

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

**Response to Comments Report**

**Tentative Order No. R9-2017-0011  
Amending**

***Order No. R9-2015-0117, NPDES No. CA0109185  
Waste Discharge Requirements  
for the United States Department of the Navy  
Naval Base Coronado Complex  
San Diego County***

**December 13, 2017**

Response to Comments Report  
Tentative Order No. R9-2017-0011

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN DIEGO REGION**

2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, California 92108

Phone • (619) 516-1990 • Fax (619) 516-1994

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>

Documents are available at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>

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

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**This report was prepared under the direction of**

David T. Barker, P.E., *Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer*  
Brandi Outwin-Beals, P.E., *Senior Water Resource Control Engineer*

by

Vicente Rodriguez, *Water Resource Control Engineer*

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## Introduction

The San Diego Water Board has prepared this Response to Comments Report on *Tentative Order No. R9-2017-0011 Amending Order No. R9-2015-0117, NPDES No. CA0109185, Waste Discharge Requirements for the United States Department of the Navy, Naval Base Coronado Complex, San Diego County* (Tentative Order). The Tentative Order was made available for public review and comment on October 6, 2017 for 31 days, with the comment period ending on November 6, 2017.

The San Diego Water Board revised the Tentative Order based on the comments received.

<u>Comments received by November 6, 2017 from:</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
U.S. Department of the Navy	2

## Comments and Responses

The written comments and staff responses are set forth in the table that follows. The table includes the San Diego Water Board responses to comments, and any actions taken to revise the Tentative Order in response to the comments.

No.	Comment	Response	Action Taken
<b>L. D. Sinfield, U.S. Department of the Navy (Discharger), dated November 6, 2017</b>			
1	Based on the available information there is evidence that the combination of Lake Henshaw dam and the Escondido Canal dam diversion prevent storm water runoff from Remote Training Site Warner Springs (RTSWS) from reaching the mouth of the San Luis Rey River at the Pacific Ocean shoreline. Section IV.D.3, Tables F-12 and F-13 in Attachment F, and portions of Section III.D in Attachment F of Order No. R9-2015-0117 should be removed because RTSWS does not discharge to a tributary that contributes flow to the portion of the San Luis Rey River Watershed that reaches the Pacific Ocean.	The RTSWS is specifically identified in Fact Sheet section I.A.6 on page F-9 as having non-industrial Small Military Base municipal separate storm water system (MS4) discharges which are typically subject to regulation under NPDES permits. The Discharger's comment is outside of the scope of the amendments proposed in the Tentative Order as it was publicly noticed on October 6, 2017, and the San Diego Water Board is not addressing the comment or the proposed amendment as part of this action. This is consistent with applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulations at title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) section 122.62 which specially states when a permit is modified, only the conditions subject to modification are reopened. The San Diego Water Board may consider the proposed amendment as part of a future amendment or during the next permit reissuance.	No changes are appropriate at this time but should be considered as part of a future amendment or during reissuance.
2	Authorized non-storm water discharges should apply to industrial areas and not just MS4 areas. The industrial areas have emergency eye wash/shower stations, building fire suppression systems, and fire hydrants that require flushing for health and safety concerns.  Revise non-storm water discharge references in Order No. R9-2015-0117 to clarify that they are applicable throughout the facility not just small MS4 areas.	Discharges through the MS4 of material other than storm water to Waters of the U.S. are prohibited, except as allowed under section IV. F of Order No. R9-2015-0117 or as otherwise authorized by a separate NPDES permit. The Discharger's comment is outside of the scope of the amendments proposed in the Tentative Order as it was publicly noticed on October 6, 2017, and the San Diego Water Board is not addressing the comment or the proposed amendment as part of this action. This is	No changes are appropriate at this time but should be considered as part of a future amendment or during reissuance

No.	Comment	Response	Action Taken
		<p>consistent with applicable USEPA regulations at 40 CFR section 122.62 which specially states when a permit is modified, only the conditions subject to modification are reopened. The San Diego Water Board may consider the proposed amendment as part of a future amendment or during the next permit reissuance.</p>	
3	<p>Add text to clarify in the new language added to Attachment E, section I.K of Order No. R9-2015-0117 and in Attachment N of Order No. R9-2015-0117 that if no authorized minimum level (ML) value is below the effluent limitation and the ML is no greater than the lowest ML value indicated in Attachment N of this Order (or if not listed in Attachment N of this Order, be the lowest ML provided in 40 CFR part 136), analytical results of non-detect (ND) or detected but not quantified (DNQ) are not exceedances of effluent limitations listed in this Order and not a violation of this Order.</p> <p>Add text to clarify that the MLs included in Table N-1 and N-2 as per the <i>Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California</i> (SIP) (page 24) are based on having no matrix interference. Matrix interference may result in the laboratory reporting a higher ML but should still be considered compliant.</p>	<p>Section VII.A of Order R9-2015-0117, <i>Compliance Determination</i>, already addresses the Discharger’s comment regarding NDs and DNQs.</p> <p>The definition of “Reporting Level” under Attachment A, <i>Abbreviations and Glossary, Part 2 – Glossary of Common Terms</i> of Order No. R9-2005-0117 already addresses the comment regarding matrix interference.</p>	None necessary
4	<p>Add text to indicate that if an analyte is detected above an ML and the ML is also above the effluent limitation, then the value of the ML with regard to effluent limitation should have no</p>	<p>The San Diego Water Board does not agree with the Discharger’s comment with respect to effluent limitation compliance determinations. The Discharger’s comment only applies with</p>	None necessary

No.	Comment	Response	Action Taken
	bearing. The value of the ML (excluding matrix interference) should only be required to be less than or equal to the effluent limitation only when necessary to show that the concentration of an analyte is less than the effluent limit.	respect to data analysis in a permit application. USEPA Rule, 79 Fed.Reg. 49001- 49013 (Aug. 19, 2014). <i>Final Rule, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): Use of Sufficiently Sensitive Test Methods for Permit Applications and Reporting</i> , states that a method is sufficiently sensitive for determining compliance with an effluent limitation where a) the method minimum level is at or below the level of the applicable water quality criterion or permit limitation for the measured pollutant or pollutant parameter; or b) in the case of permit applications, the method minimum level is above the applicable water quality criterion, but the amount of the pollutant or pollutant parameter in a facility's discharge is high enough that the method detects and quantifies the level of the pollutant or pollutant parameter in the discharge; or c) the method has the lowest minimum level of the USEPA-approved analytical methods.	
5	Attachment E section IV.B.2 of Order No. R9-2015-0117 describes chronic toxicity testing. The section should be revised to indicate that "Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to West Coast Marine and Estuarine Organisms, First Edition (EPA-600-R-95-136)" are the preferred methods given that purple urchin embryo development test is being used to assess chronic toxicity. It is a general understanding that the species used for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits (NPDES) permits should best represent local critters if possible, thus the West Coast Manual generally	The San Diego Water Board agrees with the change and has modified the Tentative Order as requested.	Attachment E section IV.B.2 of Order No. R9-2015-0117 has been revised to read:  <i>Additional methods for chronic toxicity monitoring are outlined in Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to West Coast Marine and Estuarine Organisms, First Edition (EPA-600-R-95-136) and are the preferred methods if local species are available.</i>

No.	Comment	Response	Action Taken
	supersedes 821-R-02-014 if appropriate species are available.		
6	Update the Storm Water Risk Level Designation Table with the information provided in the most recent Naval Base Coronado (NBC) Annual Report, Table E-2, as there are changes regarding discharge points and Navy identification numbers listed.	As stated in section IV.B.2 and IV.B.3 of Order No. R9-2015-0117, Table E-2 is updated with information provided in annual reports.	None necessary
7	In Attachment N of Order No. R9-2015-0017, second paragraph, first sentence: change "give" to "given".	The San Diego Water Board has modified the Tentative Order as requested.	The proposed revision in Attachment N of Order No. R9-2015-00117 has been revised to read "given".
8	<p>Comment for Table N-1 of Order No. R9-2015-0117:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The table is not using the current International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) names for all compounds (1,2-Trans-Dichloroethylene, Tetrachloroethylene)</li> </ul>	The table uses compound names listed in applicable federal regulations at 40 CFR part 136, <i>Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants under the Clean Water Act</i> , as amended.	None necessary
9	<p>Comments for Table N-1 of Order No. R9-2015-0117:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CTR No. 2: Arsenic - The USEPA method listed, 206.3, has been withdrawn by the USEPA as an acceptable method for arsenic analysis in drinking water. Remove method from the table.</li> <li>CTR No. 8: Mercury - for the analytical method, instead of listing "1631 (note)" list "1631(4)".</li> </ul>	The San Diego Water Board agrees with the changes and has modified the Tentative Order as requested.	The proposed revision in Attachment N, Table N-1 of Order No. R9-2015-0117 has been revised to remove the following: Analytical Methods 206.3, 249.2, and 272.2 for Arsenic, Nickel, and Silver respectively; and the text "(note)" for Mercury.

No.	Comment	Response	Action Taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CTR No. 9: Nickel - The USEPA method listed, 249.2, has been withdrawn by the USEPA as an acceptable method for nickel analysis in drinking water. Remove method from the table.</li><li>• CTR No. 11: Silver - The USEPA method listed, 272.2, has been withdrawn by the USEPA as an acceptable method for silver analysis in drinking water. Remove method from the table.</li></ul>		