

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region

David Gibson, Executive Officer



**Executive Officer's Report
October 14, 2026**

Table of Contents

Part A – San Diego Region Staff Activities.....	2
1. San Diego Water Board Staff Observe Groundwater Production Well Installation at Lake San Marcos.....	2
2. California Stormwater Quality Association Seminar: Contributions from the San Diego Water Board	4
3. Prima Deshecha Landfill Board Member Tour	5
4. Climate Change Adaptation Planning Guide Feedback Session.....	6
Part B – Significant Regional Water Quality Issues.....	7
1. United States and Mexico Border Water Quality Update	7
2. San Diego Water Board Recycled Water Annual Summary Report – 2025	11
3. Water Sustainability and Protection Unit Addresses Outdated Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Permits	16
4. Sanitary Sewer Spills in the San Diego Region – July 2026 (<i>Attachments: B-4</i>)	17
Part C – Statewide Issues of Importance to the San Diego Region	18

The October report for the Tentative Schedule of Significant NPDES Permits, WDRs, and Actions, Agenda Items Requested by Board Members, and the attachments noted above are included at the end of this report.

Part A – San Diego Region Staff Activities

1. San Diego Water Board Staff Observe Groundwater Production Well Installation at Lake San Marcos

Staff Contacts: Gabriel Haro and Catherine Brennan

Site Visit Summary

On July 22, 2026, San Diego Water Board staff visited Lake San Marcos to observe the installation of a groundwater production well intended to supply water to the lake during seasonal replenishment operations. The existing groundwater extraction well used for this purpose is being replaced due to pump failure and deterioration of well materials and is now slated for destruction.

The drilling contractor had already completed the initial mud-rotary phase used to drill through the upper layers of loose clay, silt, and sand, which extended to a depth of about 100 feet below ground surface (bgs). Because the upper soils are loose and easily destabilized, the contractor installed a 7-inch-diameter steel conductor casing to about 120 feet bgs to stabilize the upper borehole and prevent loose material from falling inward as drilling progressed.

To continue drilling deeper than 120 feet bgs, the crew transitioned to air-rotary drilling, which uses compressed air to break rock and lift cuttings to the surface. Staff observed this air-rotary phase, including the use of compressed air and biodegradable drilling foam to help carry rock fragments to the surface in what is known as an air-lift cycle. Staff observed short bursts of water and cuttings being expelled from the borehole during these air-lift cycles, as shown on Figure 1. These sprays were most noticeable when the crew added new sections of drill pipe.

Water and cuttings expelled to the surface were directed into a 5-foot-deep containment pit excavated beside the drill rig. The pit captured water flowing at approximately 100 gallons per minute (gpm) during active air-lift cycles and allowed heavier sediment to settle. The crew managed the pit and surrounding work area by shoveling away accumulated material and ensuring safe access around the wellhead, as shown on Figure 2.

Figure 1: Drill Rig During Air-lift Cycle



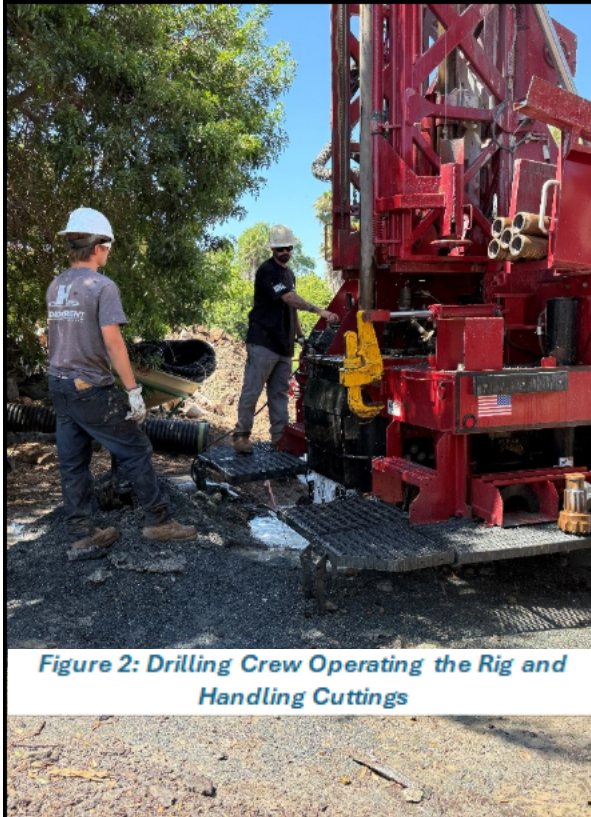


Figure 2: Drilling Crew Operating the Rig and Handling Cuttings

The drill rig reached fractured granite at about 480 feet bgs. Staff observed drilling activities to about 500 feet bgs and then the removal of drill pipe as the crew prepared for a downhole camera inspection. The crew halted drilling at that depth and removed sections of drill pipe to evaluate borehole wall stability and determine whether the steel conductor casing should be extended. After the camera inspection was completed on a later date, the contractor reamed out the hole and installed a larger and deeper conductor casing to prevent water from moving up the annular space. The contractor resumed drilling and advanced the borehole to a total depth of about 720 feet bgs.

The well is scheduled to be tested soon to determine a sustainable groundwater pumping rate. Initial air-lift testing indicates the well is capable of producing approximately 500 gpm, exceeding the original estimate of 400 gpm. Sustained pumping capacity will be evaluated during the 48-hour constant-rate pumping test, and water samples will be collected to determine constituent concentrations. Once pumping test results are available, the operational pumping rate will be established to help maintain lake levels

during dry season operations. Maintaining adequate lake levels supports designated beneficial uses, namely warm freshwater habitat, wildlife habitat, contact water recreation, and non-contact water recreation.

Regulatory Context

Lake San Marcos and segments of San Marcos Creek are listed as impaired due to excess nutrients, low dissolved oxygen, and related water quality impacts. Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) R9-2024-0009¹ directs Citizens Development Corporation (CDC) and four public agencies (County of San Diego, City of San Marcos, City of Escondido, and Vallecitos Water District) to clean up or abate waste in the Upper San Marcos Creek watershed, San Marcos Creek, and Lake San Marcos. The CAO requires source identification and control in the watershed, human and ecological risk assessments, a feasibility analysis, submittal and implementation of remedial action plans, and semiannual progress reporting. The project area and key waterbodies discussed in the CAO are shown on Figure 3.

Work is continuing under the CAO, which is overseen by the Site Restoration Unit. Staff are currently reviewing the Storm Sewer Systems Investigation Plan (SSSIP) and the Risk Assessment Report submitted under the CAO. Once these reviews are complete, the next steps will include SSSIP implementation and reporting, which will inform watershed-scale source control and the development of feasible remedial actions for the creek and lake.

Time Schedule Order (TSO) R9-2024-0110², issued to CDC only, provides a compliance schedule for CDC's groundwater discharges to Lake San Marcos. CDC is discharging extracted groundwater into the lake to maintain lake levels during dry periods. However, the extracted groundwater does not currently meet Basin Plan water quality objectives for iron, manganese, selenium, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, total dissolved solids, chloride, and sulfate. At the point of compliance, defined as the discharge point from each well to the lake, CDC's effluent exceeds applicable permit limits, resulting in non-compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit no. CAG919003. To address this, the TSO establishes interim effluent limits and provides CDC with a five-year schedule to bring its discharges into compliance with the permit. Work completed under the TSO is overseen by the Source Regulation Control Unit. The next deliverable required under the TSO is due in March 2027.



San Diego Water Board staff's Fact Sheet No. 5³ provides additional scientific and regulatory background for the Lake San Marcos and San Marcos Creek cleanup activities.

2. California Stormwater Quality Association Seminar: Contributions from the San Diego Water Board

Staff Contact: Jimmy Smith

On July 23, 2026, San Diego Water Board senior scientist, Jimmy Smith, attended the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) Seminar focused on bacteria (Agenda available at <https://www.casqa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/FINAL-Agenda-CASQA-Seminar-Series-July-2026-07-23-2026.pdf>). The seminar featured presentations about potential wastewater entering stormwater, local approaches to bacterial source investigations, technical and legal perspectives on recent litigation decisions in the San Francisco Bay Area and recreational water quality objective implementation issues. Jimmy joined representatives from the Central Valley Water Board and San Francisco Water Board on a panel discussing regional approaches to bacteria management. His comments focused on approaches to further bacterial source investigation, when and how to build collaboration, and the future approaches to managing body contact recreation.

Some highlights of the day-long seminar included:

- the growing focus on quantifying exfiltration from the sewer collection system, and
- better understanding the relationship between fecal indicator bacteria (FIB), water quality objectives and risk to body contact recreators, and
- the need to work collaboratively across department boundaries to identify sources of HF183 (a genetic marker indicating the presence of human sewage) and FIB to storm drains and receiving waters.

The information discussed at the seminar will inform updates to the Waste Discharge Requirements for the Sanitary Sewer Collection System in the San Diego Region.

CASQA conducts these seminars three times per year for their members and offers access to non-members through a registration fee. Formed in 1989, CASQA is a nonprofit corporation that advances sustainable stormwater management protective of California water resources. CASQA's membership includes over 2,000 members comprised of a diverse range of government and non-government groups throughout the State including: stormwater quality management organizations and individuals; including cities, counties, special districts, federal agencies, State agencies, ports, universities and school districts; wastewater agencies, water suppliers, industries, and consulting firms.

3. Prima Deshecha Landfill Board Member Tour

Staff Contact: Josh Hufferd

Land Disposal Program staff organized a site visit to the Prima Deshecha Landfill (Landfill) on August 11, 2026. Participants in the site tour included the Land Disposal Team, Assistant Executive Officer Laurie Walsh, and board member Dr. Betty Olson. Orange County Waste and Recycling (OCWR) hosted the site visit. OCWR owns and operates the Landfill. Participants were provided an overview of the Landfill's operational history, an opportunity to tour the active disposal and composting operations in Zone 1, and the future disposal area currently under construction in Zone 4.

The Landfill property straddles the boundary between the cities of San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente in Orange County. The property is divided into five zones and encompasses approximately 1,530 acres. Zones 1 and 4 collectively encompass 680-acres dedicated to waste disposal operations. Zones 2, 3, and 5 are designated for open space and wildlife habitat. Waste disposal operations in Zone 1 began in 1976. With the construction of Zone 4, the Landfill is expected to meet the waste disposal needs of southern Orange County until 2102.



The shared mission of the California Water Boards is *“to protect, enhance, and restore the quality of California’s water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations”*. The San Diego Water Board’s resolution endorsing the Practical Vision, highlights the importance of engagement events (e.g., tour) by declaring *“the San Diego Water Board can only accomplish its mission and meet the needs of the Region’s inhabitants for clean, healthy, and reliable waters through the willing support and partnership of the community it serves in the fullest use of its authority and resources”*. Staff efforts to coordinate with OCWR and create an opportunity to tour a facility the Board regulates, exemplifies staff’s fundamental commitment to the Board’s mission and Practical Vision.

4. Climate Change Adaptation Planning Guide Feedback Session

Staff Contact: Jimmy Smith

On September 1, 2026, the San Diego Water Board hosted the San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative as they convened a workshop on the 2026 update to California's Adaptation Planning Guide (APG). The meeting was held in partnership with the California Office of Emergency Services, the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, and the California Natural Resources Agency.

The APG supports local governments and regional organizations by providing resources and recommendations for integrating best practices and current science into adaptation planning, ensuring compliance with state requirements and fostering community-level climate change adaptation.

The workshop invited communities, Tribal Nations, local governments, nonprofits and other practitioners in climate, planning or emergency response to provide feedback to the 2026 update. Almost thirty people were in attendance for the two-hour meeting, including Hayley Sue and Ariel

Cutter of the Wetland and Riparian Protection Unit and Monitoring and Surveillance Coordinator Wayne Chiu. Major themes discussed included the need for statewide metrics and more information about achieving project implementation.



The comment period closed on September 9, 2026, and the latest draft can be found at: <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/recovery-directorate/hazard-mitigation/state-mitigation-planning/ca-adaptation-planning-guide/>

Part B – Significant Regional Water Quality Issues

1. United States and Mexico Border Water Quality Update

Staff Contacts: David Gibson and Riley Nolan

The following are significant updates since the September 9 Executive Officer's Report. All dates are in 2026, unless specified otherwise.

- On August 5, 2026, San Diego Coastkeeper and Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation (CERF) settled their lawsuit with the United States section of the International Boundary Water Commission (USIBWC), and its contractor, Veolia Water West Operating Services, Inc. (Veolia) related to historical violations of USIBWC's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP). Please see San Diego Coastkeeper's [press release](#) for more information.

- On August 25, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) applied for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the [Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program II \(TETRP II\) Phase I project](#). TETRP II Phase I calls for the restoration of 36 acres of wetland habitat where sedimentation from transboundary canyons, historical farming, and military operations have degraded the habitat. State Parks is proposing to reuse excavated material for dune enhancement and construction of a marsh overlook.
- On September 1, the County of San Diego (County) Board of Supervisors directed its staff to begin the first phase of a U.S.-side river diversion and treatment project for the Tijuana River. The County Board of Supervisors allocated \$1.8 million to scope engineering parameters, treatment levels, site control, costs and financing, permitting pathways, and scheduling. County staff will prepare a feasibility package, evaluating diversion and treatment options, identifying a preferred project and site, detailing permitting and environmental review needs, and return to the Board of Supervisors with recommendations before advancing to subsequent phases.
- On September 2, Commissioners for the U.S. and Mexican sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission signed Minute 334 pursuant to the United States-Mexico Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande (1944 Water Treaty). Minute 334 outlines proportional reductions of deliveries from the Colorado River in 2027-2028 due to low reservoir conditions. Minute 334 also outlines actions for 2028, should hydrologic conditions in the basin improve or worsen. Minute 334 also establishes a 2027-2028 Salinity Pilot Program, continues the Binational Environmental Work Group and NGO partnerships for habitat management and monitoring, permits Mexico to maintain a water reserve by deferring part of its allocation, and continues studies on new water sources and desalination initiated under prior Minutes. The City of Tijuana receives a significant portion of its potable water supply from the Colorado River.
- On September 10, San Diego Coastkeeper published its [2025 Tijuana River Water Quality Monitoring Report](#), summarizing its independent water quality monitoring results for sites in the Tijuana River Valley impacted by persistent, year-round transboundary contamination driven by untreated and partially treated sewage, industrial wastewater, and urban runoff. Multiple indicators exceeded health and ecological thresholds, including fecal indicator bacteria and human enteric viruses, chronically low dissolved oxygen, high turbidity, and frequent detections of metals and pesticides. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were also detected at generally elevated levels, pointing to human inputs such as wastewater discharges, urban runoff, and industrial sources.
- On September 10, the Fifteenth District Court in Baja California issued a provisional suspension directing CESPT¹ to halt any wastewater discharges to the Tijuana River channel that lack treatment, are unauthorized, or fail to meet environmental standards. The provisional suspension also directs CESPT to immediately adopt preventive measures within its authority to stop ongoing harm to the channel. The court scheduled the incidental hearing for September 23 and ordered CESPT to submit a preliminary report within 48

¹ La Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana (CESPT) is the State water utility for Tijuana.

hours, documenting whether the challenged acts are occurring and explaining CESPT's position on the suspension.

- On September 11, Mexican media outlet, El Imparcial, reported that authorities from CONAGUA, CESPT, SEPROA², and the City of Tijuana inspected the channelized reach of the Tijuana River for debris and sediment buildup and announced clean-out and desilting works ahead of potential El Niño rains.
- On September 15, San Diego Water Board staff convened the quarterly Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team Steering Committee to discuss opportunities for coordination between non-governmental organizations and local, State of California (State), and federal government agencies involved in the Tijuana River Valley.
- On September 15, the County Board of Supervisors discussed the preliminary findings of an economic impact analysis, which demonstrate that the Tijuana River pollution crisis is currently reducing San Diego County's regional economic output by approximately \$125.6 million to \$503.5 million per year, with a 20-year unmitigated projection of \$1.9 to \$7.9 billion in cumulative losses driven by impacts to tourism, recreation, local business revenues, tax receipts, property values, public health costs, and workforce participation. The final report and findings are expected to be completed in mid-October.
- September 16, San Diego Water Board staff presented on a panel at the County Environmental Health and Quality Assessment Board (EHQAB). Board staff summarized the status of water quality in the San Diego-Tijuana border region and discussed the San Diego Water Board's role and progress in permitting U.S.-side projects related to transboundary pollution in the Tijuana River Valley.
- On September 16, the County Department of Public Works reported that it completed 100 percent design plans for a temporary pipe extension at the Saturn Boulevard culvert. This pipe extension is intended to contain river flows through the vertical drop downstream of Saturn Boulevard and reduce the aerosolization of hydrogen sulfide. The County plans to enroll in the Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit 63, which authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States for necessary repair and protection measures associated with an emergency situation. The County expects to begin construction in January 2027.
- From September 17 to 19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and County Department of Public Health conducted a second Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER), using randomized, door-to-door household interviews to capture health concerns, exposure experiences, and needs related to transboundary pollution. CDC and County teams visited selected South Bay neighborhoods with bilingual interviewers, and results will be compared with the first CASPER conducted in October 2024.

² La Comisión Nacional del Agua (CONAGUA) is a federal administrative agency of the Mexican government responsible for managing, regulating, and protecting the country's national water resources. La Secretaría para el Manejo, Saneamiento y Protección del Agua (SEPROA) is a centralized state cabinet agency in Baja California, responsible for designing and coordinating public water policies.

- On September 19, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo and Baja California Governor Marina del Pilar Ávila Olmeda held a public event in Tijuana to discuss Phase I of the planned desalination plant in Playas de Rosarito. In August 2026, CONAGUA awarded a \$304 million (USD) contract to the international water and energy infrastructure group, Cox, to construct Phase I of the desalination plant. According to [Mexico's federal projects database](#), total government investment in Phase I is expected to be approximately \$666 million (USD). Phase I is expected to augment the potable water supply of Tijuana and Rosarito by an additional 190 million liters per day (50 million gallons per day) by August 2029. While unfunded at this stage, Phase II calls for a final capacity of 380 million liters per day (100 million gallons per day). Under Minute 333 of the 1944 Water Treaty, the Mexican section of the International Boundary and Water Commission is expected to share information regarding the impact of additional potable water supply on Tijuana's overburdened wastewater treatment system. Mexico is also expected to conduct a technical and financial feasibility study for the potential expansion of the San Antonio de los Buenos Wastewater Treatment Plant by an additional 25 million gallons per day.
- On September 20, Governor Newsom signed [Senate Bill 58](#) (SB 58). SB 58 directs the California Air Resources Control Board (CARB) to conduct a comprehensive review of the current ambient air quality standard for hydrogen sulfide and adopt an updated standard, as necessary, to protect public health. SB 58 also requires CARB to conduct at least three public workshops during the review, including at least one in the Tijuana River Valley region and one in the Salton Sea region. SB 58 requires CARB to consult with local air districts, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the State Department of Public Health, affected tribal governments, and community-based organizations.
- On September 21, the County Department of Parks and Recreation applied for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Smuggler's Gulch Improvements Project. The County proposes to replace the existing undersized culvert beneath Monument Road and construct an inline sediment basin designed to capture sediment, trash, and debris to reduce downstream transport of sediment-associated pollutants and improve water quality within Smuggler's Gulch and the Tijuana River watershed.
- On September 27, Governor Newsom signed [Senate Bill 1046](#) (SB 1046). SB 1046 directs the California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health (known as Cal/OSHA) to propose standards by January 1, 2030, to protect outdoor workers who are exposed to pollution from the Tijuana River.
- On September 30, the San Diego Foundation announced \$983,439 in Binational Resilience Initiative (BRI) grants for 10 projects bringing together 21 nonprofit organizations in the United States and Mexico. Several projects directly address the Tijuana River sewage crisis by reducing pollution and flooding, improving wastewater treatment and making water quality information easier for communities to understand, while others will restore coastal habitats and support research and education across the broader Cali-Baja region. See the San Diego Foundation's [press release](#) for more information.
- Throughout August and September, staff in the San Diego Water Board's Agriculture and Waste Management Unit continued their work with the State Parks and the County Department of Parks and Recreation to address feedback on the Report of Waste Discharge and proposed soil screening pilot study for the Nelson Sloan Quarry Restoration and Beneficial Reuse of Sediment Project. San Diego Water Board staff provided feedback

on the proposed soil screening pilot study and are awaiting submittal of a revised pilot study workplan and Report of Waste Discharge.

- As of early October, San Diego Water Board staff are in the process of hiring a Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, two staff Water Resource Control Engineers, and one Engineering Geologist to staff its Border Water Quality Protection Unit (BWQPU). The BWQPU will address cross-border pollution from Mexico and support the protection of human health, water quality, and beneficial uses associated with the Tijuana River and Estuary, and nearshore Pacific Ocean. The BWQPU will be responsible for the issuance of permits for wastewater treatment, stormwater, river diversion, and recycled water treatment facilities and Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications and Waste Discharge Requirements in the Tijuana River Valley. The BWQPU will also play an important role in stakeholder outreach through the Tijuana River Valley Recovery Team and coordination with local, State, and federal agencies on permitting, regulatory oversight, and enforcement.
- On October 1, San Diego Water Board staff attended the Tijuana River Watershed Forum, convened by the Institute of the Americas. The forum included 1) opening remarks from Víctor Daniel Amador, Secretary for Water Management, Sanitation and Protection for the State of Baja California; 2) a session regarding innovations in water reuse and water resource management; and 3) a panel discussion regarding technological and policy solutions related to desalination, water reuse, leakage reduction, wastewater treatment, conservation, and watershed protection.
- Tijuana River Action Month (TRAM) runs from September 13 to October 17, mobilizing a cross-border network of agencies, non-governmental organizations, and volunteers for cleanups, habitat restoration, bilingual education, workshops, and community events on both sides of the watershed. See the [Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve website](#) for more information and a full event calendar.
- Please see the official USIBWC X account for the most up-to-date information regarding its operations: <https://x.com/usibwc>.

The San Diego Water Board's [U.S.-Mexico Border Water Quality website](#) includes additional information on border water quality.

2. San Diego Water Board Recycled Water Annual Summary Report – 2025

Staff Contact: Brandon Bushnell

Recycled water is an essential sustainable source of water in the region, as emphasized in the *Sustainable Local Water Supply* chapter of the San Diego Water Board's [Practical Vision](#)¹. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the *Policy for Water Quality Control for Recycled Water* (Recycled Water Policy) in 2009, with amendments in 2013 and 2019, to streamline permitting for recycled water projects. The 2019 Recycled Water Policy amendment established statewide goals to increase recycled water use from 714,000 acre-feet per year (afy) in 2015 to 1.5 million afy by 2020, and to 2.5 million afy by 2030.

Volumetric Tracking Data Update

The State Water Board's Executive Director issued Order No. WQ 2019-0037-EXEC (Order) to wastewater treatment plant permittees, discharging more than 20,000 gallons per day. The Order requires permittees to collect monthly data on the volume of 1) wastewater received, treated, and discharged, and if applicable, 2) recycled water discharge for beneficial reuse. Permittees report this volumetric data annually to the State Water Board, consistent with the requirements in section 3 of the Recycled Water Policy.² The State Water Board uses the reported data to identify additional opportunities for recycled water production and reuse. Summarized in the table below is the 2025 annual volumetric data for the State and the San Diego region.

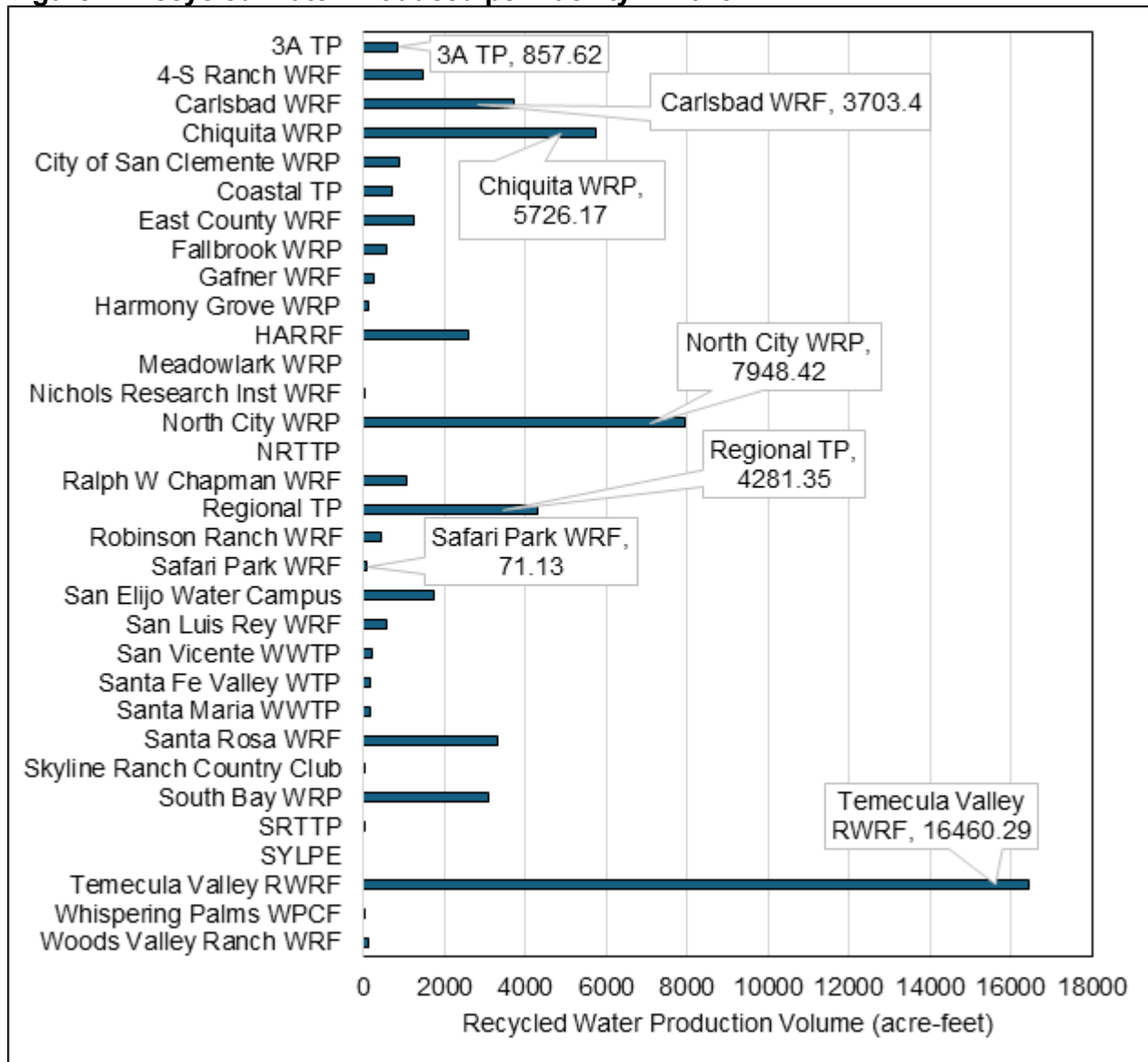
Table 1. Statewide and San Diego Region Volumetric Data for 2025

Description	Statewide	San Diego Region
Wastewater Influent Total Volume (acre-feet)	3,437,951	338,116
Wastewater Effluent Total Volume for Non-Beneficial Reuse (acre-feet)	2,585,490	272,207
Recycled Water Effluent Total Volume (acre-feet)	732,614 ^a	57,821
Recycled Water Production Percentage	~21%	~17%
Recycled Water Effluent Volume Change from 2024 to 2025 (acre-feet)	Increase of 7,178	Decrease of 2,323

Table Notes:

a – Volume is less than the statewide goal of 1.5 million acre-feet by 2020.

Figure 1 shows the volume of recycled water produced by wastewater treatment plants within the San Diego region during the 2025 calendar year.

Figure 1- Recycled Water Produced per Facility in 2025^{a,b}**Figure 1 Notes:**

a - Acronym Definitions: NRTTP/SRTTP – Northern/Southern Regional Tertiary Treatment Plant, WRP – Water Reclamation/Recycling Plant, WRF - Water Reclamation/Recycling Facility, RWRF – Regional Water Reclamation Facility, HARRF – Hale Avenue Resources Recovery Facility, TP – Treatment Plant, WPCF – Water Pollution Control Facility, SYLPE – San Ysidro Land of Port Entry, and WTP or WWTP – Wastewater Treatment Plant

b - No bars are shown on Figure 1 for the NRTTP, SRTTP, SYLPE, Nichols Research WRF, Meadowlark WRP, Skyline Ranch Country Club, and Whispering Palms WPCF because these facilities either did not report recycled water produced or reported volumes too small to show on the figure.

As shown in Figure 1, the five largest producers of recycled water with the San Diego region are:

- **Eastern Municipal Water District's Temecula Valley RWRf.** The Temecula Valley RWRf continues to be the biggest producer of recycled water within the region. However, most of the recycled water produced at the Temecula Valley RWRf is reused within the Santa Ana Water Board jurisdiction for landscape irrigation.
- **City of San Diego's North City WRP and the Carlsbad Municipal Water District's WRP.** These two facilities are the biggest producers of recycled water, where all of the recycled water is reused within the San Diego region.
- **Santa Margarita Water District's Chiquita WRP and the Moulton Niguel Water District's Regional TP.** These two facilities are the large producers of recycled water in south Orange County. Recycled water from these facilities is used in both the San Diego and Santa Ana Water Boards regions.

Figure 2 below shows the volume of 1) wastewater influent, 2) wastewater effluent, and 3) recycled water effluent, and the percentage produced and reused over the last 5 years in the San Diego region. In general, the percentage of recycled water produced in the San Diego region is relatively stable. However, production is expected to increase in 2026 and 2027 due to several agencies finishing construction and commissioning of recycled water facilities for indirect potable reuse.

Figure 2 - Volume Reused by Year in the San Diego Region

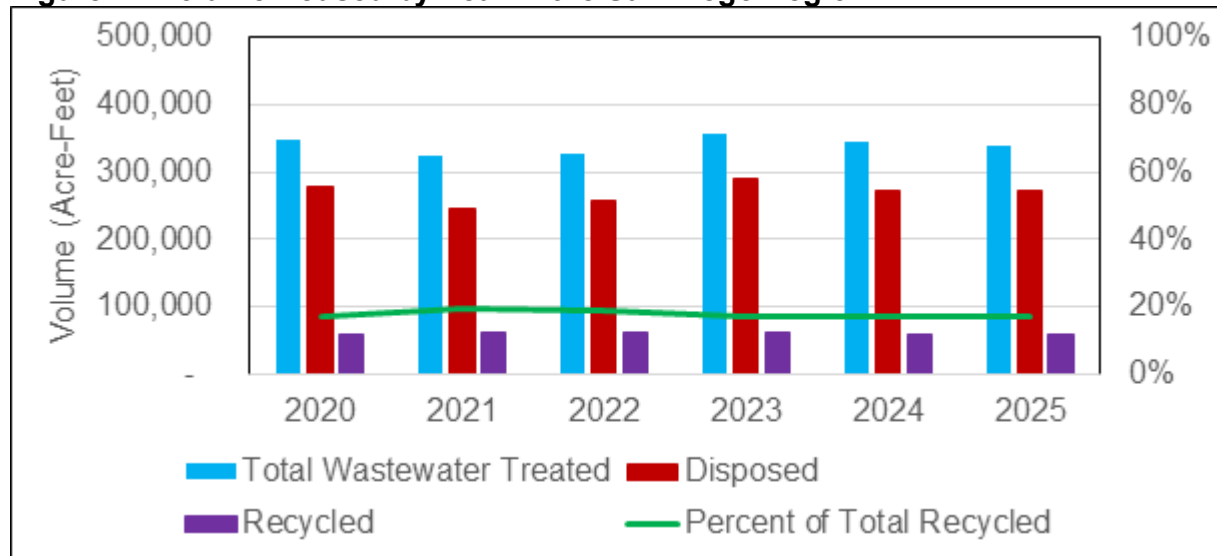
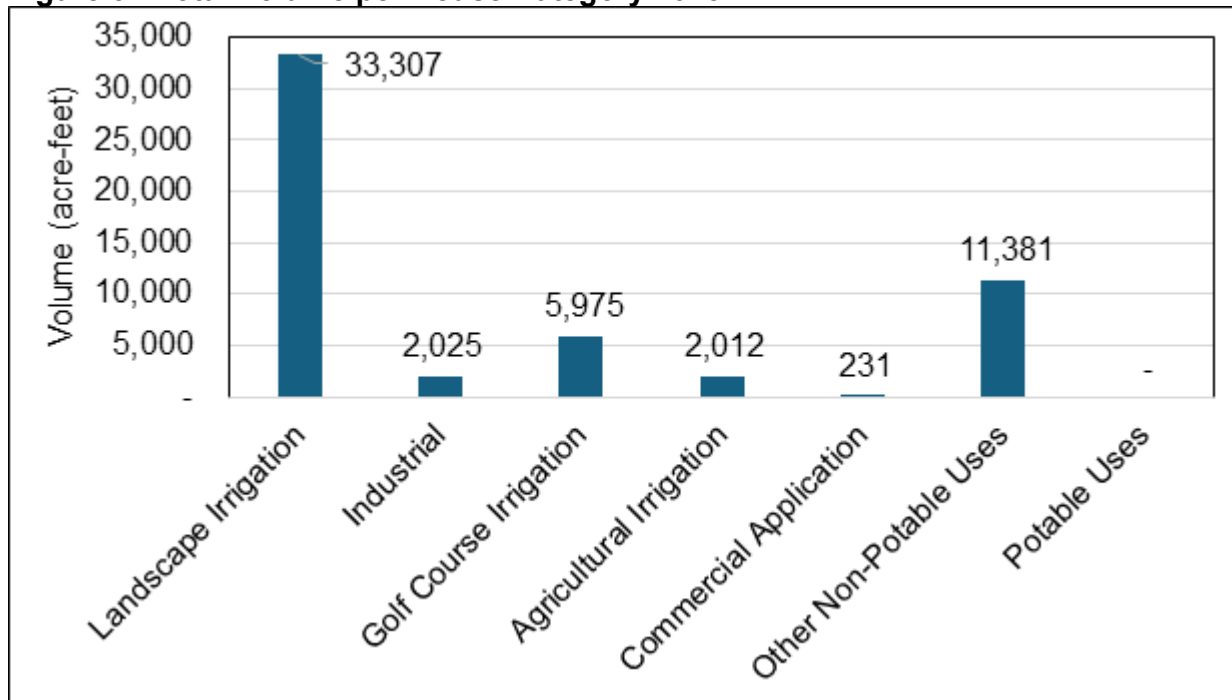


Figure 3 below shows the volumes of recycled water produced within the San Deigo region, based on reuse category.

Figure 3 - Total Volume per Reuse Category 2025³

Most of the recycled water produced in the region is used for landscape irrigation in areas such as freeway medians, common areas of housing developments, parks, schools, and commercial or industrial establishments. The use of non-potable recycled water in the San Diego region is heavily influenced by customer demand for recycled water, which is inversely proportional to the amount of precipitation the region receives.

Updates on Indirect Potable Reuse Projects

Several indirect potable reuse projects in the San Diego region are currently operational or in construction. These projects include but are not limited to:

- The City of Oceanside's Pure Water Oceanside project. This project uses recycled water from the City of Oceanside's San Luis Rey WRF and an advanced water purification facility to recharge the groundwater basin. The San Diego Water Board adopted waste discharge requirements for the Pure Water Oceanside project on December 8, 2021. The City of Oceanside completed the Pure Water Oceanside project in late December 2021. However, the City of Oceanside could not produce advanced treated recycled water in 2025, due to mechanical issues at its advanced water purification facility. The City of Oceanside has since resolved the mechanical issues and has restarted the production of advanced treated recycled water for indirect potable reuse in 2026.
- The City of San Diego continues expansion of the North City WRP and construction of the North City Pure Water Facility, which is designed to produce up to 33,627 of advanced treated recycled water for indirect potable reuse. Advanced treated recycled water will be discharged to Lake Miramar, a water supply reservoir. The San Diego Water Board adopted the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the North City Water Reclamation Plant and Pure Water Facility on May 13, 2020. San Diego Water Board staff anticipate the City of San Diego will start producing advanced treated recycled water from the North City Pure Water Facility in December 2026.

- Padre Dam Municipal Water District, the City of El Cajon, and the County of San Diego, and Helix Water District are constructing the facilities that make up the East County Advanced Water Purification (ECAWP) Project. The ECAWP Project will produce up to 12,890 afy of advanced treated recycled water for indirect potable reuse. Advanced treated recycled water will be discharged to Lake Jennings, a water supply reservoir. The San Diego Water Board adopted the NPDES permit for the ECAWP Project on November 12, 2025. The project is anticipated to begin producing non-potable recycled water in March 2027 and advanced treated recycled water in August 2027.

3. **Water Sustainability and Protection Unit Addresses Outdated Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Permits**

Staff Contacts: Martin Pham and Fisayo Osibodu

Water Sustainability and Protection Unit staff continue to work to evaluate and update the San Diego Water Board's inventory of outdated individual waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS). Staff have evaluated 75 individual WDRs issued between 1986 and 2009 and the dischargers' respective compliance records to determine the need to:

1. Issue new individual WDRs to the discharger.
2. Rescind the discharger's individual WDRs and enroll the discharger in the State Water Board Order WQ 2014-153-DWQ, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* (General Order).¹
3. Rescind the discharger's individual WDRs and allow a local permitting agency to regulate the OWTS under an approved local agency management program (LAMP).

The General Order establishes statewide requirements for discharges from small domestic wastewater treatment systems with average monthly flows less than 100,000 gallons per day. Regulation of qualifying OWTS under the General Order allows for 1) consistent regulation of eligible OWTS, 2) OWTS to be regulated under a permit with more recent requirements, and 3) more efficient use of staff resources.

The State Water Board *Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems* (OWTS Policy)² establishes a statewide risk based tiered approach for the management and regulation of OWTS. The OWTS Policy allows local agencies to permit OWTS under approved LAMPs which contain standards for design, siting, installation, and management of OWTS. Consistent with the OWTS Policy, the County of San Diego³ and the County of Riverside⁴ have each developed LAMPs. OWTS regulated under a LAMP must have a flow rate less than 10,000 gallons per day and meet siting and design criteria specified in the LAMP. Regulation of qualifying OWTS by local agencies allows for efficient use of San Diego Water Board staff resources while preventing adverse impacts to public health and water quality.

Since January 2016, the San Diego Water Board reduced its inventory of individual WDRs for OWTS from 75 to 4. The San Diego Water Board rescinded 71 individual WDRs and:

- Enrolled 52 dischargers in the General Order;
- Transferred regulation of 18 OWTS to the County of San Diego or County of Riverside, and;

- Terminated regulation of one OWTS because the discharger ceased operations.

Staff have taken the following actions to address the remaining 4 OWTS individual WDRs since the last annual update in October 2025:

- Requested new reports of waste discharge from two dischargers. The reports of waste discharge are due by November 17 and December 10, 2026. Staff will use the report information to determine whether these OWTS will be enrolled in the General Order or regulated under new individual WDRs.
- Issued a directive letter to one discharger requesting a new report of waste discharge, payment of delinquent fees, and submittal of the past due annual monitoring report. The discharger submitted the requested report of waste discharge and current year's annual fee on June 23, 2026. Staff are working with the discharger to obtain additional information to help determine whether the OWTS will be enrolled in the General Order or regulated under new individual WDRs.
- Inspected one of the OWTS and verified the OWTS is functioning properly. Staff are preparing a Tentative Order to rescind the individual WDRs and will enroll the OWTS in the General Order.

Staff efforts to address the inventory of outdated individual WDRs are consistent with the San Diego Water Board's Practical Vision,⁵ *Strategized for Health Waters* chapter. Staff will continue to provide the San Diego Water Board with periodic progress updates on the inventory of outdated individual WDRs for OWTS in the San Diego Region.

4. Sanitary Sewer Spills in the San Diego Region – July 2026 (Attachments: B-4)

Staff Contact: Kate Becker

Sanitary sewer systems experience periodic failures resulting in sanitary sewer spills that may affect waters of the United States and/or the State of California (State). There are many factors (including factors related to geology, design, construction methods and materials, age of the system, population growth, and system operation and maintenance) that can influence the likelihood of a spill and the volume of the discharge.

Major causes of sanitary sewer spills include blockages caused by grease, roots, debris, and vandalism. Structural and mechanical failures include failures of manhole structures, pump stations, and aging sewer systems. Environmental factors include sewer line flood damage, excessive stormwater inflow, and groundwater infiltration, which can overwhelm system capacity. Other contributing causes include power outages, inadequate operation and maintenance, insufficient system capacity, and contractor-caused damage to sewer infrastructure.

Many sanitary sewer spills are preventable with adequate and appropriate facilities, source control measures, and proper operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system.

Impact of Spills

Sanitary sewer spill discharges from public sewage collection systems and private laterals can contain high levels of suspended solids, pathogens, toxic pollutants, nutrients, oil and grease. Spills pollute surface and ground waters, thereby threatening public health, adversely affecting

aquatic life, and impairing the recreational use and aesthetic enjoyment of surface waters. Typical impacts of sanitary sewer spills include closure of beaches and other recreational areas, inundation of property, and pollution of rivers, estuaries, and beaches.

Spill Reporting

This report provides a monthly summary of reported spills and includes a year-to-date summary of spills that reached surface waters and/or conveyance systems that drain to surface waters (i.e., Category 1 Spills). A more detailed annual analysis of spills and long-term trends was provided separately in the [September 2025 Executive Officer's Report](#).

State agencies, municipalities, counties, districts, and other entities (collectively referred to as public entities) that own or operate sewage collection systems report sanitary sewer spills through the on-line database system, *California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS)*. These spills are required to be reported under the [Statewide General SSS Order](#),¹ the [San Diego Regional SSS Order](#),² and/or individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.³ Most spill reports⁴ are available to the public on a real-time basis through the [State Water Board Public Sanitary Sewer System Spill Report Database](#).

The Statewide General SSS Order reduced reporting requirements for public spills that are less than 50 gallons in volume that do not reach surface waters (Category 4 Spills). As a result, the tables and figures presented in this report do not include information from Category 4 Spills. Table 1 provides a summary of reported public sanitary sewer spills that occurred in July 2026. Table 2 and Figure 1 provide a summary of Category 1 Spills that occurred from July 2025 through July 2026.

Summary of Spills

In July 2026, 8 sewage spills were reported from 5 of the 63 regional collection systems (Table 1). Of these eight spills, five were reported to have reached surface waters and/or conveyance systems that drain to surface waters (Category 1 Spills). The total spill volume in July 2026 was reported at 2,728 gallons, with 979 gallons of sewage reaching surface waters (Table 1 and Figure 1).

From July 2025 to July 2026, 23 of the 63 regional collection systems reported one or more sewage spills, while 40 collection systems did not report any sewage spills. A total of 95 sewage spills were reported during this period, with an estimated total discharge of 631,628 gallons.

Of the 23 collection systems that reported sewage spills from July 2025 to July 2026, 15 reported one or more Category 1 Spills (Table 2). A total of 34 Category 1 Spills were reported during this period, with an estimated total of 307,746 gallons of sewage reaching surface waters.

Additional information about the San Diego Water Board sanitary sewer spill regulatory program is available on the [San Diego Water Board's Sanitary Sewer System Spills Website](#).

Part C – Statewide Issues of Importance to the San Diego Region

No Reports

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO REGION

Significant NPDES Permits,
WDRs, and Actions of the
San Diego Water Board

October 14, 2026
APPENDED TO EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE SIGNIFICANT NPDES PERMITS, WDRs, AND ACTIONS OF THE SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD

Tuesday, November 10, 2026*

San Diego Water Board

Agenda Item	Action Type	Written Comments Due
Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for DS Waters of North America Lakeside Plant (Tentative Order No. R9-2026-0101). <i>(Martin Pham)</i>	Waste Discharge Requirements Rescission	9/24/2026
State of the Ocean Report, South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) (San Juan and Aliso Creek Outfalls. <i>(Joann Lim)</i>	NPDES Permit Requirement	NA
Non-Point Source Program Overview. <i>(Kaylee Popovich)</i>	Informational Item	NA
Land Disposal Program Overview – Closed Landfills. <i>(Josh Hufferd)</i>	Informational Item	NA

*Please Note: November 10, 2026, is a Tuesday. The Board meeting is being held one day early, as the San Diego Water Board offices will be closed Wednesday, November 11, 2026 in observance of the Veterans Day Holiday.

December 9, 2026

San Diego Water Board

Agenda Item	Action Type	Written Comments Due
NPDES Permit for the Carlsbad Desalination Plant, San Diego County (Tentative Order No. R9-2026-0007). <i>(Cailynn Smith)</i>	NPDES Permit	TBD
Termination of Waste Discharge Requirements for Kamp Anza LLC, Kamp Anza RV Resort (Tentative Order No. R9-2026-0107). <i>(Adrian Hinkle)</i>	Waste Discharge Requirements Termination	TBD
Update on the Basin Plan Amendment for a Biological Water Quality Objective for Freshwater Streams. <i>(Chad Loflen)</i>	Informational Item	NA
U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). <i>(BWQPU Supervisor)</i>	Informational Item	NA
Saturn Blvd. Update. <i>(Ariel Cutter)</i>	Informational Item	NA

Agenda Item	Action Type	Written Comments Due
Trash Boom Update. <i>(WRPU Supervisor)</i>	Informational Item	NA
Update on the Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements for Low Threat Discharges. <i>(Adrian Hinkle and Martin Pham)</i>	Informational Item	NA
Update on City of Oceanside Feasibility Plan for Eliminating Flood Risk to the Buena Vista Creek Lift Station. <i>(Christina Arias)</i>	Informational Item	NA

January 2027
No Meeting Scheduled

Table 1: July 2026 – Summary of Public Sanitary Sewer Spill Events⁵

Responsible Collection System Agency	Day of Spill Start	Reported Spill Cause	Total Spill Volume (gallons) ²	Spill Volume Reaching Surface Waters (gallons) ³
City of Coronado	07/16/2026	Root Intrusion	83	64
City of Laguna Beach	07/02/2026	Damage by Others Not Related to Collection System Construction/Maintenance; Other	500	500
City of Oceanside	07/25/2026	Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG)	450	400
City of San Diego	07/10/2026	Pipe Structural Problem/Failure - Installation	650	0
	07/23/2026	Air Relief Valve (ARV)/ Blow-Off Valve (BOV) Failure	59	0
	07/30/2026	Root Intrusion	392	0
US Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton	07/17/2026	Debris-General; FOG	84	5
	07/22/2026	Pipe Structural Problem/Failure - Controls	510	10
Total			2,728	979

Table 2: Summary of Category 1 Spills⁶ by Agency between July 2025 and July 2026

Responsible Collection System Agency	Total Spill Volume (gallons)	Spill Volume Reaching Surface Waters (gallons)	Number of Category 1 Spills	Population Served ²
City of San Diego	332,184	211,822	9	2,380,000
US Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton	59,675	55,096	5	83,340

Responsible Collection System Agency	Total Spill Volume (gallons)	Spill Volume Reaching Surface Waters (gallons)	Number of Category 1 Spills	Population Served²
City of Escondido	17,225	16,065	2	148,000
County of San Diego	15,755	10,255	1	199,000
Vallecitos Water District	15,314	991	3	108,392
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	5,450	5,450	2	15,669
City of Coronado	5,445	3,507	3	20,627
City of Chula Vista*	3,000	0	1	280,284
Ramona MWD	2,500	1,000	1	21,468
Padre Dam Municipal Water District	1,640	1,285	1	69,641
City of El Cajon	1,125	625	1	101,709
Moulton Niguel Water District	750	750	1	170,236
City of Oceanside*	710	400	2	175,464
City of Laguna Beach	500	500	1	18,000
City of Imperial Beach*	135	0	1	26,059
Total	461,408	307,746	34	3,817,889

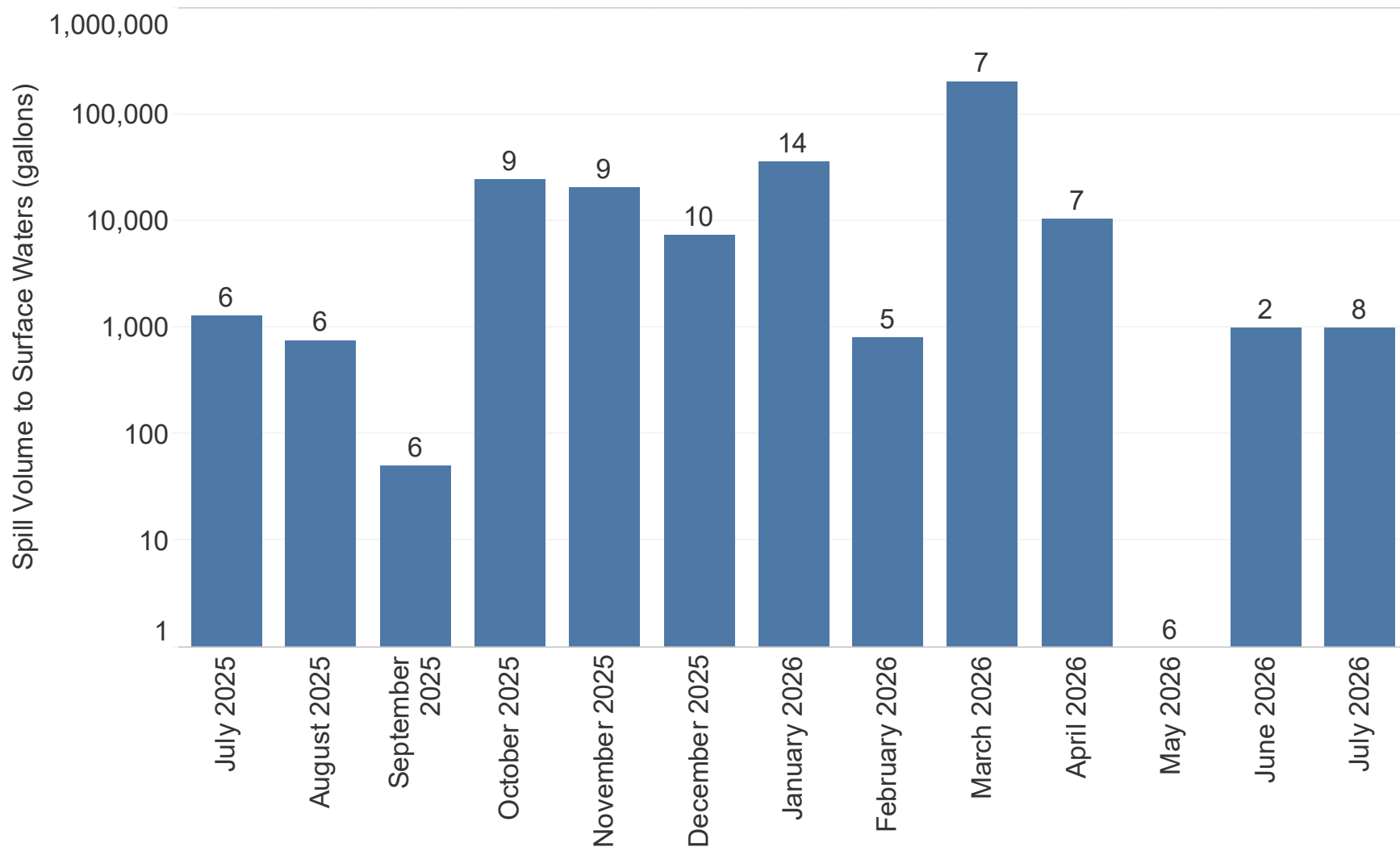


Figure 1. Spill Volume to Surface Waters per Month between July 2025 and July 2026

Summary of total spill volume to surface waters from July 2025 to July 2026. The value at the top of the bars represents the total number of spills reported per month, including spills that did not reach surface waters. Data is presented on a logarithmic scale.

Note: Total number of spills per month may not include public spills that were less than 50 gallons in volume that did not reach surface waters. Spill information from US Navy Southwest Division facilities, the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar is not included.