



California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Recommendation for a Unified Beach Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Program for South Orange County

Public Workshop

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Board) will hold a public workshop to provide information and receive public input on a monitoring program proposed to replace the routine beach water quality monitoring that is currently required by Board permits in South Orange County. The proposed monitoring program would provide a unified approach for the public agencies currently responsible for the monitoring and is intended to be protective, reasonable, and equitable. Permit changes would ultimately be necessary, but no actions will be taken by the Board at this workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to present details of the proposed monitoring program, including how existing monitoring requirements would be affected, and receive input from the Board and the public. A quorum of the Board members will be present. The workshop is scheduled for:

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 9:00 AM
City of Mission Viejo
Council Chambers
200 Civic Center
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

At the workshop, staff will give an overview of the draft monitoring plan and will receive comments and questions. Details of the proposed monitoring program will be outlined in a staff report and made available before the workshop from our web site <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego> and through the staff contact below.

Background

At its April 11, 2012 meeting, the Board reissued permits for discharges of wastewater to the ocean through two outfalls that are owned and operated by South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA). The Board reissued the permits and asked staff to review beach water quality monitoring conducted in south Orange County by SOCWA and other regulated parties. In response, San Diego Water Board staff convened a workgroup in July 2012. The workgroup includes SOCWA, County of Orange Public Works, County of Orange Health Care Agency, and other interested parties, including representatives of the Sierra Club and Surfrider Foundation. The workgroup evaluated shoreline monitoring conducted by SOCWA, permittees to the Orange County Municipal Storm Water Permit (Order No. R9-2009-0002), and the County of Orange Health Care Agency.

In December 2012 the Board adopted [Resolution No. R9-2012-0069](#), "*Resolution in Support of Regional Monitoring Framework*," which emphasizes the importance of stakeholder participation in the development and implementation of monitoring and assessment programs. It also emphasizes the need for question-driven, beneficial use-oriented monitoring with a focus on water body conditions rather than discharges.

As a result, the workgroup developed a unified beach water quality monitoring and assessment program with the primary purpose of answering the question "Is beach water quality safe for water contact recreation?"

Directions and Parking

For directions to the City of Mission Viejo, please refer to: <http://cityofmissionviejo.org/CityDirectory/>. Parking is at your convenience. A parking lot is available, but please refrain from using the area between the library and City Hall. The facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons requiring additional accommodations should contact Chris Blank at chris.blank@waterboards.ca.gov or 619-521-3382 at least five (5) days prior to the workshop.

Staff Contact: Please direct questions about this notice to Bruce Posthumus at (619) 521-3379 or bposthumus@waterboards.ca.gov.