

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
December 13, 2017

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: NPDES Permit Amendment: An Order to amend Order No. R9-2014-0009 as amended by Order No. R9-2014-0094, NPDES 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 via the South Bay Ocean Outfall (Tentative Order No. R9-2017-0024). (*Joann Lim*)

PURPOSE: To receive public testimony and consider adoption of Tentative Order No. R9-2017-0024 Amending Order No. R9-2014-0009 (Tentative Order).

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of the Tentative Order (**Supporting Document 1**) is recommended.

KEY ISSUES: The receiving water monitoring program for the South Bay Ocean Outfall (SBOO) is conducted jointly by the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) and the City of San Diego (City). The City also conducts the receiving water monitoring for the Point Loma Ocean Outfall (PLOO). The Tentative Order will modify the receiving water monitoring requirements in Order No. R9-2014-0009¹ (regulating the USIBWC's discharge to the SBOO) to align with the receiving water monitoring program in Order No. R9-2017-0007² (regulating the City's discharge to the PLOO) to provide consistency and efficiency in the management of the two receiving water monitoring programs. The proposed revisions to the receiving water monitoring requirements are also consisted with the proposed

¹ On June 26, 2014, the San Diego Water Board adopted Order No. R9-2014-0009, NPDES 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 via the South Bay Ocean Outfall*.

² On April 12, 2017, the San Diego Water Board adopted Order No. R9-2017-0007, NPDES No. CA0107409, *Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for the City of San Diego E.W. Blom Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the Point Loma Ocean Outfall*, which became effective on October 1, 2017.

revisions described in Item 10 of today's agenda for the City's SBOO monitoring program.

PRACTICAL VISION: The proposed alignment between the SBOO and PLOO receiving water monitoring programs described in the Tentative Order is consistent with the principles of coordinated monitoring described in the *Monitoring and Assessment* chapter of the Practical Vision and the Board adopted *Framework for Monitoring and Assessment in the San Diego Region*. These principles provide that the San Diego Water Board should work with dischargers collaboratively to ensure that monitoring and assessment programs in the same water body, are coordinated and produce comparable and useful results.

DISCUSSION: The effluents from the USIBWC South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant and City's South Bay Water Reclamation Plant³ co-mingle as they discharge through the SBOO to the Pacific Ocean. The receiving water monitoring program, conducted jointly by the USIBWC and the City, is designed to characterize the receiving waters and the effects of the combined discharge on the receiving waters. The City also conducts the receiving water monitoring program for its discharges to the PLOO⁴. The receiving water monitoring programs for SBOO and PLOO span the area from Mission Bay to south of the U.S./Mexico international border. If adopted, the Tentative Order will align the sampling frequencies and analysis methods for the two adjacent ocean outfall monitoring programs as requested by USIBWC and the City.

In addition to aligning the two receiving water monitoring programs, the USIBWC also requested that the San Diego Water Board allow the USIBWC to monitor for total chromium in lieu of total chromium (III), in line with current available approved analytical methods.

On October 6, 2017, the Tentative Order was released for public comments. The San Diego Water Board did not receive any comments on the Tentative Order. However, the City submitted a

³ December 13, 2017 San Diego Board Meeting, Item No. 10, Tentative Order No. R9-2017-0023, amending Order No. R9-2013-0006, as amended by Order No. R9-2014-0074, NPDES No. CA0109045, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of San Diego South Bay Water Reclamation Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean via the South Bay Ocean Outfall*.

⁴ On February 13, 2013, the San Diego Water Board adopted Order No. R9-2013-0006, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) No. CA0109045, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of San Diego South Bay Water Reclamation Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean via the South Bay Ocean Outfall*.

comment letter on Tentative Order No. R9-2017-0023⁵ (Item No. 10 on today's agenda), requesting one minor technical change regarding the units for the total lipids in the sediment samples (**Supporting Document 3**). As noted in the Response to Comments Report (**Supporting Document 4**), the San Diego Water Board revised the Tentative Order to make the requested change.

LEGAL CONCERNS: None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Revised Tentative Order
2. Site Map
3. Comment Letter from the City dated November 6, 2017
4. Response to Comments Report

PUBLIC NOTICE: The Tentative Order was noticed and released for formal public review on October 6, 2017. On October 6, 2017 a public notice was published in the San Diego Union Tribune newspaper. Notice was also provided in the meeting notice and agenda for the December 13, 2017 Board meeting, which is posted on the San Diego Water Board's website. The release for public review and comment was also included in an October 6, 2017 email sent to all known interested parties and posted on the San Diego Water Board's website.

⁵ December 13, 2017 San Diego Board Meeting, Item No.10, Tentative Order No. R9-2017-0023, amending Order No. R9-2013-0006, as amended by Order No. R9-2014-0074, NPDES No. CA0109045, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of San Diego South Bay Water Reclamation Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean via the South Bay Ocean Outfall*.