

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

PROPOSED SCOPE OF REISSUANCE OF NPDES PERMIT FOR INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, SOUTH BAY INTERNATIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) has scheduled a public workshop to provide information and receive public feedback on the proposed scope of the project to reissue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP). The meeting will be held at the location and time specified below.

Friday, February 14, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.

Water Quality Control Board

Board Meeting Room

2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100

San Diego, CA 92108

In this meeting, staff will provide information about the IWTP and its discharge of secondary treated wastewater effluent to the Pacific Ocean via the South Bay Ocean Outfall, fugitive cross-border flows, and issues the San Diego Water Board plans to address in the tentative NPDES permit to be released to the public in the near future. San Diego Water Board staff also wishes to hear any concerns, issues, and questions from interested persons regarding the IWTP, and the reissuance of the NPDES permit. Staff will also provide information at the workshop on the proposed schedule for the release of the tentative NPDES permit, and for public review and comment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The IWTP is owned and administered by the IBWC and is operated and maintained under contract by a private consultant. The IWTP was built in 1996 on a 75-acre site near the international boundary in the United States immediately north of the City of Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico and is located at 2415 Dairy Mart Road, San Ysidro, CA 92173-2840.

The IWTP treats an average daily flow of 25 million gallons per day (mgd) of raw sewage and other wastewater flows originating from Tijuana consisting of 1) sewage flows exceeding the capacity of Tijuana's sewage treatment and conveyance facilities and 2) fugitive cross-border flows collected from five canyon collectors. The five collectors are located immediately north of

the international boundary at Silva Drain Canyon, Canyon del Sol, Stewarts Drain, Goat Canyon, and Smugglers Gulch respectively. These canyons are all tributaries to the Tijuana River and estuary.

In 1996, the IBWC, with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), completed the advanced primary treatment components of the IWTP. In 2010, an activated sludge treatment component was added to the IWTP to provide secondary treated effluent.

Along with secondary treated wastewater from the City of San Diego's South Bay Water Reclamation Facility, the IWTP discharges secondary treated wastewater to the South Bay Ocean Outfall, which extends westward into the ocean approximately 23,600 feet from the mouth of the Tijuana River and terminates in a diffuser-wye structure approximately 95 feet below sea level. The IWTP's discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the South Bay Ocean Outfall is currently regulated under Order No. 96-50, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0108928, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the International Boundary and Water Commission U.S. Section International Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean Through the South Bay Ocean Outfall San Diego County*. Order No. 96-50 was adopted on November 14, 1996. Order No. 96-50 expired on October 10, 2001 but remains in effect under an administrative extension pending the reissuance of a new NPDES permit.

The San Diego Water Board is now in the process of reissuing a new NPDES permit for the IWTP.¹ The tentative permit is tentatively scheduled to be considered for adoption by the San Diego Water Board at a public hearing in the summer of 2014 and, if adopted, would supersede the current permit (Order No. 96-50).

The San Diego Water Board will issue a separate public hearing notice announcing the release of the tentative permit as a Tentative Order for public review and comment at a later date. The public hearing notice will establish the deadline for submission of comments, the date of the public hearing, and the procedures that the San Diego Water Board will follow at the public hearing to consider adoption of the Tentative Order. Once released, the Tentative Order will serve as the draft permit for purposes of submitting written public comments and other applicable public notice requirements under the Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R. § 124.10) and Water Code section 13167.5, subdivision (b).

¹ From 2001 to June 2013, the IBWC's operation of the IWTP was subject to the jurisdiction of the federal court, under the terms of a compliance order which established a schedule for the IBWC to meet federal and state secondary treatment requirements. The litigation concluded in June 2013.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

A tentative NPDES permit is in the process of being written, and has not yet been released for public comment. A copy of the current NPDES permit and other relevant documents are available electronically on the San Diego Water Board Web site at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/iwtp/index.shtml.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments are not being solicited at this time. The San Diego Water Board will not provide written responses to written comments submitted for consideration at the workshop. All written comments, as well as comments received during the workshop will be reviewed and considered in the development of a final tentative permit that will be released for public comment at a future date. A proposed schedule for the release of a tentative NPDES permit and the public comment period will be discussed at the workshop.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

At this meeting, there will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. However, San Diego Water Board staff may ask questions of speakers. To ensure a productive and efficient public meeting in which all participants have an opportunity to participate, questions and comments may be time-limited. A quorum of the San Diego Water Board members may be present at the workshop. The San Diego Water Board will not deliberate or take any action during the workshop.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions to the San Diego Water Board office, please refer to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/contact_us/

From Downtown: I-15 north – take the Friars Road West exit (toward Qualcomm Stadium) – follow signs to stay on Friars Road. Turn left onto Northside Drive. Turn left at first signal. Our building is located at the end of the court – veer to the left into the parking lot. Two-hour free parking is available on a first-come first-serve basis and long term fee parking is also available in an adjacent parking structure.

From the North: I-15 south – take the Friars Road West exit – follow signs to stay on Friars Road. Turn left onto Northside Drive. Turn left at first signal. Our building is located at the end of the court - veer to the left into the parking lot. Two-hour free parking is available on a first-come first-serve basis and long term fee parking is also available in an adjacent parking structure.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any questions or concerns regarding the above subject should be directed to Joann Lim by phone at 619-521-3362 or by email at Joann.Lim@waterboards.ca.gov.