

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

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
JUNE 8, 2022**

**ITEM 3**

**SUBJECT**

Consideration of the Plume Tracking Monitoring Program (PTMP) Work Plan for the Oceanside Ocean Outfall pursuant to Order Nos. R9-2019-0166, R9-2019-0167, and R9-2019-0169. (*Keith Yaeger*)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Approval of the PTMP Work Plan for the Oceanside Ocean Outfall (**Supporting Document No. 1**) is recommended.

**KEY ISSUES**

The City of Oceanside, United States Marine Corps Base - Camp Pendleton, and Fallbrook Public Utility District (collectively, the Agencies) are required to develop and present to the San Diego Water Board for their approval a PTMP Work Plan pursuant to Order No. R9-2019-0166, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) No. CA0107433, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of Oceanside, San Luis Rey Water Reclamation Facility, La Salina Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Mission Basin Groundwater Purification Facility Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the Oceanside Ocean Outfall*, as amended by Order Nos. R9-2019-0190 and R9-2021-0199; Order No. R9-2019-0167, NPDES No. CA0109347, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton Southern Regional Tertiary Treatment Plant and Advanced Water Treatment Plant at Haybarn Canyon Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the Oceanside Ocean Outfall*, as amended by Order Nos. R9-2020-0191 and R9-2021-0205; and Order No. R9-2019-0169, NPDES No. CA0108031, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the Fallbrook Public Utility District, Fallbrook Water Reclamation Plant, and Santa Margarita Groundwater Treatment Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the Oceanside Ocean Outfall*, as amended by Order Nos. R9-2020-0190 and Order No. R9-2021-0204, respectfully (collectively, the Orders).

**PRACTICAL VISION**

This item is consistent with the Monitoring and Assessment chapter of the Practical Vision.<sup>1</sup> The PTMP Work Plan, if approved, will allow the Agencies to proceed with the development of their PTMP. The PTMP will produce information that supports efforts to protect public health and the Pacific Ocean environment.

**DISCUSSION**

The Orders require the Agencies to develop a PTMP, which is a single study or ongoing program designed to assess the dispersion and fate of the wastewater plume discharged through the Oceanside Ocean Outfall (OOO). The PTMP will determine if the wastewater plume moves towards the shore or surfaces where it may encroach upon water recreation

---

<sup>1</sup> The San Diego Water Board Practical Vision is available at:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/practical\\_vision/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/practical_vision/)

areas. The PTMP will also be used to evaluate whether the receiving water monitoring methods and locations established in the Orders are still appropriate and applicable. The receiving water monitoring stations in the Orders were laid out decades ago without scientific backing and may be too sparse to sufficiently describe the extent of the wastewater plume. The location and extent of the wastewater plume in the ocean is an important consideration in locating monitoring stations to determine compliance with water quality objectives contained in *Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California, California Ocean Plan* (Ocean Plan). The PTMP is consistent with the recommendations contained in *Model Monitoring for Small Publicly-Owned Treatment Works in the San Diego Region* (Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Technical Document 518, February 2007), which encourages promoting the use of new technologies, such as the use of autonomous underwater vehicles, to improve monitoring of plume location.

The Orders require the Agencies develop a PTMP Work Plan, which includes a Conceptual Site Model, an evaluation of available plume tracking technologies, specific questions that will be answered using the PTMP data, a description of the methods for conducting a feasibility analysis for determining the plume tracking method, how the PTMP will be divided amongst the Agencies, and a schedule for completion all plume tracking activities and submission of the final PTMP. In the final PTMP, the Agencies will conduct a feasibility analysis to select the plume tracking technology, provide a description of the recommended actions, develop a monitoring plan to implement the recommended actions, and provide a schedule for completion of all activities planned to implement the recommendations in the PTMP.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice was provided in the Meeting Notice and Agenda for the June 8, 2022, Board meeting, which was posted on the San Diego Water Board website.

#### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

1. Work Plan for the Development of a Plume Tracking Monitoring Plan, Oceanside Ocean Outfall