

Public Utilities Department

# Stipulated Administrative Civil Liability Order R9-2023-0017

# Background

- In April 2020, the City had a sanitary sewage overflow resulting in approximately 11.23 million gallons of untreated sewage being discharged into the Sweetwater River and the San Diego Bay.
- The Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a Notice of Violation and Investigative Order July 31, 2020.
- City staff and the Regional Board have been negotiating since that time. The parties have reached a tentative settlement agreement



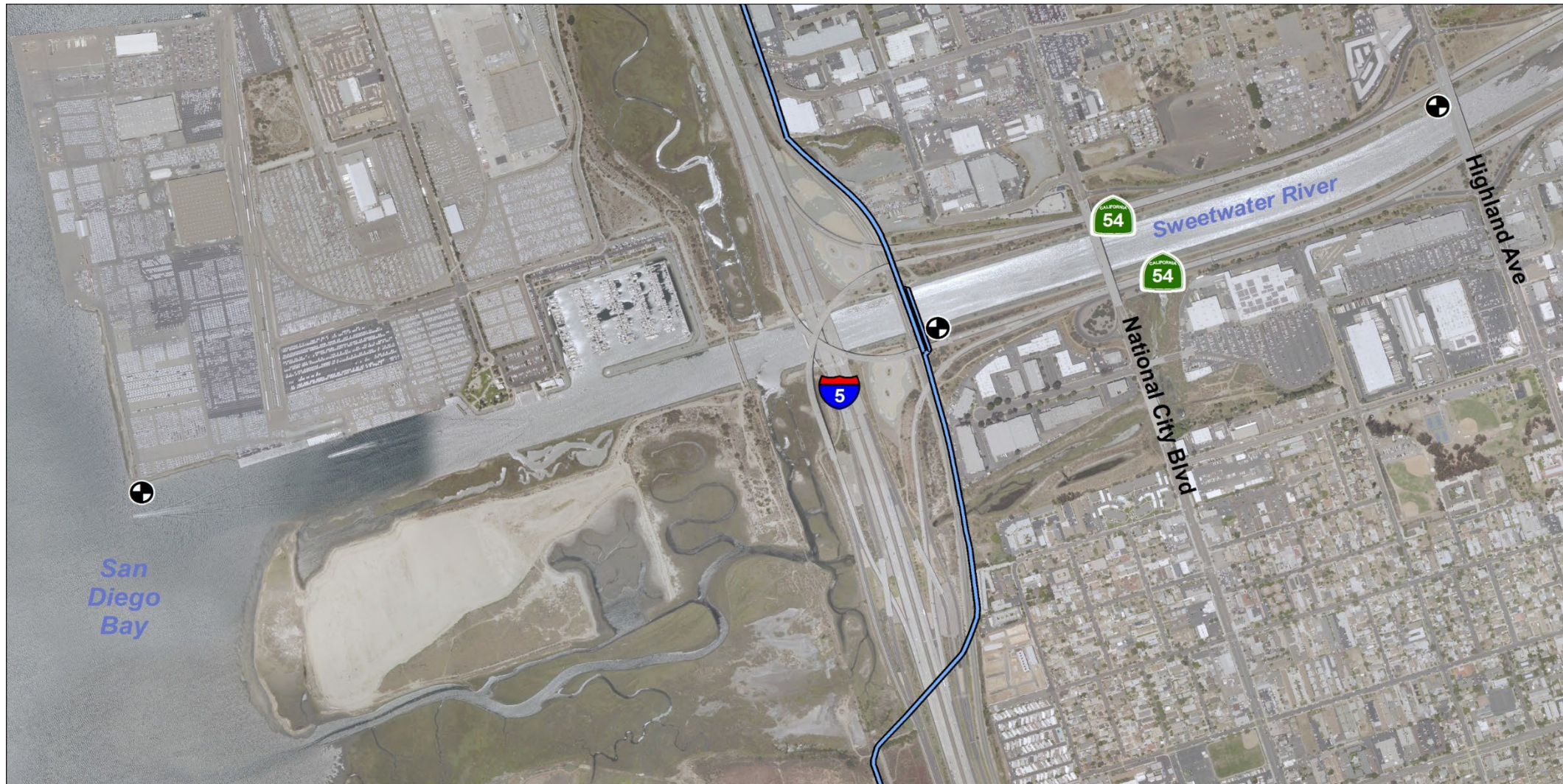
Sweetwater River

# Background

- Spill of 11.23 million gallons on April 10-11, 2020 from Sweetwater Overflow Structure
- Spill not observed. Discovered through a discrepancy in meter readings.
- Wastewater system modeled by PUD staff to determine loss and verified by outside engineering consultant
- Report commissioned by City determined four primary factors:
  - higher than normal rainfall over several days,
  - blockage in one siphon,
  - debris build-up in all four siphons,
  - inoperable pump at PS1 for several hours,
- Additionally, an incursion of flow from high tide may have contributed to the spill.









# South Metro Interceptor South Siphon Transition Structure

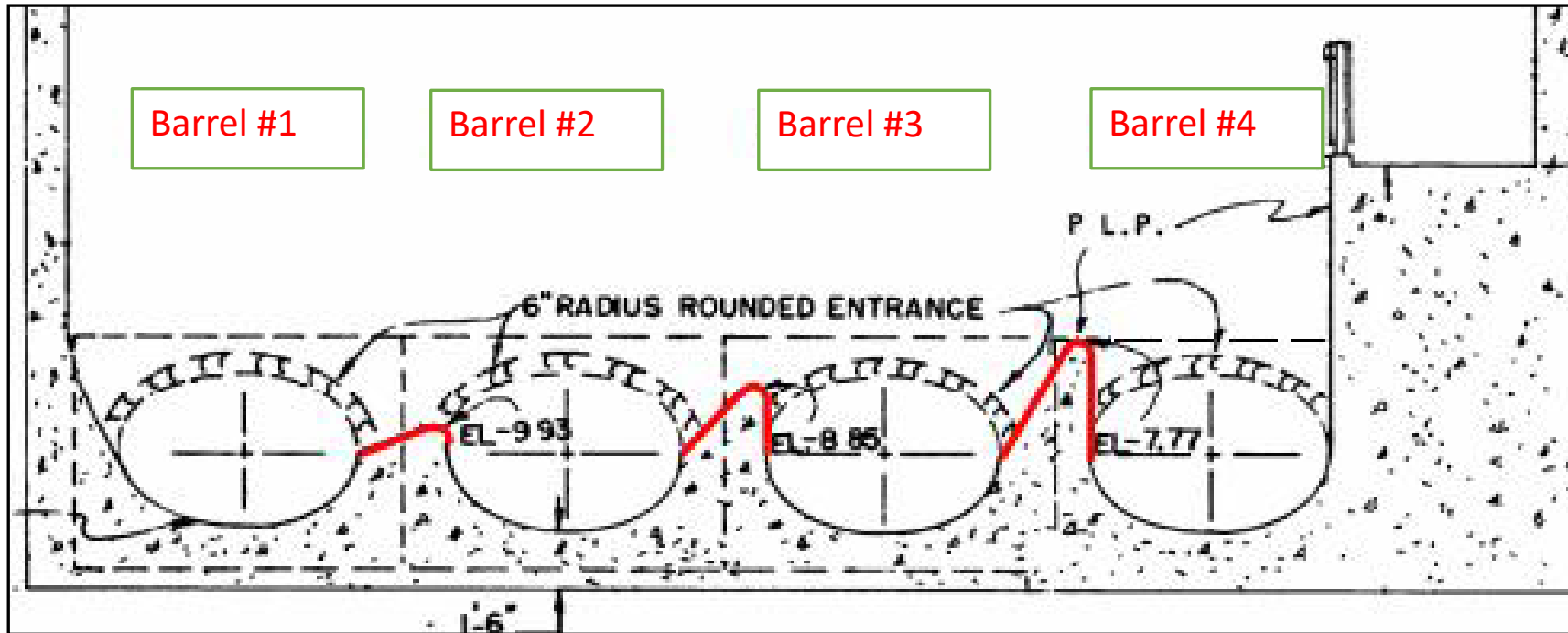


Looking North Across Sweetwater River



South Siphon Transition Structure

# Cross Section of Sweetwater River Siphons



- Elliptical pipes flow under the Sweetwater River
- Blockage removed from Barrel #2

# Tentative Settlement Terms:

- **Stipulation for Entry of Cease and Desist Order:**

- Requires repairs and maintenance to Pump Station 1 to be completed by December 31, 2028
- Update to Sewer System Management Plan in 2024
- Total Administrative Civil Liability imposed - \$4,609,724
  - \$907,901 paid to the Regional Board
  - \$3,681,823 paid to fund two Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs).
  - \$20,000 stayed

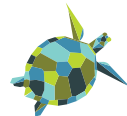


# Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)

## Ocean Connectors: Habitat Restoration and Education Program

- Habitat restoration, community outreach and education programs that serve surrounding communities.
- Restoration of 6.5 acres of degraded natural habitat adjacent to San Diego Bay
- Expands education program in both size and age range and provides schoolteachers with bilingual environmental science curricula.
- Total SEP Cost: \$1,081,823
- Duration: 3 Years

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CONNECTORS**



# Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)

## Port of San Diego: Living Shorelines Sweetwater Channel Project

- Replacement of approximately 1,000 linear feet of riprap with habitat-friendly eco-engineered shoreline structures
- Create habitat, increase biodiversity, and support shoreline resiliency while retaining the necessary structural stabilization
- Total SEP Cost: \$2,600,000
- Duration: 4 years



Proposed location: Sweetwater Channel in South San Diego Bay

