
State Water Resources Control Board

Public Notice of Water Quality Certification Application for the County of San Diego Routine Flood Control Maintenance Activities, Regional General Permit (RGP) 53

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Certification Program

Date Posted: September 15, 2026

Affected County: San Diego

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of Section 3858, title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Water Quality Certification Program.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff are proposing to regulate these activities pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. **Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office during a 45-day comment period that begins on the first full date after issuance of this notice (September 16, 2026) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period (October 30, 2026).** To submit comments or questions, please contact the State Water Board staff person listed below.

State Water Resources Control Board Contact:

Mark Chin, Environmental Scientist
Wetland Permitting and Enforcement Unit I, Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: (916) 319-8287
Email: Mark.Chin@waterboards.ca.gov

Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.

RGP 53: County of San Diego Routine Flood Control Maintenance Activities

(Reg. Meas. ID: 465680 and SWRCB ID: SB26036IN)

Background: On April 17, 2026, the County of San Diego (County) submitted an application for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification for Routine Flood Control Maintenance Activities under RGP 53.

Activity Description: The purpose of maintenance activities under RGP 53 is to prevent flooding of adjacent roadways and property located throughout the unincorporated portion of San Diego County. Activities include periodic removal of accumulated sediment, silt, sand, debris, and vegetation from several facilities (e.g., channels, ditches, culverts, and bridge crossings). Routine maintenance of these facilities will ensure that the County flood control drainage network functions properly and has sufficient capacity to convey flows during storm events.

Maintenance activities would be limited to the minimum necessary to alleviate the flooding potential in the immediate vicinity of a facility, and include only those activities that would result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. Activities beyond regular flood control maintenance, such as channel dredging, new channelizing, concreting, riprap installation, bank stabilization, culvert replacement, creating access routes, or emergency repair and protection, are not proposed under RGP 53.

The certification application reports no permanent impacts to waters of the state, including waters of the U.S. Temporary impacts may include disturbance to biological resources and wetland habitats, as well as localized reduced water quality from removal of sediment, debris, and vegetation.

The County, acting as lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), prepared a Negative Declaration (ND) for the routine maintenance activities. The ND (SCH #1998061097) and subsequent addendum are available at the following website: <https://ceqanet.lci.ca.gov/Project/1998061097>

A Certification or Denial will be prepared by the State Water Board for Routine Flood Control Maintenance Activities under RGP 53 in response to this application.

Applicant: County of San Diego
Applicant Contact: Gail Getz
Telephone: (858) 877-0459
Email: Gail.Getz@sdcounty.ca.gov

Date of Application Submittal: April 17, 2026

Pursuant to federal law (title 33, United States Code, section 1341; Clean Water Act section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the U.S. must seek water quality certification (Certification) from the state or Indian Tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge

will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Board has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service.

Click the Submit button after entering a valid email address under the Subscribe to the 401 water quality Certification and Wetland Program Email List banner on the bottom of the [401 Program Webpage](#) at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml

By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current Certification applications, including the activities announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email notification service, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means. You can enroll or un-enroll at any time.