

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

2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92108  
<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>

**TENTATIVE ORDER NO. R9-2026-0006  
AMENDING**

**ORDER NO. R9-2021-0011  
NPDES NO. CA0109045**

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO SOUTH BAY WATER RECLAMATION PLANT  
DISCHARGE TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN THROUGH THE SOUTH BAY OCEAN  
OUTFALL**

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

**1. Background**

- 1.1. On May 12, 2021, the San Diego Water Board adopted Order No. R9-2021-0011 Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of San Diego South Bay Water Reclamation Plant (SBWRP) Discharge to the Pacific Ocean Through the South Bay Ocean Outfall (SBOO).
- 1.2. Since the adoption of Order No. R9-2021-0011 the City of San Diego has proposed several changes to the operation of the SBWRP which require minor changes to its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

**2. Purpose of Order No. R9-2026-0006 (Order)**

- 2.1. This Order amends Order No. R9-2021-0011 to reflect 1) changes to pH monitoring requirements in Attachment E; 2) the reduced frequency of the local limits evaluation to once per five years; 3) the use of 24-hour composite or grab samples for the following parameters in effluent monitoring: ammonium, total nitrogen, total organic nitrogen, nitrate (as N), nitrite (as N), total phosphorus (as P), phosphate, total organic carbon, dissolved inorganic carbon, total iron, dissolved iron, alkalinity, and salinity; 4) reporting of nitrate and nitrite as N; 5) changes to the deadline to submit receiving water monitoring results to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN); 6) updates to flow, outflow operations, and dilution factor in the SBOO in response to the 10 million gallon per day (MGD) expansion of the neighboring South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant; 7) the correct description of the SBOO; 8) clarification that the City of San Diego is only required to submit receiving water

monitoring data that is accepted by CEDEN until such a time that CEDEN is updated to accept all receiving water monitoring data; 9) elimination of a duplicate reporting requirement for the annual plume tracking progress report as a standalone report and in the biennial receiving water monitoring report; 10) updates to the methodology and reporting of kelp bed monitoring; and 11) the removal or updating of outdated information.

### **3. Legal Authorities**

- 3.1. Section 13263, subdivision (e), of the California Water Code provides that the San Diego Water Board may, upon application by any affected person, or on its own motion, review and revise waste discharge requirements. Section 122.62, subdivision (a), of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations authorizes the reopening and modification of an NPDES permit based upon new information.
- 3.2. Order No. R9-2021-0011 is not being reopened for any other purpose than the revisions contained herein. Except as contradicted or superseded by the findings and directives set forth in this Order, all the previous findings and directives of Order No. R9-2021-0011 shall remain in full force and effect.

### **4. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

- 4.1. This action is exempt from the requirement for preparation of environmental documents under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, division 13, chapter 3, section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with section 13389 of the Water Code.

### **5. Public Participation**

- 5.1. The San Diego Water Board has notified all known interested parties of its intent to adopt this Order and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments on the revised portions of Order No. R9-2021-0011, as show in ~~redline-underline~~ and ~~red-strikeout~~ in Attachment 1 to Order No. R9-2026-0006.
- 5.2. The San Diego Water Board in a public meeting on April 8, 2026, heard and considered all comments pertaining to adoption of this Order.
- 5.3. Any person aggrieved by this action of the San Diego Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to review the action in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 *et seq.* The State Water Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the adoption date of this Order. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the Internet at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality) or will be provided upon request.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. This Order amends Order No. R9-2021-0011, NPDES No. CA0109045, as described in the revised version included as Attachment 1 to this Order. Added text to Order No. R9-2021-0011 is displayed in red-underline text and deleted text is displayed as ~~red-strikeout~~ text. Modifications to Order No. R9-2021-0011 were made to the following sections:

<b><u>Section No.</u></b>
Cover Page
6.3.5.3.2.2
6.3.5.3.5
Attachment B – Maps
Attachment C – Flow Schematic
Attachment E, Section 3.2
Attachment E, Section 4.2.3
Attachment E, Section 4.2.3.1
Attachment E, Section 4.2.3.2
Attachment E, Section 4.3.1.4
Attachment E, Section 4.3.2
Attachment E, Section 4.4.2.4
Attachment E, Section 4.5
Attachment E, Section 4.6.1.1
Attachment E, Section 4.6.1.2
Attachment E, Section 5.1
Attachment E, Section 6.2
Attachment E, Section 6.3
Attachment E, Section 7.4
Attachment F, Section 1
Attachment F, Section 2.1
Attachment F, Section 2.2
Attachment F, Section 4.3.3
Attachment F, Section 7.2.2.4
Attachment F, Section 7.5.2
Attachment F, Section 8.7
Attachment G, Section 2.4

2. The amended version of Order No. R9-2021-0011, included as Attachment 1 to this Order, shall become effective on April 8, 2026.
3. San Diego Water Board staff is directed to post a conformed copy of Order No. R9-2021-0011 incorporating the revisions made by this Order to the San Diego Water Board’s website.

City of San Diego  
SBWRP

Tentative Order No. R9-2026-0006  
NPDES NO. CA0109045

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 April 8, 2026.

**TENTATIVE**

David W. Gibson  
Executive Officer