



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region



**Matthew Rodriguez**  
*Secretary for  
Environmental Protection*

Over 50 Years Serving San Diego, Orange, and Riverside Counties  
Recipient of the 2004 Environmental Award for Outstanding Achievement from U.S. EPA

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**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
*Governor*

## **TENTATIVE ORDER NO. R9-2012-0026 AN ORDER MODIFYING ORDER NO. R9-2003-0123, MASTER RECLAMATION PERMIT WITH WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRODUCTION AND PURVEYANCE OF RECYCLED WATER, CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE WATER RECLAMATION PLANT ORANGE COUNTY**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region (hereinafter Regional Board), finds that:

1. Order No. R9-2003-0123 establishes requirements for the City of San Clemente (hereinafter Discharger or City) for the discharge of up to 2.2 million gallons per day (MGD) of tertiary treated recycled water from the City of San Clemente Water Reclamation Plant (CSCWRP).
2. The CSCWRP currently consists of preliminary treatment facilities, primary treatment facilities, activated sludge secondary treatment, and tertiary treatment facilities. The CSCWRP currently has a secondary treatment capacity of 6.976 MGD and a tertiary treatment capacity of 2.2 MGD. The tertiary treatment facilities currently consist of a reclamation forebay, two flocculation basins, four dual media filters, and a chlorine contact basin. Recycled water produced from the CSCWRP is currently used to irrigate the Bella Collina Towne & Golf Club (formerly Pacific Golf Course), the City Municipal Golf Course, and landscaping within the CSCWRP premises.
3. On May 12, 2011, the Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge and a Title 22 Engineering Report to the Regional Board to increase the tertiary treatment capacity of the CSCWRP from 2.2 MGD to 5.0 MGD, and expand its recycled water distribution system.
4. The tertiary treatment facilities at the CSCWRP will be expanded from 2.2 MGD to 5.0 MGD. The expansion of the tertiary treatment facilities will consist of addition of two flocculation basins, four single media filters, a chlorine contact basin, replacement of the gas-chlorine disinfection system with a sodium hypochlorite disinfection storage and delivery system, upgrades to existing pumps, and minor modifications to electronic monitoring systems. The expansion project will also include construction of a new storage reservoir, replacement of effluent pumps, and installation of about 48,700 feet of new recycled water pipelines throughout the City.
5. The expanded recycled water system will convey recycled water from the CSCWRP to existing use sites (listed in Finding No. 2 above) and new use

sites which will include schools, parks, slopes, and highway median irrigation. The new use sites are within the City's service area and are located within the San Clemente Hydrologic Area (HA), which is an HA covered by Order No. R9-2003-0123.

6. The Regional Board was notified by the California Department of Public Health via letter dated September 15, 2011 that the Title 22 Engineering Report submitted by the City for the expansion of the CSCWRP and the City's recycled water distribution system had been reviewed and accepted.
7. The State Water Resources Control Board *Recycled Water Policy* states that the appropriate way to address salt and nutrient issues is through the development of regional or subregional salt and nutrient management plans. The development of the salt and nutrient management plans is expected to be a cooperative effort among local water and wastewater entities and local salt/nutrient contributing stakeholders. Consequently, this Order requires the City to participate in the development of a salt and nutrient management plan for the San Juan Groundwater Basin, while the South Orange County Wastewater Authority will lead the development of the salt and nutrient management plan.
8. The Regional Board adopted Resolution No. R9-2010-0125 on November 10, 2010 which endorsed the ***Guidelines for Salinity/Nutrient Management Planning in the San Diego Region*** (salt and nutrient management plan guidelines).<sup>1</sup> This Order also requires the City to submit a workplan in consultation with the South Orange County Wastewater Authority within 180 days identifying proposed tasks and measures the City will implement as a stakeholder participating in development of a salt and nutrient management plan. The proposed tasks and measures to be implemented by the City must be based on the salt and nutrient management plan guidelines.
9. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City adopted a Negative Declaration for the project on June 5, 2007, which supports a conclusion that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment.
10. The Regional Board has notified the Discharger and all known interested parties of the intent to modify Order No. R9-2003-0123.
11. The Regional Board in a public meeting has heard and considered all comments pertaining to the proposed modifications to Order No. R9-2003-0123.

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<sup>1</sup> The salt and nutrient management plan guidelines can be found at [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2010/R9-2010-0125\\_SNMP.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2010/R9-2010-0125_SNMP.pdf)

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that:

Except as modified or superseded by Order No. R9-2012-0026 as set forth below, all of the findings, prohibitions, provisions, specifications, and other requirements of Order No. R9-2003-0123 shall remain in full force and effect. The following modifications to Order No. R9-2003-0123 are hereby incorporated and immediately effective:

1. Prohibition A.11 of Order No. R9-2003-0123 shall be modified as follows:

The discharge of a ~~30-day~~ monthly average wastewater flow volume for irrigation in the excess of ~~2.2~~ 5.0 MGD is prohibited unless the Discharger obtains revised waste discharge requirements for the proposed increased flow.

2. The following shall be added as Discharge Specification B.5 to Order No. R9-2003-0123:

The monthly average flow from the tertiary treatment facilities at the CSCWRP shall not exceed 2.2 MGD unless:

- a. The Regional Board has been notified by the Discharger by letter that the tertiary treatment facilities have been completely constructed and are fully operable, and that the completed facility has adequate capacity for the full design flow.
  - b. An inspection of the expanded facility has been completed by the Regional Board.
  - c. The Regional Board has notified the Discharger by letter that a discharge in excess of 2.2 MGD from the tertiary treatment facilities may be initiated.
3. The following shall be added as Special Provision 3 (Salt and Nutrient Management Plan) of Order No. R9-2003-0123:

In consultation with SOCWA the City shall submit a workplan within 180 days which will identify proposed tasks and measures the City will implement as a stakeholder participating in the development of a salt and nutrient management plan for the San Juan Groundwater Basin.<sup>2</sup> Proposed tasks and measures to be implemented by the City must be based on the salt and nutrient management plan guidelines. Recommended tasks for development of salt and nutrient management plans can be found in Chapter 5 and Appendix A of the salt and nutrient management plan guidelines.

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<sup>2</sup> The San Juan Groundwater Basin is designated as a Tier A basin in the ***Guidelines for Salinity/Nutrient Management Planning in the San Diego Region***.

*I, David W. Gibson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that this Order is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, on February 8, 2012.*

**Tentative**  
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David W. Gibson  
Executive Officer