

March 6, 2013

Ms. Kristin Schwall
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Ct., Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

Submitted via email: kschwall@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: Comments on Tentative Order No. R9-2013-0026

Dear Ms. Schwall,

The Port of San Diego (Port) respectfully submits this comment letter on Tentative Order No. R9-2013-0026 General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Boatyards and Boat Maintenance Facilities Adjacent to Surface Waters within the San Diego Region. The Port greatly appreciates the efforts of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to consider stakeholder comments during the development of Tentative Order No. R9-2013-0026. As a member of the Regional Harbor Monitoring Program (RHMP), the Port respectfully wishes to submit the following comment:

Attachment E Section V.A.1. proposes that Dischargers perform receiving water and sediment monitoring to assess compliance with receiving water limits individually or through participation in a water body monitoring coalition. The Port supports and appreciates the removal of the RHMP as a named monitoring coalition from the Administrative Draft General Boatyard Permit. Although the Port generally promotes coalitions to assess water quality in an efficient and economical manner, the purpose and design of different monitoring programs which occur in a water body must be considered when determining applicability. For example, the RHMP was specifically designed to be an ambient monitoring program to assess conditions and trends within San Diego Bay, Mission Bay, Oceanside Harbor and Dana Point Harbor at the request of the Regional Board. Tentative Order R9-2013-0026 is an NPDES permit designed to determine compliance with receiving water limits at targeted locations. In addition, participating in a monitoring coalition where the purpose and focus of the monitoring requirements are different may place an uncertain degree of liability on those entities which are not formally named to a compliance-based monitoring permit. The monitoring frameworks and requirements of Tentative Order No. R9-2013-0026 and the RHMP are different and should be kept separate.

On behalf of the Port, I would like to thank you for providing us the opportunity to submit comments on Tentative Order No. R9-2013-0026. Please feel free to contact Phil Gibbons at (619) 725-6037 if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely



Paul Fanfera
Interim Director, Environmental and Land Use Management Department

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