

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

**A WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD TO DISCUSS
TENTATIVE ORDER NO. R9-2014-0009, NPDES NO. CA0108928,
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE UNITED STATES SECTION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION,
SOUTH BAY INTERNATIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT,
DISCHARGE TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN VIA THE SOUTH BAY OCEAN OUTFALL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) will hold an informational public workshop at its regularly scheduled public meeting to receive information and discuss requirements in a public draft (Tentative Order) of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP) discharge of treated wastewater to the Pacific Ocean through via the South Bay Ocean Outfall. The Tentative Order will be available on or about April 23, 2014 and will be accessible electronically at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/iwtp/index.shtml

The meeting will be held at the location and time specified below.

**Wednesday, May 14, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.
San Diego Water Board
Board Meeting Room
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The South Bay IWTP, an international wastewater treatment plant located in San Diego County at the United States /Mexico border, treats an average daily flow of 25 million gallons per day (mgd) of sewage and other wastewater flows originating from Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico and then discharges the secondary treated effluent out into the Pacific Ocean through the South Bay Ocean Outfall (SBOO). The IWTP is owned and administered by the USIBWC and is operated and maintained by a private company under contract with USIBWC. The IWTP was built on a 75-acre site near the international boundary in the United States

immediately north of the City of Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico and is located at 2415 Dairy Mart Road, San Ysidro, CA 92173-2840.

The IWTP treats wastewater flows originating from Tijuana consisting of 1) sewage flows exceeding the capacity of Tijuana's sewage treatment and conveyance facilities and 2) dry weather transboundary flows into the U.S. from Mexico that are collected in five canyon collectors. The five canyon collectors are located immediately north of the international boundary at Silva Drain Canyon, Canyon del Sol, Stewarts Drain, Goat Canyon, and Smugglers Gulch. These canyons are all tributaries to the Tijuana River and estuary.

Along with secondary treated wastewater from the City of San Diego's South Bay Water Reclamation Facility, the IWTP discharges secondary treated wastewater to the SBOO, which extends westward into the ocean approximately 23,600 feet from the mouth of the Tijuana River and terminates in a diffuser-wye structure approximately 95 feet below sea level. The IWTP's discharge to the Pacific Ocean through the SBOO is currently regulated under Order No. 96-50, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0108928, *Waste Discharge Requirements for the International Boundary and Water Commission U.S. Section International Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge to the Pacific Ocean Through the South Bay Ocean Outfall San Diego County*. Order No. 96-50 was adopted on November 14, 1996. Order No. 96-50 expired on October 10, 2001 but remains in effect under an administrative extension pending the reissuance of a new NPDES permit.

The San Diego Water Board is now in the process of issuing a new NPDES permit for the IWTP.¹ The Tentative Order is tentatively scheduled to be considered for adoption by the San Diego Water Board at a public hearing on June 26, 2014, and, if adopted, would supersede the current permit (Order No. 96-50).

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The May 14, 2014, public workshop will be informal and conducted to provide San Diego Water Board members with information about the Tentative Order and to facilitate discussion. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants. San Diego Water Board staff will explain the permit development process and summarize significant elements of the Tentative Order for the San Diego Water Board and the public. USIBWC and any interested persons will also have an opportunity to provide oral comments as set forth below. The San Diego Water Board may provide general feedback to staff on development of the permit; however, no action or voting will take place at this workshop.

¹ From 2001 to June 2013, the USIBWC's operation of the IWTP was subject to the jurisdiction of the federal court, under the terms of a compliance order which established a schedule for the USIBWC to meet federal and state secondary treatment requirements. The litigation concluded in June 2013.

To ensure a productive and efficient Workshop, and to ensure that all attending have an opportunity to participate, oral presentations from USIBWC and any interested persons may be limited at the discretion of the Chair. This item has significant interest and to provide enough time for all interested parties to participate, participants with similar comments are requested to make joint presentations. San Diego Water Board staff may, but will not necessarily, respond to comments made at the workshop.

The San Diego Water Board will issue a separate public hearing notice announcing the release of the Tentative Order for public review and comment on or about April 23, 2014. The public hearing notice will establish the deadline for submission of written comments, the time, date and location of the public hearing, and the procedures that the San Diego Water Board will follow at the public hearing to consider adoption of the Tentative Order. Once released, the Tentative Order will serve as the public comment draft permit for purposes of applicable public notice requirements under the Code of Federal Regulations (40 C.F.R. § 124.10) and Water Code section 13167.5, subdivision (b).

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Tentative Order will be available on or about April 23, 2014 and will be accessible electronically at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/iwtp/index.shtml.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

For directions to the San Diego Water Board office, please call (619) 516-1990 or refer to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/about_us/contact_us/

Two-hour free parking is available on a first-come first-serve basis and long term fee parking is also available in an adjacent parking structure.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any questions or concerns regarding the above subject should be directed to Joann Lim by phone at 619-521-3362 or by email at Joann.Lim@waterboards.ca.gov.