIBWC noting the deficiencies and notifying USIBWC that it is required to resubmit a complete and revised TRVMP Work Plan that includes the minimum required information as described in Attachment E, Section 4.2.4 of the Order.

On June 17, USIBWC submitted a revised TRVMP Work Plan in CIWQS. The San Diego Water Board reviewed the revised TRVMP Work Plan and determined it to be incomplete. In its submittal letter, USIBWC explains that it is not able to provide all of the minimum required information in the TRVMP Work Plan until USIBWC hires a private contractor to conduct the monitoring program work.

Because of the USIBWC's continued noncompliance with the NPDES Permit and CDO, the San Diego Water Board adopted Time Schedule Order No. R9-2023-0189, *United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean Through the South Bay Ocean Outfall* (TSO) on December 18, 2023. The TSO establishes interim reporting requirements and a deadline of August 15 for return to full compliance with the NPDES Permit and CDO.

Board staff meet weekly with USIBWC to discuss the status of SBIWTP rehabilitation and canyon collector operations. Board staff regularly inspect the SBIWTP and canyon collectors. The San Diego Water Board has dedicated a full-time Water Resource Control Engineer to these efforts.

On June 3, USIBWC requested that the San Diego Water Board extend the date to achieve compliance with secondary effluent limitations from August 15 to September 30. The TSO states that the San Diego Water Board acknowledges that there may be circumstances beyond the reasonable control of USIBWC leading to a delay in compliance with the TSO. However, the reasons provided in the June 3 USIBWC request letter do not constitute circumstances beyond the reasonable control of USIBWC. Additionally, compliance with secondary effluent limitations is necessary to proceed with the upcoming SBIWTP expansion work. Therefore, the San Diego Water Board did not determine that an extension of the compliance date was warranted. The San Diego Water Board responded to USIBWC's extension request on July 9.

[2] waterboards.ca.gov/ciwqs/publicreports.html, Regulatory Measure IDs: 453821, 454744, 455044, 455365, 455560, 455817, 456626, 456899, and 457813.

The TSO requires USIBWC to present an oral update to the San Diego Water Board within approximately 180 days of the adoption of the TSO. On May 8, USIBWC Commissioner Giner provided the update in person at the San Diego Water Board meeting. Her presentation summarized USIBWC's efforts to achieve compliance with the directives in the TSO and included other updates related to water quality in the San Diego-Tijuana border region. On August 14, Commissioner Giner, is scheduled to provide another update to the San Diego Water Board. A representative from USEPA and researchers from Scripps Institution of Oceanography will also provide border water quality-related presentations on August 14.

Status and Impacts of Transboundary Flows in the Tijuana River Valley

The 2023-2024 storm season contributed to consistently large transboundary flows through the main channel of the Tijuana River as well as excess flows and sediment loading to the SBIWTP, the Goat Canyon Collector, and the Smuggler's Gulch Canyon Collector.

During a January 22 large storm event, the north levee of the USIBWC Flood Control Channel was breached. The Tijuana River deposited significant amounts of trash throughout the USIBWC Flood Control Channel, including the West Coast Turf sod farm. In March, USIBWC initiated clean-up of trash deposited by the Tijuana River in USIBWC Flood Control Channel prior to, during, and after the storm. On May 22, USIBWC reported that it completed its clean-up of trash from the USIBWC Flood Control Channel. Approximately 1,130 tons were removed. USIBWC also raised the north levee for better containment of future flooding.

When diversion and conveyance infrastructure is operating as intended, there should be no transboundary dry weather flows into the Tijuana River Valley through the main channel or five canyon collector locations. However, although the storm season ended in May, there are tens of millions of gallons of cumulative wastewater flowing daily through the main channel, Goat Canyon Collector, and the Smuggler's Gulch Canyon Collector. The beaches from Border Field State Park to Imperial Beach remain closed due to the risk from pathogens in sewage. These beaches have been closed on an ongoing basis for years and continuously since December 8, 2021.

There have been continuous transboundary flows in the Tijuana River since October 11, 2023. There is an average of approximately 50 MGD of transboundary flows in the main channel as measured by the USIBWC flow gauge. Once the infrastructure in Tijuana has the capacity to divert flows, approximately 23-24 MGD of the flow can be diverted from the main channel to Punta Bandera.

On June 20, the Baja California governor's office hosted a binational border water quality meeting and construction tour at the SABWTP. Various local, state, and federal stakeholder agencies and elected officials attended or were represented. At the meeting, USIBWC committed to partnering with agencies in Mexico to conduct a technical investigation to identify sources contributing to the ongoing Tijuana River transboundary flows. USIBWC

Commissioner Giner stated that she would share more information within 30 days as plans for the investigation evolve.

In addition to the main channel transboundary flows, large dry weather flows continue to bypass the Goat Canyon Collector and Smuggler's Gulch Canyon Collector. The canyon collectors are supposed to be a failsafe to divert incidental releases of wastewater from Tijuana, not to be a default collection system for continuous flows. However, wastewater collection system deficiencies in Tijuana generate ongoing flows, which transport large sediment loads to the canyon collectors. When dry weather flows are diverted by the Goat Canyon Collector and Smuggler's Gulch Canyon Collector, they are conveyed to the Hollister Pump Station, then to the SBIWTP for treatment.

Once the wet weather season ended and USIBWC cleared out the canyon collectors, they returned them to service in May. However, on June 17, sediment build-up in a surge tank at the Hollister Pump Station caused a pressure relief valve failure. Since that date, the pump station has been out of service, resulting in ongoing transboundary flows through Smuggler's Gulch and Goat Canyon that reach the Tijuana River and Estuary. USIBWC contracted an inspector to assess the tank's condition. USIBWC will return the pump station to service following tank repairs and maintenance, and then order at least one new surge tank, possibly two.

Transboundary flows through Smuggler's Gulch previously reached the main channel of the Tijuana River via Smuggler's Channel. However, winter storms damaged the berm of Smuggler's Channel, resulting millions of gallons of wet and dry weather flows of wastewater, trash, and sediment flowing onto downstream private property and County of San Diego property, including the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Campground. Large volumes of wastewater pooled and stagnated on these properties. As a result, the County of San Diego closed the campground to the public.

The wastewater flowing through Goat Canyon and Smuggler's Gulch has prevented access to Border Field State Park and other parts of the Tijuana River Valley, interfering with research opportunities at the Tijuana River Estuary, and causing delays in Smuggler's Gulch dredging and berm repair work by the County of San Diego and City of San Diego as well as delays in California State Parks Arundo control work.

In addition to public health impacts[3] from the continuous presence of water and air pollution, there is growing concern over ecological impacts. In a public comment provided at last May's San Diego Water Board meeting, Dr. Jeff Crooks of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR) noted that the continuous presence of wastewater coupled with neap tides has resulted in low dissolved oxygen levels as recorded by TRNERR's continuous monitoring station. The dissolved oxygen levels are commonly below 5 milligrams per liter and as low as zero (undetectable), which is detrimental to aquatic life. These data are available online at tijuanariver.trnerr.org.

[3] tijuana-sewage-contamination-public-health-crisis-white-paper-021424.pdf

Recent surveys and observations by TRNERR researchers and their partners confirm that the Tijuana River Estuary is experiencing severe ecological impacts, including reduced fish species and overall presence of fish as demonstrated in Figure 1 (provided by Dr. Crooks). Additional monitoring results will be available soon in the University of California Santa Barbara Marine Science Institute's 2023 annual report on conditions at wetlands in the region, including the Tijuana River Estuary.[4]

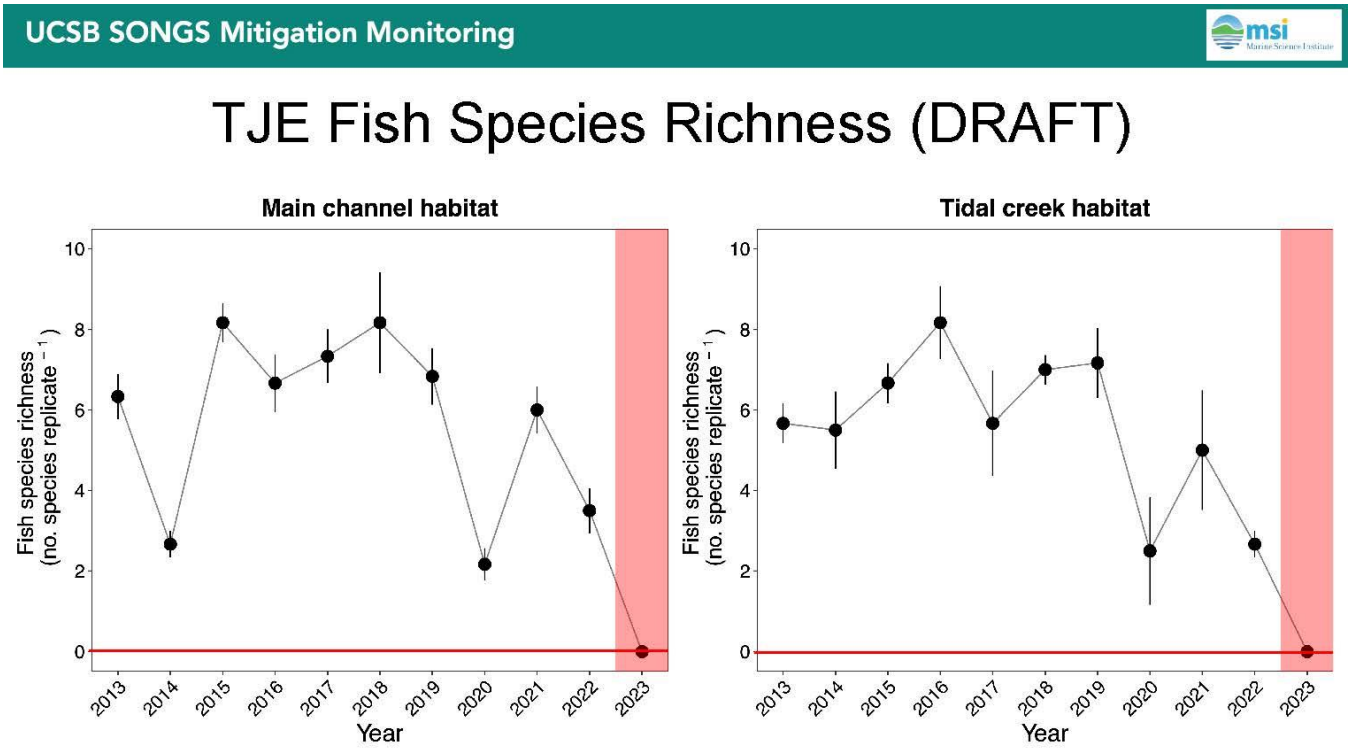


*Figure 1: Tijuana River Estuary fish species survey results from San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) mitigation monitoring program.*

[4] marinemitigation.msi.ucsb.edu

*Figure 2: Continuous flows at Goat Canyon Collector. (MC 07/09/2024)*

*Figure 3: Continuous flows at Smuggler's Gulch Canyon Collector. (MC 07/09/2024)*

*Figure 4: Pooled wastewater in and around the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Campground. (City of Imperial Beach 05/07/2024)*

Status of Repairs to the SBIWTP

USIBWC is working on repairs to the SBIWTP related to deferred maintenance and damage caused by Tropical Storm Hilary in August 2023. On May 28, San Diego Water Board staff conducted a compliance evaluation inspection (CEI) of the SBIWTP. San Diego Water Board staff will conduct a follow-up CEI in February 2025, when all repairs with interim goals in the TSO are scheduled to be completed.

*Status of Junction Box 1 (JB1) Repairs/Replacement*

When operating properly, JB1 controls flows into the SBIWTP. USIBWC has been unable to control flows through JB1 since October 3, 2020.

JB1 has two inoperable gate valves, a 72-inch gate valve that connects to the International Collector and a 96-inch gate valve that connects to Junction Box 2. The 72-inch gate valve became inoperable on August 28, 2019. The 96-inch gate valve became inoperable on October 3, 2020. Since flows from Mexico to the SBIWTP are regulated at JB1 and the two gate valves are inoperable, USIBWC cannot regulate flows from Mexico and must accept all flows that reach JB1.

JB1 must be completely replaced. USIBWC awarded a contract to replace JB1 to Filanc, a design-build contractor, in August 2023. Filanc is in the process of designing the new junction box. USIBWC approved the 60 percent design on June 24. USIBWC estimates that a new junction box will be installed by February 10, 2025.

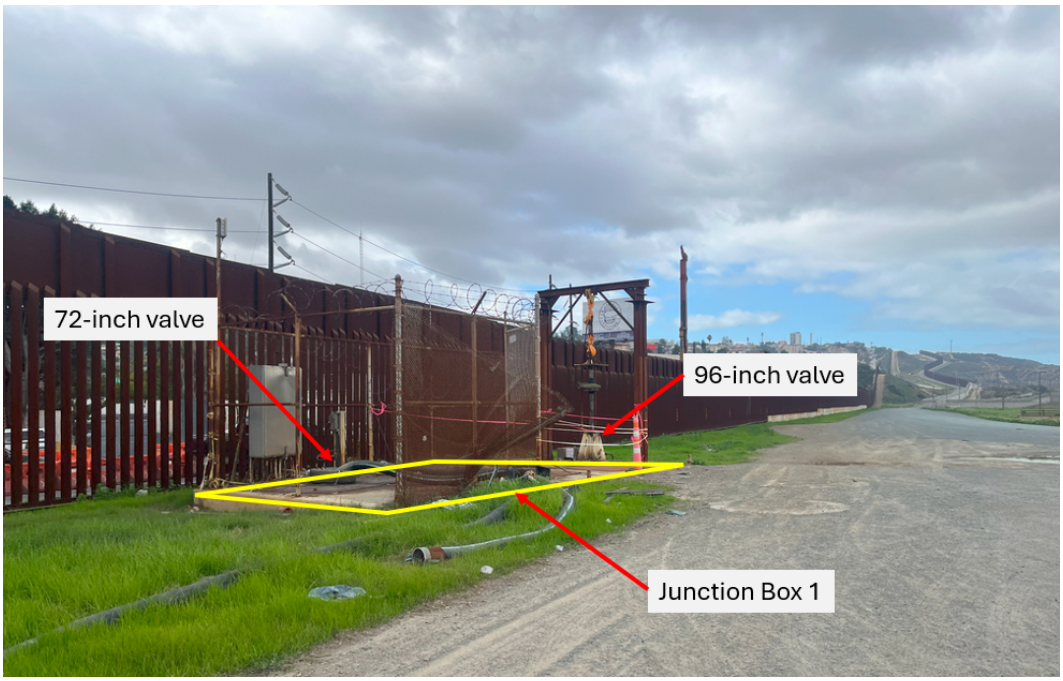


*Figure 5: Junction Box 1. (MC 01/10/2024)*

*Status of Influent Pump Repairs/Replacements*

USIBWC reports that the number of influent pumps that are operational has increased from three of six to five of six. The two new pumps delivered in December 2023 have been successfully installed for bypass needs for an influent meter installation. USIBWC has indicated that three pumps are sufficient to meet their current needs. One pump (primary) is adequate for daily flows of 25 MGD, a second pump (peak flow pump) is on standby for peak flows, and a third pump is backup for the primary and peak flow pumps as a failsafe. USIBWC aims to have all the influent pumps operational by the end of 2024.

*Figure 6: Influent pumps. (MC 04/03/2024)*

*Status of Grit Chamber*
Veolia completed clean-out the grit chamber on April 10. Approximately 1,000 cubic yards of grit were removed, the full capacity of the grit chamber. The grit chamber had to be cleaned out before any PSTs could be returned to service. The grit chamber is in service but its most upstream pump is regularly clogged by debris, necessitating constant maintenance.

*Status of the PST Cleaning and Repairs*
The primary treatment system at the SBIWTP includes five PSTs. PST No. 5 had been returned to service but went down again on June 8 due to high flows with excessive sediment and debris that damaged a shear pin that protects the PST equipment. PST Nos. 1 and 2 were online until the PSTs were further burdened by excessive grit in mid-July, causing PST No. 2 to go down. Only PST No. 1 is operational at this time.

USIBWC is working on a plan to put the PSTs back in service, aiming for three PSTs to be in service by mid-August 14 and all PSTs to be in service by December. USIBWC states that operation of three PSTs should be adequate to return the SBIWTP to compliance with secondary treatment standards, contingent upon the SBIWTP receiving reasonable flows despite JB1 not being operational until 2025.

*Figure 7: Rehabilitated PST No. 1 in service (MC 07/31/2024)*

*Status of Secondary Treatment Repairs and Replacement*
The secondary treatment system at the SBIWTP includes seven aeration tanks and 13 secondary settling tanks. In 2024, USIBWC will replace pumps, motors, mixers, waste activated sludge pumps, and non-potable pumps in the secondary treatment part of its capital improvements project package referred to as the "pumps and motors package."

Once three PSTs are operational and the flow rate consistently remains below 25 MGD, USIBWC and Veolia expect the SBIWTP to be in compliance with secondary treatment requirements, with a trend towards compliance visible within the first month. Veolia expects the effluent from the primary treatment system not to overload the secondary treatment system, resulting in total suspended solids (TSS) results dropping from 300 mg/L to below 100 mg/L.

*Figure 8: Secondary mixing tank. (MC 01/10/2024)*

*Figure 9: Secondary settling tank. (MC 01/10/2024)*

*Status of Canyon Collector Pump Stations*

There are two canyon collector pump stations: Goat Canyon Pump Station and Hollister Pump Station.

The Goat Canyon Pump Station has four pumps, three of which are operational, but none are currently in service. The Goat Canyon Pump Station moves flows from the Goat Canyon Collector to the Hollister Pump Station. All four pumps at the Goat Canyon Pump Station need to be replaced. USIBWC expects to award a contract to replace the pumps by September 30.

The purpose of the Hollister Pump Station is to move flows from the Smuggler's Gulch Canyon Collector and from the Goat Canyon Pump Station to the SBIWTP for treatment. The Hollister Pump Station has four pumps. All four are operational, but none are currently in service. Excessive sediment transported by transboundary flows frequently impedes the operation of the Smuggler's Gulch Canyon Collector and the pumps at the Hollister Pump Station. The June 17 surge tank pressure relief failure at the Hollister Pump Station has resulted in ongoing transboundary flows through Smuggler's Gulch and Goat Canyon. Therefore, the Goat Canyon Pump Station and Hollister Pump Station have been out of service since June 17.

Status of State of California Projects to Mitigate Transboundary Pollution

Three projects in the Tijuana River Valley were funded by Senate Bill 170 through the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance:

- Tijuana River Flood Control Trash Control Structure ($4.73 million – Rural Community Assistance Center)
- Smuggler's Gulch Dredging Project ($4.25 million – County of San Diego)
- Tijuana River Valley Hydrology and Habitat Restoration ($2 million – County of San Diego)

Each of the three projects are deeply rooted in the 13 years of coordinated federal, State of California, local agency, and non-governmental organization efforts in the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team to restore and protect water quality. They were originally proposed in the 2012 *Tijuana River Valley Recovery Strategy: Living with the Water* and refined and analyzed in the 2020 *Tijuana River Needs and Opportunities Assessment Report*.

The Tijuana River trash control structure project involves the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of a floating trash boom system for one storm season in the main channel of the river, immediately downstream of the international border. The Rural Community Assistance Center is in the process of obtaining environmental permits to install the trash boom. Installation is expected to be complete by the beginning of the 2024-2025 storm season. This is a demonstration project. The information gathered will be used to develop permanent trash control infrastructure.

The Smuggler's Gulch dredging project will remove up to 30,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment, trash, and debris in Smuggler's Gulch and the Tijuana River Pilot Channel. The accumulated sediment, trash, and debris contribute to flooding, which threatens public and private properties and critical habitats. Last March, the County of San Diego initiated trash and sediment removal activities, which are ongoing. Current efforts are focused on Smuggler's Gulch, north of Monument Road. The dredging is necessary prior to installation of permanent sediment and trash capture infrastructure at Smuggler's Gulch, which will be funded by a separate grant. The project will be completed by fall 2025.

The Tijuana River Valley hydrology and habitat restoration project will remediate a contaminated seven-acre property adjacent to the Tijuana River and restore it to native upland coastal sage scrub habitat. In January, the County of San Diego started preparing the site for the upcoming demolition and removal of on-site structures containing hazardous materials, such as asbestos and lead. Demolition of on-site structures, soil preparation, irrigation installation, and planting are complete. Hand irrigation and watering of plants is now underway. The project will be completed by fall 2025.

Status of Advance Restoration Plan (ARP)

The San Diego Water Board developed the draft *Lower Tijuana River Indicator Bacteria and Trash Advance Restoration Plan for Total Maximum Daily Loads* (draft ARP) to address water quality impairments through an implementation plan with actions to restore and maintain water quality standards. The draft ARP was initially written as a total maximum daily load (TMDL) pollution control plan. Waters with an ARP remain on the Clean Water Act section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments (303(d) List) until requirements to remove the 303(d) listing are met. If the lower Tijuana River remains on the 303(d) List due to indicator bacteria and trash despite implementation of the ARP, the San Diego Water Board will adopt TMDLs as an amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9)*.

The San Diego Water Board posted the draft ARP on its website for public review and comment on January 10, 2024 and accepted written comments until March 13. The San Diego Water Board hosted an in-person public workshop and a separate virtual public workshop on February 26 and 28, respectively. The purpose of the public workshops was for the San Diego Water Board to (1) provide an overview of the draft ARP; (2) receive verbal comments from interested parties on the draft ARP; and (3) in accordance with Assembly Bill 2108, receive verbal comments on any concerns related to environmental justice or potential impacts on water quality for disadvantaged communities and/or Native American Tribes due to the draft ARP's future implementation.

The San Diego Water Board received written comments on the draft ARP from the Mayor of Imperial Beach, San Diego Coastkeeper, and Phase I municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) Copermittees of the Tijuana River Watershed Management Area.

A progress report on the draft ARP titled "2021 Triennial Review Project No. 2: Tijuana River Valley Water Quality Restoration" is included in this EOR.

San Diego Water Board staff will present the ARP to the San Diego Water Board to consider for adoption in 2024. The ARP implementation plan proposes a memorandum of understanding between the San Diego Water Board, USIBWC, USEPA, and possibly the Department of Homeland Security to establish agreements, roles, and responsibilities to control transboundary sources of pollution within specified timeframes, respective jurisdictions, and respective funding allocations.

Minute 320[5]
Last March, the executive-level Minute 320 Binational Core Group met to review proposed projects for further development in both countries to address sediment, trash, and water quality, select priorities, discuss project workgroups to advance technical work and financing, and submit invitations to proposed binational workgroup chair and co-chair candidates. In May, the Minute 320 binational workgroups met to discuss the status of projects and initiatives that are under development, establish a framework to monitor progress and impacts of proposed projects and initiatives, and establish a process for retaining information and coordinating monitoring efforts. On August 14, the binational workgroups will meet again to discuss updates on proposed projects, review water quality monitoring efforts, and provide input for a binational sediment management plan.

# Part B – Significant Regional Water Quality Issues

## 1. 2021 Triennial Review Project No. 1: Designation of Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB) Beneficial Uses to Surface Waters in the San Diego Region

*Staff Contact: Jody Ebsen*

**A. PROJECT INFORMATION**
**Project Lead**: Jody Ebsen
**Supervisor**: Cynthia Gorham

Report Date: August 2024
Report Period: February 2024 – June 2024
Overall Status: On track

**Website**:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/tribal_beneficial_uses.html

**Project Description**:
This project will designate surface water bodies, where appropriate, with the CUL, TSUB, and SUB beneficial uses. It builds on the work that was completed with the adoption of Resolution No. R9-2020-0254, which incorporated these beneficial uses into the San Diego Region Basin Plan. During the initial phase of this project, the San Diego Water Board will work with tribes to identify water bodies appropriate to designate with tribal beneficial uses. The project will likely extend beyond the 2021 triennial review cycle.

[5] Minute 320 of the 1944 Water Treaty establishes a framework of binational collaboration to address trash, sediment, and water quality issues.

**Project Objective:**
Develop working relationships with local tribes and establish new tribal beneficial use (TBU) designations, where appropriate, to waters in the San Diego region with a Basin Plan amendment.

**Triennial Review Commitment**:
Work in consultation with local tribes to designate waterbodies, as appropriate, in the San Diego Region with the CUL, T-SUB, and SUB beneficial uses.

| Key Milestone | Target Date | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Project Charter | 2022 | Completed |
| Tribal Summit | 2022 | Completed |
| Participate in Statewide Tribal Beneficial Uses Work group | 2022 | Ongoing |
| Regular meetings with Regional Tribal Work Group | FY 23/24 | Ongoing |
| Develop initial project scope with Tribal Work Group | FY 23/24 | Completed |
| Identify list of water bodies for Tribal Beneficial Uses | FY 24/25 | On track |
| Workshops | TBD | TBD |
| CEQA scoping meeting and CEQA Checklist | FY 24/25 | On track |
| CEQA Consultation | FY 24/25 | On track |

## B. PROGRESS REPORT: Tribal Beneficial Uses

**Reporting Period Events**

| | |
|---|---|
| Accomplishments during period | Developed initial project scope with Tribal Work Group |
| Collaboration during period | • Met with tribal work group in March, April, May, and June to discuss developing the project scope for designating waters in the San Diego region and setting a path for sharing information necessary to support the designations.<br>• Attended the TBU Tribal Statewide Caucus meeting in June to obtain feedback from tribes around the state on the challenges with TBU projects.<br>• Worked with contractors in February and March, through a statewide facilitation contract, to enhance communication with the tribal work group and advance the project goals. The contractors provided guidance on facilitation and tribal engagement. Contractors met with some tribal representatives and presented summary of comments at the March tribal work group meeting.<br>• State Board and Regional Board staff received a presentation on the Office of Chief Counsel's (OCC) initial strategy for TBU water body designations. Tribal representatives received a similar presentation led by Office of Public Participation (OPP) in April. |
| Activities planned but not completed | None |
| Key issues during period | Certain tasks are dependent upon forthcoming OCC and OPP guidance document on legal considerations and confidentiality concerns for TBU designations. Both documents are anticipated for release in 2024. |

**Looking Forward**

| | |
|---|---|
| Activities planned for next period | Staff will continue regular meetings with the tribal work group to discuss project scope and cultural use information. |
| Key issues on the horizon | On May 10, 2024, Governor Newsom's revised balanced state budget included cuts that limit hiring. The San Diego Water Board is currently unable to fill a vacancy in the Basin Planning unit which could affect our TBU designation efforts. |

## 2. 2021 Triennial Review Project No. 2: Tijuana River Valley Water Quality Restoration

*Staff Contact: Riley Nolan*

**A. PROJECT INFORMATION**
***Project Lead:*** Riley Nolan
**Supervisor:** Cynthia Gorham

*Report Date:* August 2024
*Report Period:* February 2024 – June 2024
*Overall Status:* On track

**Website:**
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/tmdls/tijuanarivervalley.html.

**Project Description:**
The purpose of this project is to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) with implementation plans for indicator bacteria and trash in the lower Tijuana River. For many years, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board, Board, or SDWB) has identified human health and ecosystem impacts in the Tijuana River Valley as regional priorities.

San Diego Water Board staff have developed a draft Advance Restoration Plan (ARP) report for TMDLs for indicator bacteria and trash in the lower Tijuana River. The draft ARP recently underwent scientific peer review and was the subject of two staff workshops and a 62-day public comment period earlier this year. Staff are reviewing public comments submitted on the draft ARP, and plan to provide public responses in late summer to early fall 2024. Once staff have responded to public comments and finalized any changes to the draft ARP, they will bring a resolution proposing to adopt the ARP before the Board. Should the Board adopt the resolution, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be developed with federal agencies to establish agreements, roles, and responsibilities for control of transboundary sources of pollution, according to the implementation timeframes identified in the ARP.

**Project Objective:**
The project's 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.

Although the Tijuana River is on the 2020-2022 Clean Water Act section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments for impairments due to over 30 pollutants, control of the anthropogenic sources of indicator bacteria and trash is likely to result in a significant reduction of the remaining pollutants.

**Triennial Review Commitment:**
Development of TMDLs for indicator bacteria and trash with an implementation plan 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 ARP technical report | Summer 2023 | Completed |
| Public review of draft ARP technical report and comment period | Winter 2023-24 | Completed |
| ARP Package to San Diego Water Board for adoption | Winter 2024-25 | Delayed (originally planned for August 2021) |

**B. PROGRESS REPORT: Tijuana River Valley Water Quality Restoration**

**Reporting Period Events**

| | |
|---|---|
| Accomplishments during period | • Held public workshops for draft ARP on February 26 (in person) and February 28 (virtual).<br>• Public review and comment period for draft ARP ended on March 13.<br>• See Item A.3 in this Executive Officer's Report for more information |
| Collaboration during period | Staff briefed the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Steering Committee (March 20). |
| Activities planned but not completed | N/A |
| Key issues during period | See the June 2024 Executive Officer's Report for the status of border infrastructure and SBIWTP repairs during the reporting period. |

**Looking Forward**

| | |
|---|---|
| Activities planned for next period | • Staff will prepare responses to public comments submitted on the draft ARP.<br>• Staff may update the draft ARP based on public comments.<br>• Staff may post a public notice for the Board's consideration of the ARP at a public meeting in the Fall or Winter. |
| Key issues on the horizon | This project could be influenced by a number of efforts involving the Tijuana River Valley, including funding decisions and potential environmental impacts related to the USMCA Project, rehabilitation of the SBIWTP, efforts associated with International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) Minutes 320 and 328, and efforts led by the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team. |

## 3. 2021 Triennial Review Project No. 3: Biological Objectives for Water Bodies in the San Diego Region

*Staff Contact: Chad Loflen*

By Resolution No. R9-2020-0234, adopted in December 2020, the San Diego Water Board adopted a Basin Plan amendment to add a biological objective for streams, with specific exceptions, using the California Stream Condition Index (CSCI). The Basin Plan Amendment also includes a program of implementation to integrate the biological objective into the San Diego Water Board's regulatory programs and to guide development of future biological objectives.

The State Water Board provided public notice on July 2, 2024 that it intends to consider the San Diego Water Board's Basin Plan amendment at its September 18, 2024 meeting. Meeting information, including how to participate, can be found in the Public Notice, which is available on the State Water Board public meeting webpage.

The State Water Board also made available on July 15, 2024 its Responses to Public Comments on the Biological Objectives Basin Plan amendment. The State Water Board accepted public comments from July 19, 2021 to September 22, 2021.

The Executive Officer and program staff will attend the September 18, 2024 meeting to describe the importance of the Basin Plan amendment to our mission and Practical Vision and to offer responses to questions from the State Board members.

This project has been a priority on the Board's Triennial Basin Plan Review workplans since 2015. Following the San Diego Water Board's adoption in 2020, the Board approved the 2021 Triennial Basin Plan Review workplan, which included the subsequent steps before the amendment could take effect. Those steps involve taking the amendment to the State Water Board for consideration and if approved, then to submit it to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and USEPA for review and approval.

Information and documents associated with the Biological Objectives Basin Plan amendment are on the program webpage: Biological Objectives Basin Plan Amendments | San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board.

## 4. 2021 Triennial Review Project No. 4: Contact Water Recreation (REC-1) Water Quality Objectives

*Staff Contact: Michelle Santillan*

**A. PROJECT INFORMATION**
**Project Lead:** Michelle Santillan
**Supervisor:** Cynthia Gorham

Report Date: August 2024
Report Period: February 2024 – June 2024
Overall Status: On track

**Website:**
Not available at this time

**Project Description:**
This project was first introduced during the 2014 Triennial Review. At the time, the focus of the project was to determine whether and to what extent data supported amending the objectives, implementation provisions for applicable bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), or the TMDLs themselves. Bacteria TMDLs were adopted in June 2008 and February 2010. In July 2018, San Diego Water Board staff prepared a summary report of the 2014 REC-1 Triennial Review Project that made recommendations for next steps. Recommendations were based on discussions and feedback from external and internal workgroups as well as the various technical studies that have been completed to date. During the 2018 Triennial Review, the focus for the project shifted towards implementation of actions that were identified in the 2018 recommendations report. The short-term actions included updates to the existing storm water (MS4) permit, audits of Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination programs, updates to waste discharge requirements for sanitary sewer systems, and updates to Chapter 3 in the Basin Plan. Staff continues to implement and track the requirements of the 2018 Triennial Review. Furthermore, as part of the 2021 Triennial Review, staff will investigate the feasibility of the development of a narrative risk-based objective and potential revisions to the 20 Beaches and Creeks Bacteria TMDL.

**Project Objective:**

- Investigate and develop a narrative (risk-based) water quality objective that is protective of the REC-1 beneficial use.
- Establish, if appropriate, a numeric translator for the human-specific *Bacteriodes* HF183 to implement the narrative objective.
- Initiate review and develop recommendations for amending the Bacteria TMDLs.

**Triennial Review Commitment:**
Investigate the development of a narrative objective that would allow the use of human specific markers while being protective of the REC-1 beneficial use.

| Key Milestone | Target Date | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Final Report for Investigative Order No. R9-2019-0014 | June 2024 | Complete |
| Final Report for SWAMP Sampling at Reference Beaches | 2023 | Pending |
| California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting for new objective | TBD | TBD |
| Public Workshops for MS4 Permit Renewal | Spring 2023 | Ongoing |
| Draft Revisions to Regional WDRs for Sanitary Sewer Systems | TBD | TBD |

## B. PROGRESS REPORT: REC-1 Water Quality Objectives

**Reporting Period Events**

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|---|---|
| Accomplishments during period | • The final report required by the San Diego River Investigative Order (Investigative Order No. R9-2019-0014) was timely submitted in two parts on June 12, 2024 by the responsible parties. Part One provided results from technical investigations into the sources, pathways and circumstances of discharges of human fecal material. Part Two focused mainly on how the Responsible Parties will use the data provided in Part One to assess the effectiveness of their programs in preventing discharges. Staff have reviewed the report and expect to seek some clarifications.<br>• The San Diego Water Board Executive Officer approved monitoring plans associated with Time Schedule Order No. R9-2024-0010 requiring responsible permittees to comply with the Twenty Beaches and Creeks Bacteria TMDL requirements prescribed in the MS4 permit. |
| Collaboration during period | • The internal REC-1 workgroup met in February, April, and June 2024. The internal REC-1 workgroup meets on a bimonthly basis to share information and coordinate actions.<br>• Staff from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project attended the June 2024 internal workgroup meeting to discuss overall findings of the San Diego River Investigative Order. A subcommittee of the San Diego Water Board was also in attendance. |
| Activities planned but not completed | Review of regional WDRs for Sewage Collection Agencies has been delayed. |
| Key issues during period | None |

**Looking Forward**

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|---|---|
| Activities planned for next period | • The final report summarizing results of the SWAMP Beach Study will be submitted to the San Diego Water Board in July 2024. This study, which was funded using SWAMP funds and conducted in conjunction with San Diego State University, assessed traditional indicator bacteria concurrently with alternative indicators, including coliphage, HF183, adenovirus, norovirus, and pepper mild mottled virus. The results are expected to assist the assessment of the applicability of using alternative indicators of public health risk from water contact recreation in San Diego Water Board programs. |
| Key issues on the horizon | • Results of special studies will be used to inform efforts across various programs at the San Diego Water Board.<br>• An information item to discuss the findings of the San Diego River Investigative Order is tentatively scheduled for the November 13 Board Meeting. |

## 5. 2024 Triennial Review Project No. 6: Santa Margarita River Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Loads, Water Quality Restoration Plan

*Staff Contact: Cyntia Gorham*

**A. PROJECT INFORMATION**
**Project Lead:** Vacant
**Supervisor:** Cynthia Gorham

*Report Date:* August 2024
*Report Period:* February – June 2024
*Overall Status:* On track

**Website:**
Santa Margarita River Estuary | San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (ca.gov).

**Project Description:**
Consistent with the Impaired Waters Policy, staff are developing a Water Quality Restoration Plan to address impairment of the Santa Margarita River due to excessive nutrient loading and eutrophication. The restoration plan will likely rely on implementing and enforcing existing

regulatory measures, such as permits, policies, and plans to achieve nutrient load reductions and numeric targets protective of the beneficial uses of the Santa Margarita River.

The Santa Margarita River was added to the Clean Water Act section 303(d) Impaired Waters list for nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in 2012. Excessive nutrient loading into the Santa Margarita River and its tributaries contributes to the overproduction of algae, a condition known as eutrophication. Adverse effects due to eutrophication result in a failure to meet the water quality objectives protective of the most sensitive beneficial uses of Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD) and Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE). Moreover, nutrients discharged to the surface waters and groundwater in the Santa Margarita watershed contribute to the eutrophication impairment of the Santa Margarita River Estuary. Major sources of nutrients to the Santa Margarita River include Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) and agricultural land uses in San Diego and Riverside counties.

The Santa Margarita River Water Quality Restoration Plan will identify actions to restore water quality protective of the River's beneficial uses by addressing the impairment consistent with the State Water Board Impaired Waters Policy and 2015 and 2023 memorandums from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on alternative responses to impaired waters. That type of approach offers more flexibility and efficiency than setting total maximum daily loads (TMDLs).[6],[7] San Diego Water Board staff have already completed several milestones in the Water Quality Restoration Plan's development, including the California Environmental Quality Act scoping meeting in 2020, and both a comprehensive climate change analysis and calculations of the nutrient assimilative capacity (i.e., TMDLs) of the Santa Margarita River in 2021.

**Project Objective:**
Using adaptive management approach the Water Quality Restoration Plan aims to:

- Reduce loading of nitrogen and phosphorus from point and non-point sources into the river.
- Achieve numeric targets protective of the most sensitive beneficial uses of COLD and RARE, which include dissolved oxygen, algal biomass, and algal biological diversity.
- Phase in riparian and hydrologic habitat restoration if nutrient load reductions do not achieve the numeric targets.

[6] U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2015. Information Concerning 2016 Clean Water Act Sections 303(d), 305(b), and 314 Integrated Reporting and Listing Decisions. Available: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-10/documents/2016-ir-memo-and-cover-memo-8_13_2015.pdf [Accessed Aug 21, 2023].

[7] U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2023. Information Concerning 2024 Clean Water Act Sections 303(d), 305(b), and 314 Integrated Reporting and Listing Decisions. Available: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/2024IRmemo_032923.pdf [Accessed Aug 31, 2023].

**Triennial Review Commitment:**
Development of a Water Quality Restoration Plan for the Santa Margarita River that includes numeric targets and the nutrient assimilative capacity of the river expressed as TMDLs for total nitrogen and total phosphorous with an implementation plan to restore impaired waters in the Santa Margarita River.

| Key Milestone | Target Date | Status |
|---|---|---|
| California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting | October 27, 2020 | Completed |
| Climate Change Analysis | February 14, 2021 | Completed |
| Calculate the nutrient assimilative capacity of the Santa Margarita River (expressed as TMDLs) | December 15, 2021 | Completed |
| Santa Margarita Nutrient Initiative Group Stakeholder Meetings | Ongoing | In process |
| Review of draft staff report by the Santa Margarita River Nutrient Initiative Group | Summer 2023 | Completed |
| External scientific peer review of draft staff report | Summer 2024 | In progress (originally planned for Fall/Winter 2023) |
| Public review of draft staff report | Early 2025 | Likely delayed |
| Water Quality Restoration Plan action to the San Diego Water Board or Executive Officer for consideration | 2025 | Delayed (originally planned for Summer 2024) |

## B. PROGRESS REPORT: Santa Margarita River Advanced Restoration Plan

**Reporting Period Events**

| | |
|---|---|
| Accomplishments during period | • Staff submitted Plan to external scientific Peer Review. |
| Collaboration during period | • Staff provided an update on the Water Quality Restoration Plan at the April 10, 2024, San Diego Water Board meeting in Temecula.<br>• Staff kept stakeholders apprised of peer review progress and review of the comprehensive monitoring and assessment report from the municipal storm water copermittees received on January 31, 2024. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | • Staff attended and provided updates at monthly Santa Margarita River Technical Advisory Committee meetings with municipal storm water copermittees.<br>• Bimonthly internal Santa Margarita River watershed workgroup met monthly. |
| Activities planned but not completed | |
| Key issues during period | • Staff project manager left state service in May and the vacancy may be subject to position reduction efforts within CalEPA. |

**Looking Forward**

| | |
|---|---|
| Activities planned for next period | • Complete external scientific peer review process. |
| Key issues on the horizon | • Budget and position uncertainty will delay remaining project steps. |

## 6. City of Oceanside Garrison Creek Native Habitat Restoration SEP Project Completion

*Staff Contact: Kate Buckley*

The Executive Officer notified the City of Oceanside (City) on July 11, 2024 that the City had fulfilled its obligation to complete the Garrison Creek Native Habitat Restoration Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP), as required by Settlement Agreement and Stipulation for Entry of Administrative Civil Liability Order No. R9-2018-0159 (Order). The Order included $319,393 in administrative civil liability, of which, $135,998 is now permanently suspended following the timely and successful completion of the SEP.

The stipulated Order was adopted by the San Diego Water Board on April 15, 2019, for a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) that occurred on June 15, 2015 and resulted in the discharge of 107,500 gallons of raw sewage to Loma Alta Creek and Loma Alta Slough. The SEP is located in the same watershed where the SSO occurred and benefits affected beneficial uses, including warm freshwater habitat, wildlife habitat, and non-contact recreation. The SEP established three project goals: 1) treatment and removal of invasive vegetation across 28 acres of habitat in Garrison Creek; 2) restoration of 2.4 acres of disturbed land along edges of existing riparian corridor; and 3) environmental education and engagement with nearby disadvantaged communities.

After the City submitted its Certification of Completion and Final Report on January 10, 2024, San Diego Water Board staff conducted a field inspection on February 28, 2024 to assess compliance with the Order and determine whether the project goals were met. Overall, staff were impressed with the restoration efforts of the City and Nature Collective, as it appeared that non-native removal and native planting was largely successful (Figures 10 through 12) and met restoration success criteria (Figure 13).

Following the inspection and request for additional information, the City submitted an amended Final Report on June 10, 2024 that demonstrated the City had met the SEP requirements of the Order. The City also committed to continuing efforts to leverage citizen volunteer maintenance of the site through Friends of El Corazon and I Love a Clean San Diego to safeguard the habitat moving forward.

August 2020

August 2023

*Figure 10: East Crescent Photo Point 1, 2020 and 2023*

January 2020

August 2023

*Figure 11: East Crescent Photo Point 3, 2020 and 2023*



*Figure 12: West Mesa Photo Point 1, 2020 and 2023*

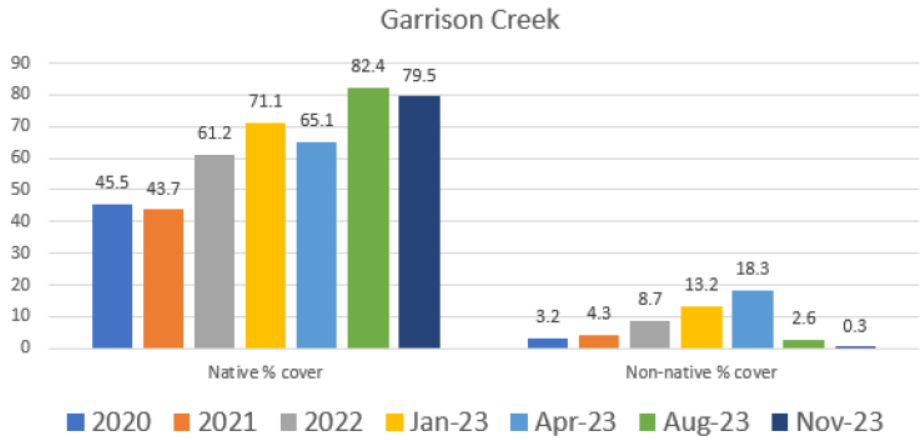


*Figure 13: Average Native vs. Non-native Cover at Garrison Creek SEP site 2020-2023*

*Note: The SEP resulted in increased native vegetation cover (79.5%) and decreased non-native cover (0.3%), meeting restoration success criteria of >60% native cover and <5% non-native cover.*

## 7. Enforcement Actions for April, May, and June 2024 *(Attachment B-7)*

*Staff Contacts: Kate Buckley, Chiara Clemente*

During April, May, and June 2024, the San Diego Water Board issued 1 Administrative Civil Liability Order, 1 Administrative Liability Complaint, 8 Notices of Violation, and 2 Staff Enforcement Letters. A summary of each written enforcement action taken is provided in the attached tables. The State Water Board's Enforcement Policy contains a brief description of the types 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/.

## 8. Sanitary Sewer Overflows in the San Diego Region – April and May 2024 *(Attachment B-8)*

*Staff Contacts: James Chhor*

Sanitary sewer systems experience periodic failures resulting in sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) discharges that may affect waters of the United States and/or the State of California (State). There are many factors (including factors related to geology, design, construction methods and materials, age of the system, population growth, and system operation and maintenance), that can influence the likelihood of an SSO and the volume of the discharge. Major causes of SSOs include: grease blockages, root blockages, sewer line flood damage, manhole structure failures, vandalism, pump station failures, power outages, excessive stormwater inflow or groundwater infiltration, debris blockages, failures due to aging sanitary sewer systems, lack of proper operation and maintenance, insufficient capacity, and contractor-caused damages. Many SSOs are preventable with adequate and appropriate facilities, source control measures, and proper operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system.

SSO discharges from public sewage collection systems and private laterals in the San Diego Region can contain high levels of suspended solids, pathogens, toxic pollutants, nutrients, and oil and grease. SSO discharges 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 include closure of beaches and other recreational areas, inundation of property, and pollution of rivers, estuaries, and beaches.

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 SSOs are required to be reported under the Statewide General SSO Order,[8] the San Diego Regional General SSO Order,[9] and/or individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

[8] State Water Board Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ, *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Sanitary Sewer Systems*. State Water Board Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ was adopted on December 9, 2022, and became effective on June 5, 2023. State Water Board Order WQ 2022-0103-DWQ supersedes Order 2006-0003-DWQ, the previous statewide waste discharge requirements for sanitary sewer systems.

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

(NPDES) permit requirements. Some federal entities[10] report this information voluntarily. Most SSO reports are available to the public on a real-time basis at the State Water Board Public SSO Report Database.

Details on the reported SSOs and private lateral sewage discharges (PLSDs) for April and May of 2024 are provided in the following tables:

- Table 1: April and May 2024 - Summary of Public and Federal Sanitary Sewer Overflow Events
- Table 2: April and May 2024 - Summary of Private Lateral Sewage Discharge Events
- Table 3: April and May 2024 - Summary of Sewage Discharges by Source

A summary view of information on sewage spill trends from April 2023 to May 2024 are provided in the following table and figures:

- Table 4: Summary of Category 1 Spills by Agency
- Figure 1: Number of Spills per Month
- Figure 2: Volume of Public SSOs per Month
- Figure 3: Volume of Federal SSOs per Month
- Figure 4: Volume of PLSDs per Month

The Statewide General SSO Order which became effective on June 5, 2023, no longer requires agencies to submit electronic spill reports for public SSOs that are less than 50 gallons in volume that do not reach surface waters. Some agencies may still voluntarily report that information. As a result, Tables 1 and 3, and Figures 1 and 2 may not include information from public SSOs that are less than 50 gallons in volume that did not reach surface waters. Some agencies are still voluntarily submitting electronic spill reports for spills from private laterals less than 50 gallons in volume that do not reach surface waters.

From April 2023 to May 2024, 31 of the 68 collection systems in the San Diego Region reported one or more sewage spills. Thirty-seven collection systems did not report any sewage spills. A total of 183 sewage spills were reported with about 30,608,122 gallons of sewage reaching surface waters.

Additional information about the San Diego Water Board sewage overflow regulatory program is available on the San Diego Water Board's SSO Website.

[10] Marine Corp Base Camp Pendleton reports sewage spills to CIWQS as required by its individual NPDES permit, Order No R9-2019-0167, NPDES Permit No. CA0109347, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Southern Regional Tertiary Treatment Plant and Advanced Water Treatment Plant at Haybarn Canyon, Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the Oceanside Ocean Outfall*. The United States Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the United States Navy voluntarily report sewage spills through CIWQS.

## 9. Transboundary Flows from Mexico into the San Diego Region – April and May 2024 *(Attachment B-9)*

*Staff Contact: Melissa Corona*

Water and wastewater in the Tijuana River and from canyons located along the international border ultimately drain from the City of Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico (Tijuana) into the 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) built canyon collectors that are intended to capture dry weather transboundary flows for treatment at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) located in the U.S. near the U.S.-Mexico border. Dry weather transboundary flows that are not captured by the canyon collectors for treatment at the SBIWTP, such as flows within the main channel of the Tijuana River,[11] are reported by USIBWC pursuant to Order No. R9-2021-0001, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the SBIWTP discharge. These uncaptured flows can enter waters of the U.S. and/or waters of the State of California (State), potentially polluting the Tijuana River Valley and Estuary, and south San Diego beach coastal waters.

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 U.S. and Mexican sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) 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, which provides secondary treatment for a portion of the sewage from Tijuana and dry weather transboundary flows conveyed from canyon collectors located in Stewart's Drain, Silva Drain, Canyon del Sol, Smuggler's Gulch, and Goat Canyon. The treated wastewater is discharged to the Pacific Ocean through the South Bay Ocean Outfall. The discharge is regulated by USIBWC's NPDES permit, Order No. R9-2021-0001.
- Several pump stations and wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) in Mexico, including the San Antonio de los Buenos WWTP, the La Morita WWTP, and the Arturo Herrera WWTP.
- The River Diversion Structure and Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas pump station (PBCILA) in Tijuana are intended to divert dry weather transboundary flows in the main channel of the Tijuana River. The flows are diverted to a discharge point at the Pacific Ocean shoreline, approximately 5 miles south of the U.S.-Mexico border; or the flows can be diverted to the SBIWTP or the San Antonio de los Buenos WWTP, depending on how the Baja California water utility for the City of Tijuana (CESPT) directs the flow. The River Diversion Structure is not designed to collect wet weather river flows or any dry weather

[11] 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.

flows over 1,000 liters per second (35.3 cubic feet per second, 22.8 million gallons per day).

USIBWC reported that there were transboundary flows in the Tijuana River main channel in April 2024, during wet weather as defined in its NPDES permit. USIBWC did not report any dry weather transboundary flows or facility spills during April 2024.

For May 2024, USIBWC reported one facility spill resulting in the release of 67,320 gallons at the SBIWTP. USIBWC also reported approximately 12.5 million gallons and 30 million gallons of transboundary flow volume at Goat Canyon and Smuggler's Gulch, respectively, during May 2024. These are not all dry weather flows but USIBWC was not able to determine separate flow events or volumes for wet and dry weather conditions during May 2024.

USIBWC reported that wet and dry weather transboundary flows continue to flow through the main channel, totaling approximately 34.8 billion gallons as of May 2024. This continuous flow started on October 11, 2023.

Details on transboundary flows and spills reported for April and May 2024 are provided in the attached table:

- Table 1: April and May 2024 - Summary of Transboundary Flows and Spills

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

- Figure 1: Number of Transboundary Flows
- Figure 2: Tijuana River Transboundary Flow Volume
- Figure 3: Canyon Collector Transboundary Flow Volume

These figures show the number and volume of transboundary flows per month from May 2023 through May 2024. During this period, USIBWC reported at least 30 transboundary flows and spills with a total volume of approximately 36.8 billion gallons.

USIBWC was not able to determine separate flow events for wet and dry weather conditions during May 2024, so Figure 1 shows the minimum number of transboundary flows at canyon collectors (one at Goat Canyon and one Smuggler's Gulch). Since USIBWC was not able to determine separate flow volumes for wet and dry weather conditions during May 2024, Figure 3 shows the combined wet and dry weather transboundary flows at Goat Canyon and Smuggler's Gulch.

# Part C – Statewide Issues of Importance to the San Diego Region

**No Report**

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION

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

August 14, 2024
APPENDED TO EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

**September 11, 2024**
***San Diego Water Board***

| Action Agenda Item | Action Type | Written Comments Due |
|---|---|---|
| Tentative Time Schedule Order No. R9-2024-0110 Requiring Citizens Development Corporation to Comply with Requirements in Order No. R9-2015-0013, NPDES Permit CAG919003 for Groundwater Extraction Discharges to Lake San Marcos. *(James Chhor)* | Time Schedule Order | 10/12/2023 |
| Settlement Agreement: Settlement of Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) in the matter of City of Oceanside April 2020 Sanitary Sewer Overflows as alleged in ACL Complaint No. R9-2023-0015 (Tentative Stipulated Order No. R9-2024-0060). *(Kate Buckley)* | Settlement Agreement | 7/31/2024 |
| Annual Update on Healthy Waters Strategy for San Diego Bay. *(Wayne Chiu)* | Informational Item | NA |

**October 9, 2024**
***San Diego Water Board***

| Action Agenda Item | Action Type | Written Comments Due |
|---|---|---|
| Resolution Approving County of San Diego's Revised Local Agency Management Program (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2024-0130) (*Brandon Bushnell*) | Resolution | NA |
| Amendment to Order No. R9-2020-0001, as amended by Order No. R9-2020-0183, NPDES No. CA0109398, Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of San Diego North City Reclamation Plant and Pure Water Facility, Discharge to Miramar Reservoir, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. R9-2024-0035) (Osibodu) | NPDES Permit | TBD |

**November 13, 2024**
***San Diego Water Board***

| Action Agenda Item | Action Type | Written Comments Due |
|---|---|---|
| Lower San Diego River Investigative Order. *(Jimmy Smith)* | Informational item | NA |
| Update on Population Surveys of Unhoused Individuals and Associated Trash Impacts in the San Diego River. *(Jimmy Smith)* | Informational item | NA |
| Resolution Accepting the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (Tentative Resolution No. R9-2024-XXXX). *(Brandon Bushnell)* | Resolution | TBD |

## Agenda Items Requested by Board Members

**March 10, 2021**

| Requested Agenda Item | Board Member | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Region-wide workshop regarding the water quality issues in the Tijuana River Valley, including a discussion of water quality objectives and steps needed to achieve them. | Abarbanel | 2024 |

**May 11, 2022**

| Requested Agenda Item | Board Member | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Environmental Justice outreach event. | Warren | 2024 |

**March 8, 2023**

| Requested Agenda Item | Board Member | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Update regarding the Southern California ROMS-BEC coastal water-quality model. | Abarbanel | 2024 |

**June 14, 2023**

| Future | Board Member | Status |
|---|---|---|
| A tour of the Harbor Island Living Shoreline Project. | Warren | Completed June 2024 |

**October 11, 2023**

| Requested Agenda Item | Board Member | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Look for duplicative monitoring in San Diego Bay and identify opportunities to reduce monitoring as a result of this assessment. | Warren | Ongoing |

**December 13 and 18, 2023**

| Requested Agenda Item | Board Member | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Updates on the status of all upgrades at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, especially when USIBWC will not meet estimated completion dates provided in previous Executive Officer Reports. | Olson | Ongoing |

**February 14, 2024**

| Requested Agenda Item | Board Member | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Update regarding the annual homeless populations surveys that occur in many watersheds in our Region, including information regarding the water quality impacts in the areas of identified homeless populations. | Strawn, Cantú | Winter 2024 |

**May 8, 2024**

| Requested Agenda Item | Board Member | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Board Member Olson made a request to include a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) running volume total by agency in the Executive Officer Report. She was also interested in the volume of each SSO that reaches surface water. | Olson | Complete August 2024<br><br>Added to the Executive Officer's Report |

# Enforcement Actions for April, May, and June 2024

## NPDES WASTEWATER

| Enforcement Date | Enforcement Action | Entity/ Facility/Location | Summary of Violations and Enforcement | Applicable Permit/Order Violated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **6/18/2024** | Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Order No. R9-2024-0057 | County of San Diego, Live Oak Park Road Bridge Replacement, Fallbrook | Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Order totaling $18,000, with $16,500 towards the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) Stormwater Monitoring Coalition Regional Monitoring Program (SMCRMP) Supplemental Environmental Project, for Mandatory Minimum Penalties related to groundwater extraction. | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Order No. R9-2015-0013 |
| **4/23/2024** | Notice of Violation No. R9-2024-0084 (see June 2024 Executive Officer's Report [EOR], Attachment A-1g) | United States International Boundary and Water Commission, South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Diego | Failure to comply with effluent limitations and monitoring and reporting requirements. | NPDES Order No. R9-2021-0001 |

| Enforcement Date | Enforcement Action | Entity/ Facility/Location | Summary of Violations and Enforcement | Applicable Permit/Order Violated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **5/14/2024** | Notice of Violation No. R9-2024-0091 (see June 2024 EOR, Attachment A-1h) | United States International Boundary and Water Commission, South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, San Diego | Failure to comply with effluent limitations. | NPDES Order No. R9-2021-0001 |

**NPDES STORMWATER**

| Enforcement Date | Enforcement Action | Entity/ Facility/Location | Summary of Violations and Enforcement | Applicable Permit/Order Violated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **5/8/2024** | Notice of Violation No. R9-2024-0066 | Amazon com Services LLC, SAN6 Project, Otay Mesa | Failure to enroll in the Construction Stormwater General Order, prohibit waste discharges, and implement best management practices. | NPDES General Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ |

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS**

| Enforcement Date | Enforcement Action | Entity/ Facility/Location | Summary of Violations and Enforcement | Applicable Permit/Order Violated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **6/5/2024** | Staff Enforcement Letter | City of Oceanside, San Luis Rey Water Reclamation Facility, Oceanside | Missing data in monthly monitoring report. | Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 93-07 |

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS: DREDGE & FILL**

| Enforcement Date | Enforcement Action | Entity/ Facility/Location | Summary of Violations and Enforcement | Applicable Permit/Order Violated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **6/6/2024** | Staff Enforcement Letter | Temecula Creek Ranch, LLC, Jacqueline M. Fletcher, and Jose Antonio Jimenez; Assessor Parcel Nos. 583-120-003, 583-120-004, and 583-120-086; County of Riverside | Failure to timely submit a restoration/mitigation and monitoring plan. | Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R9-2024-0023 |

**CANNABIS**

| Enforcement Date | Enforcement Action | Entity/ Facility/Location | Summary of Violations and Enforcement | Applicable Permit/Order Violated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **5/23/2024** | ACL Complaint No. R9-2024-0090 | Olivia Liu Property, Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 197-100-02-00, County of San Diego | ACL Complaint totaling $409,534 for failure to implement requirements under Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R9-2021-0165. | California Water Code (CWC) sections 13304 and 13267 |
| **4/30/2024** | Notice of Violation | Martha Morales Property, APN 583-240-011, County of Riverside | Unauthorized discharges related to cannabis cultivation. | CWC section 13260 |
| **6/27/2024** | Notice of Violation | Gloria Lozano Property, APN 571-430-007, County of Riverside | Unauthorized discharges related to cannabis cultivation. | CWC sections 13260 and 13264 |

| Enforcement Date | Enforcement Action | Entity/ Facility/Location | Summary of Violations and Enforcement | Applicable Permit/Order Violated |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **6/27/2024** | Notice of Violation | MGA Associates Inc., APN 571-370-041, County of Riverside | Unauthorized discharges related to cannabis cultivation. | CWC sections 13260 and 13264 |
| **6/27/2024** | Notice of Violation | Michael Kus Property, APN 583-260-069, County of Riverside | Unauthorized discharges related to cannabis cultivation. | CWC section 13260 |
| **6/27/2024** | Notice of Violation | William Jr. and Janet Cramer Property, APN 571-360-002, County of Riverside | Unauthorized discharges related to cannabis cultivation. | CWC sections 13260 and 13264 |

**Table 1: April and May 2024 – Summary of Public and Federal Sanitary Sewer Overflow Events[1]**

| Responsible Collection System Agency | Total Volume (Gallons)[2] | Total Recovered (Gallons)[3] | Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)[4] | Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain and Recovered (Gallons)[5] | Total Discharged to Land (Gallons)[6] | Surface Water Body Affected[7] | Miles of Pressure Sewer | Miles of Gravity Sewer | Population in Service Area[8] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| City of Coronado | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Not Applicable | 8.5 | 42.80 | 20,627 |
| City of National City | 45 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Not Applicable | 1.0 | 105.00 | 58,967 |
| City of San Clemente | 50 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Not Applicable | 18.0 | 162.00 | 63,896 |
| City of San Diego | 900 | 770 | 0 | 770 | 0 | Not Applicable | 112 | 2,945 | 2,380,000 |
| City of San Diego | 252 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 252 | Not Applicable | 112 | 2,945 | 2,380,000 |

[1] Table 1 may not include information on public SSOs that were less than 50 gallons in volume and that did not reach surface waters.
[2] Total Volume = total amount that discharged from sanitary sewer system to a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.
[3] Total Recovered = total amount recovered from a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.
[4] 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.
[5] Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain and Recovered = total amount reaching separate storm drain that was recovered.
[6] Total Discharged to Land = total amount reaching land.
[7] 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."
[8] As reported in the Collection System Questionnaire required under Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ.

| Responsible Collection System Agency | Total Volume (Gallons)[2] | Total Recovered (Gallons)[3] | Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)[4] | Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain and Recovered (Gallons)[5] | Total Discharged to Land (Gallons)[6] | Surface Water Body Affected[7] | Miles of Pressure Sewer | Miles of Gravity Sewer | Population in Service Area[8] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| City of San Diego | 160 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 160 | Not Applicable | 112 | 2,945 | 2,380,000 |
| City of San Diego | 233 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 233 | Not Applicable | 112 | 2,945 | 2,380,000 |
| City of San Diego | 405 | 375 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Not Applicable | 112 | 2,945 | 2,380,000 |
| Eastern Municipal Water District | 264,627 | 0 | 264,627 | 0 | 0 | Tucalota Creek | 30 | 609 | 258,132 |
| Padre Dam Municipal Water District | 480 | 455 | 0 | 455 | 0 | Not Applicable | 5 | 164 | 69,641 |
| San Diego County | 105 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 105 | Not Applicable | 5 | 422 | 199,000 |
| Santa Margarita Water District | 30 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | Not Applicable | 14 | 638.9 | 170000 |
| Trabuco Canyon Water District | 6,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3000 | 0.0 | Aliso Creek | 9 | 46.5 | 12921 |

**Table 2: April and May 2024 – 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 Affected[5] | Population in Service Area[6] | Number of Lateral Connections |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buena Sanitation District | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | Not Applicable | 41,000 | 6,728 |
| City of El Cajon | 600 | Not Reported | 580 | 0 | Forester Creek | 101,709 | 17,100 |
| City of Escondido | 5 | 5 | 0 | 1 | Not Applicable | 148,000 | 27,497 |
| City of Oceanside | 50 | 0 | 50 | 0 | Pacific Ocean | 175,464 | 42,040 |
| City of San Diego | 187 | Not Reported | Not Reported | 0 | Not Applicable | 2,380,000 | 267,188 |
| City of San Diego | 925 | Not Reported | Not Reported | 0 | Not Reported | 2,380,000 | 267,188 |

[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 Affected[5] | Population in Service Area[6] | Number of Lateral Connections |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| City of San Diego | 148 | Not Reported | Not Reported | 0 | Not Reported | 2,380,000 | 267,188 |
| City of San Diego | 489 | Not Reported | Not Reported | 0 | Not Reported | 2,380,000 | 267,188 |
| City of San Diego | 538 | Not Reported | Not Reported | 0 | Not Reported | 2,380,000 | 267,188 |
| City of Vista | 225 | Not Reported | Not Reported | 0 | Not Reported | 90,000 | 17,109 |
| City of Vista | 80 | Not Reported | Not Reported | 0 | Not Reported | 90,000 | 17,109 |
| Moulton Niguel Water District | 840 | Not Reported | Not Reported | 0 | Not Reported | 170,236 | 50,619 |
| Rainbow Municipal Water District | 500 | Not Reported | Not Reported | 0 | Not Reported | 7,985 | 3,163 |

**Table 3: April and May 2024 – Summary of Sewage Discharges by Source[1]**

| Spill Type | Month/Year | Number of Spills | Total Volume (Gallons)[2] | Total Recovered (Gallons)[3] | Total Reaching Surface Waters (Gallons)[4] | Total Reaching Separate Storm Drain & Recovered and/or Discharged to Land (Gallons)[5] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Public Spills | April and May 2024 | 13 | 273,297 | 4,735 | 267,627 | 4,975 |
| Federal Spills | April and May 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Private Spills | April and May 2024 | 13 | 4,592 | 10 | 630 | 1 |
| **All Spills** | **April and May 2024** | **26** | **277,889** | **4,745** | **268,257** | **4,976** |

[1] Information displayed may not include public SSOs that were less than 50 gallons in volume that did not reach surface waters.
[2] Total Volume = total amount that discharged from sanitary sewer system to a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.
[3] Total Recovered = total amount recovered from a separate storm drain, drainage channel, surface water body, and/or land.
[4] 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.
[5] 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.

**Table 4: Summary of Category 1 Spills[1] by Agency between April 2023 and May 2024**

| Responsible Collection System Agency | Number of Spills | Smallest Spill Volume (Gallons) | Largest Spill Volume (Gallons) | Average Spill Volume (Gallons) | Total Volume (Gallons) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| City of Coronado | 4 | 38,250 | 10,459,749 | 4,717,041 | 18,868,164 |
| City of San Diego | 20 | 36 | 11,400,000 | 576,883 | 11,537,664 |
| City of Laguna Beach | 1 | 152,705 | 152,705 | 152,705 | 152,705 |
| Padre Dam Municipal Water District | 1 | 12,900 | 12,900 | 12,900 | 12,900 |
| City of Encinitas | 1 | 7,200 | 7,200 | 7,200 | 7,200 |
| City of La Mesa | 1 | 6,750 | 6,750 | 6,750 | 6,750 |
| City of Oceanside | 1 | 6,120 | 6,120 | 6,120 | 6,120 |
| Trabuco Canyon Water District | 1 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| City of Carlsbad | 1 | 4,250 | 4,250 | 4,250 | 4,250 |
| US Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton | 2 | 250 | 3,000 | 1,625 | 3,250 |
| City of Escondido | 1 | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,600 |
| City of Lemon Grove | 1 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Vallecitos Water District | 2 | 585 | 1,260 | 923 | 1,845 |
| San Diego County | 1 | 980 | 980 | 980 | 980 |

[1] Category 1 spills are spills of any volume of sewage from or caused by a sanitary sewer system regulated under Statewide General SSO Order that results in a discharge to a surface water or a drainage conveyance system that discharges to surface waters when the sewage is not fully captured and returned to the sanitary sewer system or disposed of properly.

| Responsible Collection System Agency | Number of Spills | Smallest Spill Volume (Gallons) | Largest Spill Volume (Gallons) | Average Spill Volume (Gallons) | Total Volume (Gallons) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Santa Margarita Water District | 1 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Buena Sanitation District | 1 | 477 | 477 | 477 | 477 |
| City of Vista | 2 | 172 | 175 | 174 | 347 |
| City of National City | 1 | 260 | 260 | 260 | 260 |
| Fallbrook Public Utility District | 2 | 10 | 100 | 55 | 110 |

**Figure 1: Number of Spills per Month**

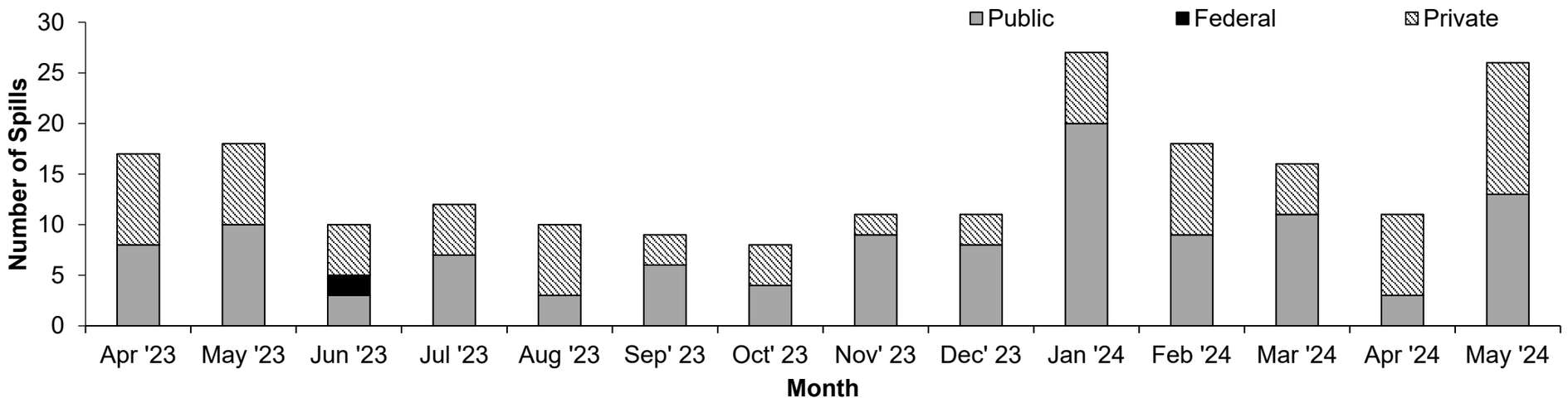


**Figure 1:** The number of public, federal, and private sewage spills per month from April 2023 through May 2024. Note total number of spills per month may not include public SSOs that were less than 50 gallons in volume that did not reach surface waters.

**Figure 2: Volume of Public SSOs per Month**

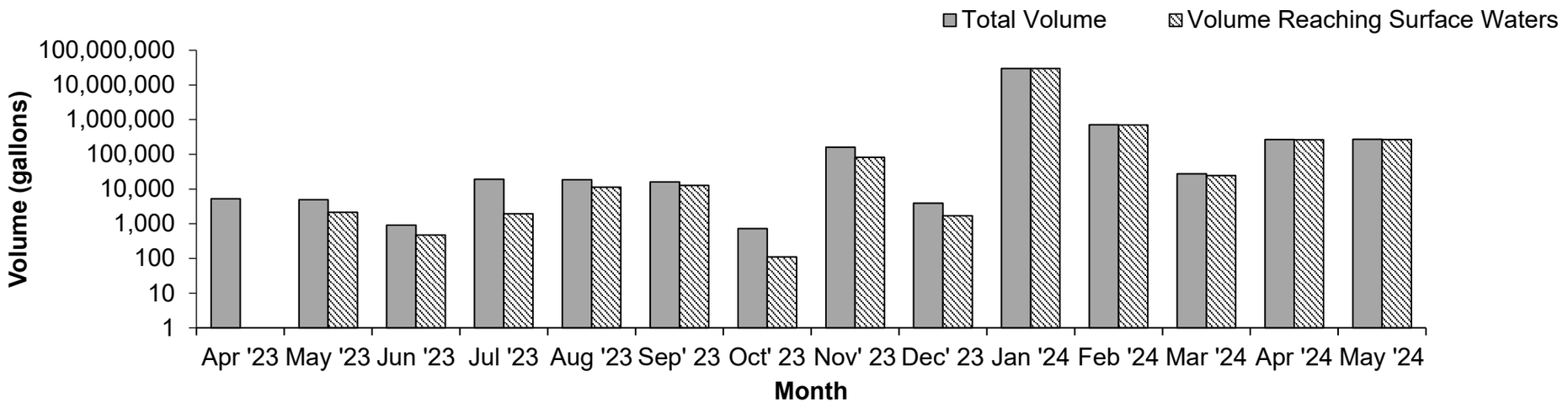


**Figure 2:** The volume of SSOs from public agencies per month from April 2023 through May 2024. Note, spill totals may not include public SSOs that were less than 50 gallons in volume that did not reach surface waters. Also, note the logarithmic scale on the vertical axis showing the wide variation in spill volumes.

**Figure 3: Volume of Federal SSOs per Month**

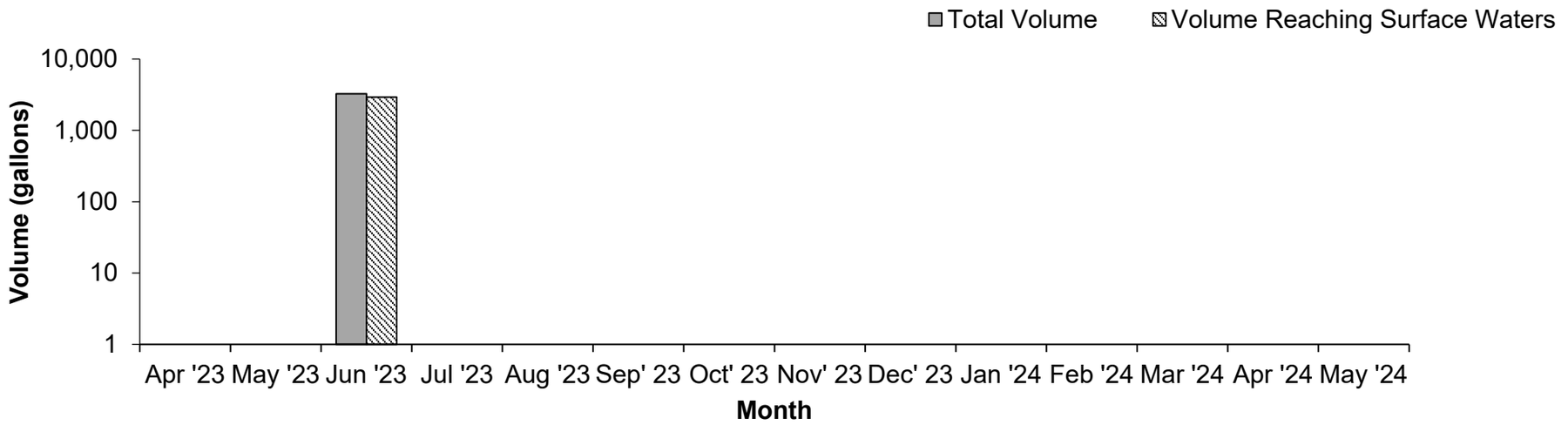


**Figure 3:** The volume of SSOs from federal agencies per month from April 2023 through May 2024. Note the logarithmic scale on the vertical axis showing the wide variation in spill volumes.

**Figure 4: Volume of PLSDs per Month**

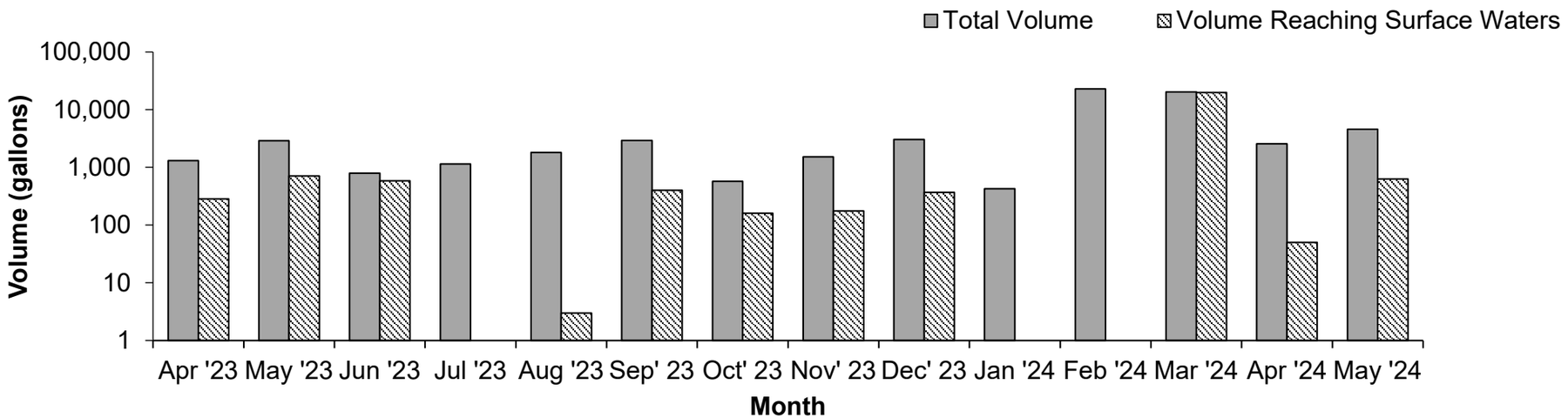


**Figure 4:** The volume of PLSDs per month from April 2023 through May 2024. Note the logarithmic scale on the vertical axis showing the wide variation in spill volumes.

**Table 1: April and May 2024 – Summary of Transboundary Flows and Spills[1]**

| Location | Start Date | End Date | Weather Condition[2] | Total Volume[3] | Total Volume Recovered[3] | Total Volume Reaching Surface Waters[3] | Additional Details Reported By USIBWC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Transboundary flow in Tijuana River main channel | 10/11/2023 | ongoing | wet and dry | 34.8 billion gallons | 0 | 34.8 billion gallons | Wet and dry weather flows from numerous sources in Mexico. |
| Transboundary flow at Smuggler's Gulch canyon collector | May 2024 | May 2024 | wet and dry | 12.5 million gallons | 0 | 12.5 million gallons | Wet and dry weather flows from Mexico. |
| Transboundary flow at Goat Canyon collector | May 2024 | May 2024 | wet and dry | 30 million gallons | 0 | 30 million gallons | Wet and dry weather flows from Mexico. |
| Facility spill at SBIWTP | 05/13/2024 | 05/13/2024 | dry | 67,320 gallons | 0 | 67,320 gallons | Piping fixture damaged by moving vehicle |

[1] Volumes are obtained from self-monitoring reports submitted by USIBWC pursuant to Order No. R9-2021-0001.

[2] Order No. R9-2021-0001 defines wet weather as the period of time when a storm event produces 0.1 inch or greater within a 24-hour period plus 72 hours after, based on the Goat Canyon Pump Station rain gauge. USIBWC reported that 0.2 and 0.12 inches of precipitation were recorded at Marron Valley for the months of April and May 2024, respectively. The rain gauges at Goat Canyon and Smugglers Gulch were not operable and are scheduled for maintenance and repair or replacement.

[3] Total transboundary flow volume, total volume recovered, and total volume reaching surface waters are estimates reported by USIBWC.

## Figure 1: Number of New Transboundary Flows

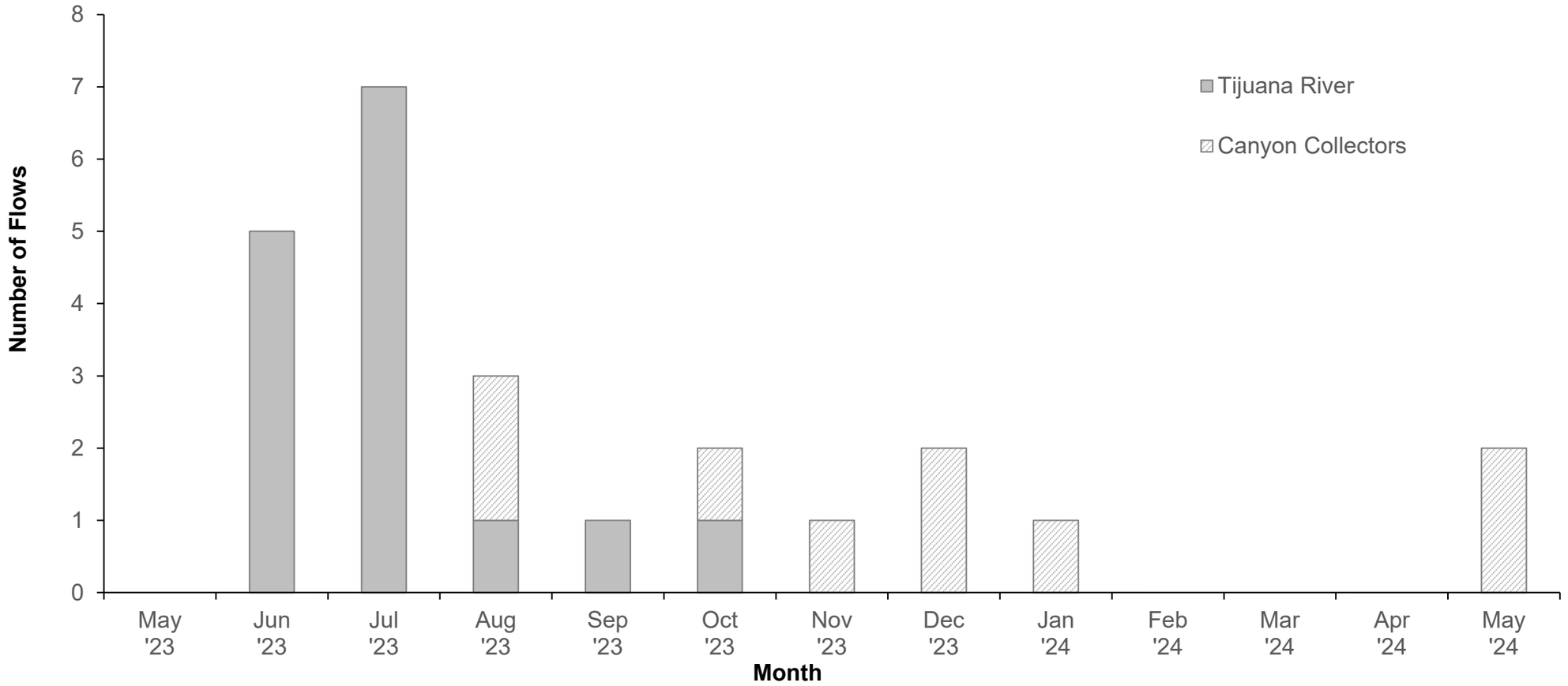


**Figure 1:** Number of new transboundary flows reported per month from May 2023 through May 2024 at the canyon collector systems and the Tijuana River main channel. For transboundary flows that start and end in different months, the figure includes the transboundary flow in the month the transboundary flow started. For example, Tijuana River flows from November 2023 through May 2024 that started in October 2023 are only shown in October 2023.

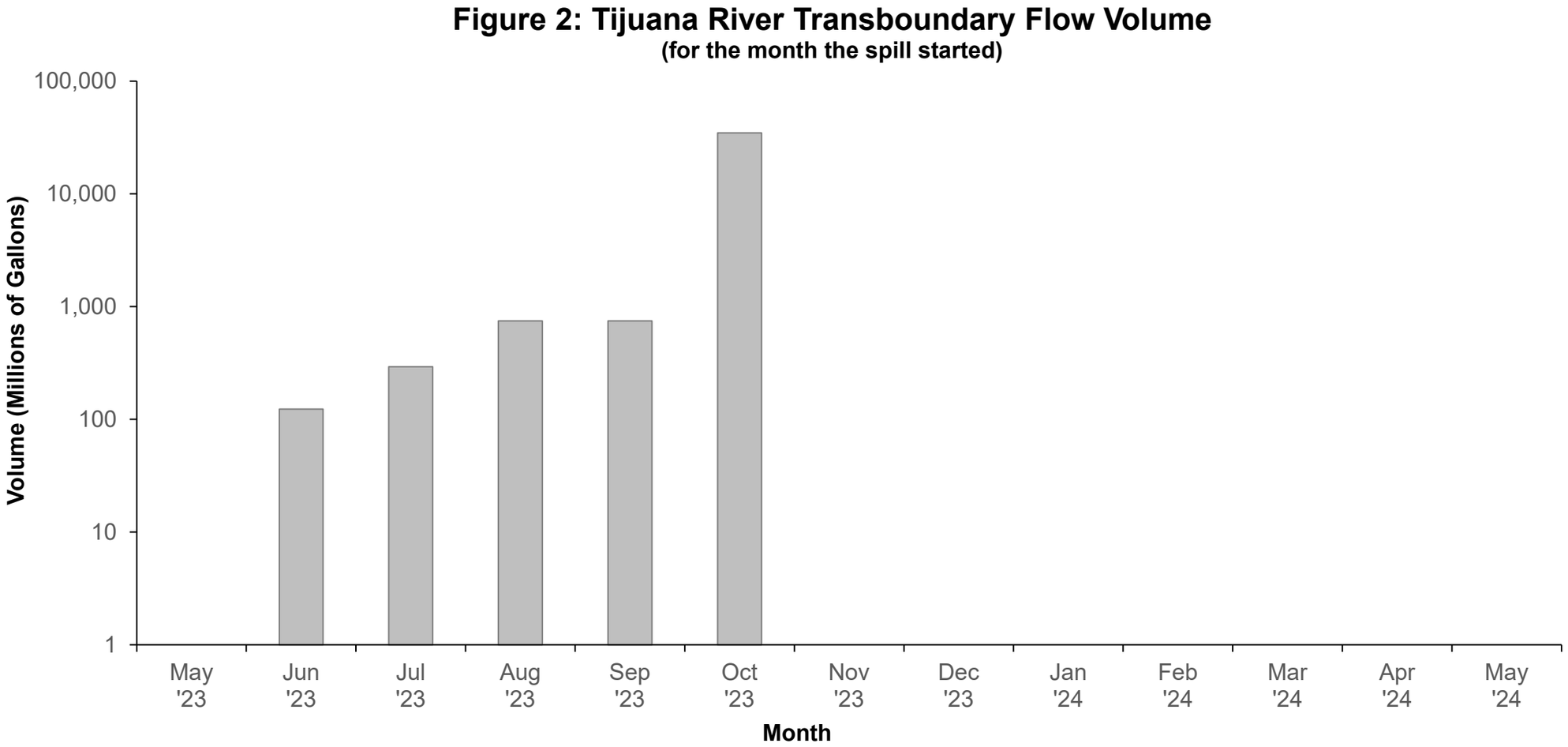


**Figure 2:** Volume of reported transboundary flows per month from May 2023 through May 2024 at the Tijuana River main channel. For transboundary flows that start and end in different months, the figure includes the total volume of the transboundary flow in the month the transboundary flow started. For example, volumes reported for November 2023 through May 2024 for the flows that started in October 2023 are only shown in October. Note the logarithmic scale on the vertical axis to accommodate the variation in transboundary flow volumes.

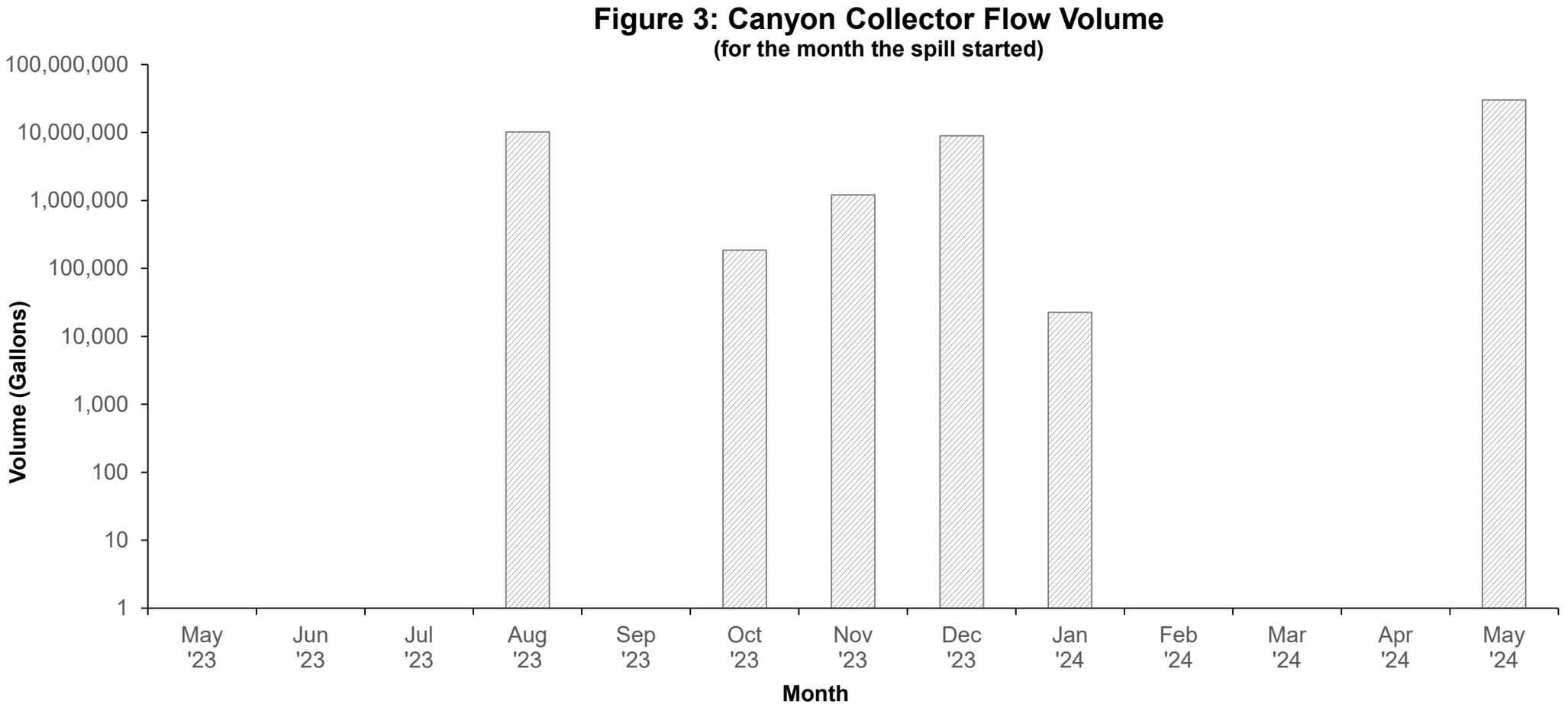


**Figure 3:** Volume of reported transboundary flows per month from May 2023 through May 2024 at the canyon collector systems. Note the logarithmic scale on the vertical axis to accommodate variation in transboundary flow volumes. USIBWC reported approximately 12.5 million gallons and 30 million gallons of transboundary flow volume at Goat Canyon and Smuggler's Gulch, respectively, during May 2024. These are not all dry weather flows but USIBWC was not able to determine separate flow volumes for wet and dry weather conditions during May 2024.