APPLICATION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AND EX PARTE TEMPORARY ORDER; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT; DECLARATION OF MICAHEL CARLIN; DECLARATION OF SAMUEL L. BROWN

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- The City and County of San Francisco ("San Francisco") operates a combined sewer system, which collects storm water and domestic wastewater in one collection system for transport to San Francisco's wastewater treatment plants for treatment prior to discharge into the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay.
- San Francisco's Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant and the Wastewater Collection System ("Westside Facilities") are currently permitted via Order No. R2-2009-006, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") Permit No. CA0037681, pursuant to the Clean Water Act ("CWA") and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act ("Water Code").
- The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Regional Board") and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") jointly issued Order No. R2-2009-006 ("the 2009 Permit"). The 2009 Permit expired in September 2014, but it has been administratively continued for over five (5) years by the Regional Board and the EPA and it is currently the effective permit for the Westside Facilities.
- On September 11, 2019, the Regional Board conducted a hearing and took action to issue a new permit for the Westside Facilities via adoption of Order No. R2-2019-0028, NPDES Permit No. CA0037681 ("the 2019 Permit").
- The Regional Board and the EPA conducted an administrative process intended to jointly issue the 2019 Permit. However, it has been 49 days since the Regional Board's September 11 adoption hearing and the EPA has not yet approved, issued, or signed the 2019 Permit.
- The Permit purports to establish an "effective date" of November 1, 2019.
- 7. On October 1, 2019, the Regional Board Executive Officer notified San Francisco that the 2019 Permit will be "effective" on November 1, even if the EPA takes no action to issue the 2019 Permit.
- On October 11, 2019, given the uncertainty associated with when, or if, the EPA will issue the Permit, and the associated harm to San Francisco, a Request for Stay of the Permit was filed by San Francisco to the California State Water Resources Control Board ("State Board").
- More recently, on October 28, 2019, the Regional Board Executive Officer took the position that part of the 2019 Permit will be effective on November 1 based on unilateral, post-adoption

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statements without any consultation with the joint permitting authority (EPA) or the permittee (San Francisco), not voted upon by the Regional Board members, or subject to any public notice nor comment.

- 10. The Request for Stay of the Permit is intended to maintain the status quo in this unprecedented situation until the EPA takes an action – one way or the other – on the Permit in order to avoid practical and legal uncertainty and substantial harm to San Francisco. Given the uncertainty over which of the two Permits may be effective, and in what manner, the Westside Facilities, for example, could be unauthorized to discharge treated effluent from the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant after November 1, unless the Request for Stay is granted or EPA approves, issues, and signs the 2019 Permit without changes, absent action by this Court.
- 11. The State Board has taken no action on the October 11 Request for Stay and has indicated that it does not plan to take action prior to November 1. As explained in the Memorandum of Points and Authorities, it is unclear when, or if, the EPA will approve, issue, or sign the 2019 Permit without changes. Further, if EPA's ultimate action is to demand changes to the 2019 Permit voted upon by the Regional Board members, it is entirely unclear how those changes will be reconciled between State and Federal agencies and how that could retroactively affect the validity of the 2019 Permit, if it were effective as of November 1. The EPA's lack of action appears to be associated with recent political-based statements and actions by the Federal government against San Francisco and the State of California.

APPLICATION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

Petitioner City and County of San Francisco hereby requests the Court to issue an Order to Show Cause pursuant to California Rule of Court 3.1150, affording Respondents the opportunity to appear and show cause why a preliminary injunction should not issue for the remainder of this litigation restraining and enjoining Respondents and their agents, assigns, employees, officials, and any individual or entity acting in concert with Respondents, from engaging in the following act:

1. Implementing a November 1, 2019 effective date for Order No. R2-2019-0028, the 2019 Permit.

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This is San Francisco's first request for an Order to Show Cause. Cal. Rule of Court 3.1150(e).Cal. Rule of Court 3.1150(e).

EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

Petitioner also applies, ex parte, for a Temporary Restraining Order ("TRO") restraining and enjoining Respondents and their agents, assigns, employees, officials, and any individual or entity acting in concert with Respondents, from engaging in the following act pending a hearing on a preliminary injunction:

1. Implementing a November 1, 2019 effective date for Order No. R2-2019-0028, the 2019 Permit.

This application is made pursuant to the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure sections 526(a)(2) and 527 on the grounds that the conduct sought to be enjoined, if allowed to occur, will cause immediate, great, and irreparable injury to Petitioner. A Temporary Restraining Order should be granted because there is a strong likelihood of San Francisco's success on the merits of the Petition for Writ of Mandate and Complaint for Injunctive Relief and the balance of equities strongly favor maintaining the status quo pending a Preliminary Injunction hearing.

This application is based upon the attached Declaration of Michael Carlin based on personal knowledge of the grounds for the injunctive relief sought; Declaration of Samuel L. Brown based on the notice given pursuant to California Rule of Court 3.1204; Memorandum of Points and Authorities in support of the TRO; and proposed order; as well as the Petition for Writ of Mandate, or in the Alternative, for Writ of Administrative Mandate, Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief on file herein, and such other and further evidence as may be presented at the hearing on this application.

Pursuant to Rule of Court 3.1202(a), the name, address, and telephone numbers of counsel of record for the parties to this action are:

> State Water Resources Control Board Philip Wyels, Assistant Chief Counsel Office of Chief Counsel 1001 I Street, 22nd Floor Sacramento, CA philip.wyels@waterboards.ca.gov (916) 341-5178

	1	
	2	San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
	2	Marnie Ajello, Staff Counsel 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
	3	Oakland, CA 94612
	4	marnie.ajello@waterboards.ca.gov
	7	(916) 327-4439
	5	
	6	Daniel Harris
	U	California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General
	7	1515 Clay Street, 20th Floor
	8	Oakland, CA 94612
	O	daniel.harris@doj.ca.gov
	9	(510) 879-0274
	10	
	10	Marc Melnick
	11	California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General
120 120 111 111	12	1515 Clay Street, Floor 20
rth ite 1	12	Oakland, CA 94612
Kul t, Su forn	13	marc.melnick@doj.ca.gov
Humton Andrews Kurth LLP 50 California Street, Suite 1700 San Francisco, California 94111	14	(510) 879-0750
ndr iia S sco,	14	
n Al iforr ancis	15	William Jenkins
Cali	1.0	California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General
Hu 50 San	16	455 Golden Gate Ave., Suite 1100
	17	San Francisco, CA 94102
	10	William.jenkins@doj.ca.gov
	18	(415) 510-3466
	19	
	• •	Tiffany Yee
	20	California Department of Justice
	21	Office of the Attorney General 1515 Clay Street, Floor 20
		Oakland, CA 94612
	22	Tiffany.yee@doj.ca.gov
	23	(510) 879-1020
	24	Con Francisco covo all neutice advance natice of its intent to each a Temponemy Destucione
	25	San Francisco gave all parties advance notice of its intent to seek a Temporary Restraining
		Order and made all possible efforts to avoid the need to file this ex parte application by seeking clarity
	26	from negonnal at the Decienal Decard and the State Decard that the Demait will not be effective on
	27	from personnel at the Regional Board and the State Board that the Permit will not be effective on
		November 1 absent final agency action by the EPA approving, issuing and signing the 2019 Permit
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MICAHEL CARLIN; DECLARATION OF SAMUEL L. BROWN

HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH LLP

J. Tom Bo

Samuel L. Brown

Attorneys for Plaintiff/Petitioner

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

Esto M. Km

John Roddy

Estie Kus

Attorneys for Plaintiff/Petitioner

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE: PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

I. INTRODUCTION.

A Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) is appropriate and necessary because unless, before November 1, 2019, (1) the State Board grants San Francisco's Request for Stay or (2) the EPA approves, issues and signs the 2019 Permit without changes, the Westside Facilities will no longer be authorized to discharge treated effluent into the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco will be in violation of law if it follows the direction of the Regional Board. As a result, San Francisco will suffer irreparable harm arising from the complete confusion and uncertainty over its permit status and legal requirements.

Absent EPA action to issue the 2019 Permit without change, there is no final 2019 Permit and by legal necessity the 2009 Permit remains the currently effective permit. This is the only lawful conclusion absent EPA action approving, issuing and signing the 2019 Permit without changes. The 2009 Permit has allowed for continuous operation of the Westside Facilities for the past decade in a manner protective of human health and the environment and there will be no substantial harm caused by continuing to apply the 2009 Permit until such time as EPA and the Regional Board are able to reach consensus on their joint issuance of the 2019 Permit.

However, the Regional Board's position is that absent the State Board granting the Request for Stay, parts of the Permit – unilaterally identified and selected by the Executive Officer in direct contravention of California Water Code § 13223, without a vote by the Regional Board members, without public notice and comment, and without concurrence from EPA or consultation with San Francisco – can become effective and enforceable on November 1. The Westside Facilities function as an integrated system; as a result, there will be a performance-related response in one part of the system as the result of actions in other parts of the system. In other words, it is neither feasible nor advisable to issue a permit for "pieces" of a massive, integrated wastewater system with multiple interconnected discharge points that services hundreds of thousands of residents. Assuming it could be

¹ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 38.

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done, doing so would be extraordinarily complex. The lack of effort by the Regional Board in this regard is stunning – the October 29, 2019 letter from the Regional Board Executive Officer purports to divide an approximately 150 page permit into purportedly entirely separate "federal terms" and "State terms" via a one page, bulleted list. It is abundantly evident that such an effort is inadequate to provide San Francisco clarity and certainty and avoid irreparable harm.

More importantly, however, the Regional Board Executive Officer has not adequately explained how, as a matter of law and fact, the Permit can be divided after the 2019 Permit has already been adopted by the Regional Board members. Even if the Permit has been adopted by the Regional Board, the 2019 Permit cannot be effective on November 1 without the EPA approving, issuing, and signing the 2019 Permit without changes.

Unless and until EPA approves, issues and signs the Permit without changes, there are numerous substantial questions of law and fact outstanding and San Francisco will suffer irreparable harm in the absence of a TRO. The Regional Board appears to agree, having explained in a letter to the EPA on October 28, 2019 that the failure to issue the Permit before November 1 will result in "uncertainty for [San Francisco]" and the "permit requirements applicable to the main outfall [will not] go into effect."²

If the 2019 Permit is deemed effective on November 1 via the Regional Board's unilateral action, and the EPA has not approved, issued and signed the 2019 Permit without changes, San Francisco will no longer be able to lawfully discharge treated effluent, at a minimum, from the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant.³ There are no alternative options to treat storm water and wastewater within the footprint of the Westside Facilities. 4 The Westside Facilities service hundreds of thousands of San Francisco residents and associated businesses—any interference with the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant's operations, or potential shut-down, would be deleterious to human health and the environment in San Francisco. ⁵ The Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant,

² Carlin Decl. at ¶ 38.

Carlin Decl. at ¶ 37.

Carlin Decl. at ¶ 35. ⁵ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 35.

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must discharge and, therefore, cannot operate absent a validly issued NPDES permit under the Clean Water Act and state law. The EPA is the only entity that has the legal authority to authorize discharges from the main outfall at Discharge Point 001 associated with the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant.6

In addition to other harms, this unprecedented situation deprives San Francisco of fair notice and due process of its legal obligations. In contrast, if a TRO is granted, there will be no substantial harm to other interested parties and to the public interest because San Francisco will continue to comply with the currently effective 2009 Permit which has been protecting human health and the environment for a decade.⁷ Conversely, if the 2019 Permit is deemed effective on November 1, by the 2019 Permit terms, the 2009 Permit is rescinded, and there is not a tool available to authorize discharges of treated effluent from Discharge Point 001 associated with the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant. Due to the nature of the Westside Facilities, the holistic nature of the 2019 Permit terms, and the EPA's role in all facets of issuance of this 2019 Permit, a TRO must be granted until the State Board takes an action on the Request for Stay or EPA approves, issues and signs the 2019 Permit without changes.

II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND.

The NPDES permit for San Francisco's Westside Facilities is jointly issued by the Regional Board and the EPA.8 On September 11, 2019, the Regional Board held a public hearing to adopt the

⁶ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 38.

Carlin Decl. at ¶ 41.

⁸ See Carlin Decl. at ¶ 21, Exhibit 6 at p. 5 (Order No. R2-2019-0028) (the Regional Board "intends" [] joint issuance of this Order with [EPA]"); id. at p. 3 ("The signatures below certify that this Order with all attachments is a full, true, and correct copy of the Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on the date indicated above, and an NPDES permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, on the date above."); Carlin Decl. at ¶ 26, Exhibit 9 (Request for Stay, Exhibit B: Regional Board Staff Summary Report for September 11, 2019 Hearing) at p.1 ("Since this permit covers discharges to both State and federal waters, we have worked closely with U.S. EPA to facilitate joint reissuance."); Carlin Decl. at ¶ 13 Exhibit 1 (Transcript of Regional Board Adoption Hearing on September 11, 2019) ("Adoption Hearing Transcript") at 6:7-10 (statement by Regional Board representative explaining "... we issue this permit jointly with EPA because the plant discharges to federal waters that are beyond State jurisdiction . . . ") and at 47:10-14 (statement by EPA

2019 Permit (a/k/a Order No. R2-2019-0028). Representatives from the EPA's regional office in San Francisco attended the public hearing and "express[ed] EPA's support for [Order No. R2-2019-00281."10

On October 1, 2019, Michael Montgomery, Executive Officer of the Regional Board, sent San Francisco a letter attaching a copy of the NPDES Permit adopted by the Regional Board on September 11, 2019. The transmittal letter states that the "requirements of the [NPDES Permit] are effective starting November 1, 2019." The copy of the 2019 Permit provided by Mr. Montgomery was signed on behalf of the Regional Board, but the accompanying signature block for Mr. Tomas Torres, Director of the Water Division of EPA Region 9, was blank.¹³

In response, on October 1, 2019, San Francisco sent a letter to Mr. Tomas Torres inquiring about the status of the 2019 Permit and how and when the 2019 Permit would be approved, issued and signed by the EPA. 14 On October 2, 2019, Mr. Torres responded via voicemail, stating, in relevant part:

Um, the... what I wanted to do is let you know that the Office of Water [clearing throat] is reviewing the permits. Um, I can't speak to the scope and the timing of that but I want to refer you to the person that is doing the review so you can, uh, communicate with that person, uh, directly. Uh, that way you don't have sort of intermediary, um, us, in between because, you know, it's pretty much been elevated to that level. Um, and so the person's name is Lee Forsgren, F-O-R-S-G-R-E-N, [clearing throat] and he is the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator at the Office of Water and his phone number is (202) 564-5700 and his email is f-o-r-s-g-r-e-n.l-e-e@epa.gov.

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representative explaining, "As explained earlier today, EPA is here because the permit would authorize discharges to federal and state waters. Therefore, the permit is jointly issued by the Board and EPA.").

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⁹ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 11 and at the following exhibits thereto: Carlin Decl. Exhibit 1 (Adoption Hearing Transcript) at p. 61:3-17 (the five Regional Board members present at the public hearing voted in favor of adoption of the NPDES Permit); Carlin Decl. Exhibit 6 (Order No. R2-2019-0028) at p. 3 (including the signature of Michael Montgomery, Executive Officer of the Regional Board); and Carlin Decl. Exhibit 5 (M. Montgomery Transmittal Letter, Oct. 1) (stating that the NPDES Permit

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was "adopted by the Regional Water Board on September 11, 2019").

¹⁰ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 12, Exhibit 1 at p. 47:5-48:20. ¹¹ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 20.

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¹² Carlin Decl. at ¶ 20, Exhibit 5 (M. Montgomery Transmittal Letter, Oct. 1).

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¹³ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 20, Exhibit 6 (Order No. R2-2019-0028) at p. 3 (including signature information for Tomas Torres on behalf of the EPA).

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¹⁴ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 22, Exhibit 7 (SFPUC Letter to Torres, Oct. 1) at p. 1.

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Uh, I wish I could give you more details on, you know, the timing and the scope of the review of that, uh, headquarters but, uh, I cannot. 15

As of the date of this application for a TRO, <u>49 days</u> have passed, and the EPA has not adopted the 2019 Permit. 16

In an attempt to gain clarity and maintain the status quo, San Francisco filed a Request for Stay of the 2019 Permit on October 11, 2019 with the State Board. The stay request explained that San Francisco meets the legal requirements for a stay under Title 23, section 2053 of the California Code of Regulations and that a stay is necessary to prevent irreparable harm that will occur on November 1, 2019 if the 2019 Permit is deemed effective absent EPA action. The Request for Stay was based on San Francisco's position that the NPDES Permit could not legally (or reasonably) become "effective" on November 1 without approval, issuance, and signing by EPA without changes. San Francisco requested the State Board stay the entire 2019 Permit at least until, and if, EPA adopts the 2019 Permit without changes and requested the State Board to hold a hearing on its request. 18 As of this filing, the State Board has not scheduled a hearing or taken any other action on the Request for Stay. 19

Having received no response on the Request for Stay from the State Board, on October 18, 2019, San Francisco wrote to the Executive Officers of the Regional Board and State Board expressing concern with the continuing uncertainty associated with the 2019 Permit due to lack of any action or substantive communication from the EPA.²⁰ San Francisco explained there is no legal support for the position that any part of the 2019 Permit, jointly issued by EPA and the Regional Board, can become

¹⁵ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 23, Exhibit 8 (Transcript of Voicemail from Torres). It is important to emphasize the exceptional circumstances arising here. Mr. Torres is the Director of the Water Division at EPA Region 9. As such, Mr. Torres is the designated EPA official identified in the MOA responsible for reviewing "circumstances of [] delays" directly with State Board officials. Therefore, EPA's designated official under the MOA was, as of October 2, unable to provide any insight into the basis for the delay, how it may be resolved, or when (or whether) EPA would approve the permit at all. ¹⁶ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 20, Exhibit 6 (Order No. R2-2019-0028) at p. 3 (including signature information for both the Regional Board and EPA, but containing only the signature of the Regional Board and leaving the EPA signature unsigned).

¹⁷ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 26, Exhibit 9 (Request for Stay). San Francisco also filed a petition for review of substance of the permit, which is not the subject of this application.

¹⁸ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 26.

¹⁹ Carlin Decl. at ¶¶ 27-28.

²⁰ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 29, Exhibit 10 (M. Carlin Letter to M. Montgomery, Oct. 18).

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effective without EPA's approval, issuance and signature, that there is need for clear direction from the Regional Board on the issue, and that San Francisco would welcome the opportunity to discuss its concerns.21

San Francisco followed up again, through counsel, with the Executive Officers of the Regional Board and State Board on October 25, 2019 explaining the immediate need for issuance of the requested stay, or in the absence of the stay, some other administrative action authorized by law that would recognize that the 2019 Permit would not be effective as of November 1, 2019. Absent such action, San Francisco informed the Regional Board and the State Board that it would have no choice but to file a Petition for Writ of Mandate given the harm that will be imposed on San Francisco on November 1.²²

The Regional Board Executive Officer finally responded at the Eleventh Hour, on October 29, 2019, taking the position that "the effective date of the Oceanside permit remains November 1, 2019."²³ The "solution" by the Regional Board Executive Officer to EPA's inaction is to unilaterally "split" the jointly prepared 2019 Permit into two permits – one state, one federal – and only make effective those permit terms that are allegedly solely within the Regional Board's authority.²⁴ San Francisco responded on October 29, 2019 that the 2019 Permit cannot be effective on November 1, absent the EPA approving, issuing, and signing the 2019 Permit.²⁵ San Francisco also responded that the Regional Board Executive Officer's solution – unilaterally create two permits, one state and one federal – is a post-hoc creation and fiction that conflicts with the permitting process used for approval of the 2019 Permit by the Regional Board members after public notice and comment, the associated administrative record, the terms of the permit, and the reality of the design of the combined sewer system on the Westside of San Francisco.²⁶

²¹ *Id*.

²² Carlin Decl. at ¶ 30, Exhibit 11 (San Francisco Letter to M. Montgomery and E. Sobeck, Oct. 25)

²³ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 39, Exhibit 14 (M. Montgomery Letter, Oct. 29).

²⁵ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 40, Exhibit 15 (M. Carlin Letter, Oct. 29).

²⁶ *Id*.

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The EPA's lack of action on the 2019 Permit and San Francisco's grave concerns expressed in this ex parte application must be examined through the lens of recent actions and statements by President Trump and the EPA that arbitrarily and capriciously target San Francisco and its municipal sewer system. On September 18, 2019, President Trump made disparaging and factually inaccurate comments about San Francisco, stating there are "tremendous things that we don't have to discuss pouring into the ocean. You know there are needles, there are other things."²⁷ He went on to threaten that "we're going to be giving San Francisco — they're in total violation — we're going to be giving them a notice very soon . . . [y]ou're going to see over the next, I would say, less than a week. EPA is

On September 26, 2019, EPA Administrator Wheeler followed through on President Trump's threat and sent Governor Newsom a letter alleging the State of California was failing to implement, in part, the federal Clean Water Act, and focused on San Francisco, again, making inaccurate and capricious allegations of noncompliance with the Clean Water Act.²⁹ On October 1, 2019, Mr. Harlan Kelly, the General Manager of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, sent a letter to EPA Administrator Wheeler responding to the allegations in the September 26, 2019 letter, identifying the inaccuracies and mischaracterizations, and requesting a meeting with EPA Administrator Wheeler to explain the design and performance of San Francisco's combined sewer system.³⁰ The EPA, the next day, on October 2, 2019, followed through on President Trump's threat and sent San Francisco a Notice of Violation alleging noncompliance with the Clean Water Act.³¹ Again, on October 28, President Trump attacked San Francisco on Twitter, specifically targeting its combined sewer system.32

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²⁷ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 16.

going to be putting out a notice. They're in serious violation."28

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²³ ²⁸ *Id*.

²⁹ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 17, Exhibit 2 (A. Wheeler Letter to G. Newsom, Sept. 26). 24

³⁰ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 18, Exhibit 3 (H. Kelly Letter to A. Wheeler, Oct. 1).

³¹ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 19, Exhibit 4 (Notice of Violation, Oct. 2).

³² Carlin Decl. at ¶ 31. Courts have concluded that President Trump's tweets establish official positions of the Federal government. See, e.g., Hawaii v. Trump, 859 F.3d 741, 773 n. 14 (9th Cir. 2017) (taking judicial notice of President Trump's tweets when granting a temporary restraining order against federal government), vacated on other grounds, 138 S.Ct. 377 (2017); Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University v. Trump, 928 F.3d 226, 230, 234 (2d Cir. 2019) (In

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Against this backdrop, it is not clear when, or if, the EPA will issue the 2019 Permit and, even if EPA does issue the 2019 Permit, there is no indication – after 49 days of continued inaction – that the EPA will issue the 2019 Permit as currently drafted. If the 2019 Permit is deemed effective on November 1 without the federally authorized components (which include, at a minimum, authorization to discharge via the mail outfall at Discharge Point No. 001), San Francisco will be operating the Westside Facilities in violation of law through no fault of its own and subject to civil and criminal enforcement.

III. STANDARD OF REVIEW.

A TRO serves to preserve the status quo pending a full hearing to determine whether the application is entitled to a preliminary injunction. See Landmark Holding Group, Inc. v. Superior Court, 193 Cal. App. 3d 525, 527 (1987). The Court may issue a TRO when "[i]t appears from the facts shown by affidavit or by the verified complaint that great or irreparable injury will result to the applicant before the matter can be heard on notice." Code Civ. Proc. § 527(c)(1). When deciding whether to issue a TRO, the Court should evaluate two interrelated factors: (1) the likelihood that the plaintiff will prevail on the merits at trial; and (2) the interim harm that the plaintiff is likely to sustain if the restraining order is denied, as compared to the harm that the defendant is likely to suffer if the order is issued. See Church of Christ in Hollywood v. Superior Court, 99 Cal. App. 4th 1244, 1251 (2002) (quoting IT Corp. v. County of Imperial, 35 Cal. 3d 63, 69-70 (1983)). The Court also uses the same two-prong test when determining whether to issue a preliminary injunction. See Robbins v. Superior Court, 38 Cal. 3d 199, 206 (1985). The "court's determination must be guided by a 'mix' of the potential-merit and interim-harm factors; the greater the plaintiff's showing on one, the less must be shown on the other to support an injunction." Butt v. State of California, 4 Cal. 4th 668, 678 (1992). A preliminary injunction may be granted "[w]hen it appears by the complaint or affidavits

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deciding that President Trump could not block people on Twitter, court found that Trump uses Twitter "to conduct official business . . . [w]e conclude that the evidence of the official nature of the Account is overwhelming").

³³ Because the City and County of San Francisco is the Petitioner, the complaint does not have to be verified. Code Civil Proc. § 446(a).

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that the commission or continuance of some act during the litigation would produce waste, or great or irreparable injury, to a party to the action." Code Civ. Proc. § 526(a)(2); see also Trader Joe's Co. v. Progressive Campaigns, 73 Cal. App. 4th 425, 429 (1999) ("To obtain a preliminary junction, the plaintiff must also establish that the defendant should be enjoined from the challenged activity pending trial.").

A TRO is distinguishable from a preliminary injunction, however, in that "[t]he issuance of a TRO is not a determination of the merits of the controversy. All that is determined is whether the TRO is necessary to maintain the status quo pending the noticed hearing on the application for preliminary injunction." Landmark Holding Grp., Inc. v. Superior Court, 193 Cal. App. 3d 525, 528 (1987) (internal citations omitted); see also Gray v. Bybee, 60 Cal. App. 2d 564, 571(1943) ("The granting or denial of a temporary restraining order is discretionary with the trial judge...and amounts to a mere preliminary or interlocutory order to keep the subject of litigation in status quo pending the determination of the action on its merits."). A TRO automatically expires when a preliminary injunction is issued or denied. Landmark Holding Grp., Inc, 193 Cal. App. 3d at 529.

Where, as here, Petitioner is requesting that the Court grant a TRO without notice to the opposing party, the Court must also issue an Order to Show Cause ("OSC") why a preliminary injunction should not be granted. Code Civ. Proc. § 527(d)(1); see also Cal. Rules of Court § 3.1150(a). An OSC should be issued to afford the Respondent the opportunity to show why it should not be restrained and enjoined in the same manner for the remainder of this litigation.

IV. **ARGUMENT**.

Granting the TRO is appropriate because there is a strong likelihood of San Francisco's success on the merits of the Petition for Writ of Mandate and Complaint for Injunctive Relief. Further, the balance of equities strongly favors maintaining the status quo pending a preliminary injunction hearing, given the substantial harm and uncertainty that will be imposed on San Francisco. This is particularly the case because, once the 2009 Permit is rescinded (as it will be under the plain terms of the 2019 Permit), it cannot be reinstated except, perhaps, via a months-long administrative process allowing for public notice and comment and a renewed effort for joint approval by EPA and the

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Further, given that the Westside Facilities have operated for a decade under the 2009 Permit, there is

limited, if any, harm that would be imposed on the Regional Board and State Board from maintaining

the status quo until the issues can be fully briefed for this Court.

A. There is a Strong Likelihood of Success on the Merits.

San Francisco's strong likelihood of prevailing on the merits is presented in full in the Petition for Writ of Mandate and Complaint for Declaratory Relief and, supplemented in this ex parte application for a TRO. The position of the Executive Officer of the Regional Board – that only a part of the Permit was adopted on September 11 and only a vaguely described part of the Permit is effective on November 1 – is contrary to every basic principle of administrative law and NPDES permitting.³⁴

Contrary to all plain evidence, the Regional Board is trying to arbitrarily create a fiction that there are two permits – one federal, one state – that were subject to public notice, comment, development of an administrative record and a vote by the Regional Board members. The Permit itself refers to "this Order" – singular – and refers to the "joint issuance of this Order." As San Francisco explained to the Executive Officer of the Regional Board, his position conflicts with the permitting process used for approval of the 2019 Permit, the associated singular administrative record, the explicit terms of the 2019 Permit itself adopted by the Regional Board members, and the reality of the engineering and design of the combined sewer system on the Westside of San Francisco.³⁶ The Petition for Writ of Mandate and Complaint for Declaratory Relief further identifies numerous instances where the terms of the 2019 Permit clearly demonstrate there is one permit, to be jointly issued and administered concurrently by the Regional Board and the EPA.

If the Regional Board wants to take an independent action to address a state policy concern without EPA involvement, it has numerous options, including adoption of a "state only" permit,

³⁴ See, e.g., Util. Solid Waste Activities Grp. v. EPA, 236 F.3d 749, 753 (D.C. Cir. 2001) ("to hold that an agency may correct errors in rules merely by announcing a change would be inconsistent with" administrative law.).

³⁵ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 21, Exhibit 6 (Order No. R2-2019-0028) (emphasis added).

³⁶ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 40, Exhibit 15 (M. Carlin Response Letter to M. Montgomery, Oct. 29);

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However, it can only take those actions consistent with the applicable administrative action. administrative permitting process.³⁷ What the Executive Officer of the Regional Board is trying to do via his Eleventh Hour letter, issued unilaterally on October 29, is to modify the 2019 Permit originally adopted by the Regional Board because of a reliance upon an apparently erroneous representation from the EPA that it supported the 2019 Permit as drafted. This is in direct contravention of the California Water Code, which is unequivocal that the Executive Officer does not have the authority to modify the 2019 Permit. It states, in relevant part, "Each regional board may delegate any of its powers and duties vested in it by this division to its executive officer excepting only the following: . . . (2) the issuance, modification, or revocation of any . . . waste discharge requirement."38 Although San Francisco recognizes why the Regional Board may be frustrated that the EPA is failing to live up to its commitments, taking unilateral administrative action to modify the 2019 Permit by seeking to "split" it into separate Federal and State permits is unauthorized and arbitrary and capricious. Any legally justifiable action by the Regional Board seeking to modify the 2019 Permit must be based on cause consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 122.62 and publicly noticed for public comment on the proposed modification.³⁹ This Eleventh Hour effort to navigate EPA's failure to approve, issue and sign the jointly drafted 2019 Permit must fail because, among other issues: (i) the Regional Board does not have cause consistent with the applicable permitting regulations to make the modification, (ii) neither San Francisco nor the public was provided with an opportunity to comment on the modification to the

modification of the effective date of certain permit terms within its clear sole authority, or similar

³⁷ See, e.g., Morning Star Co. v. State Bd. of Equalization, 38 Cal. 4th 324, 333 (2006) (Any

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administrative action that "substantially fails to comply" with administrative procedures "may be judicially declared invalid."); Appalachian Power Co. v. EPA, 208 F.3d 1015, 1024 (D.C. Cir. 2000) ("An agency may not escape ... notice and comment requirements ... by labeling a major substantive legal addition . . . a mere interpretation."). ³⁸ Cal. Water Code § 13223 (emphasis added). ³⁹ See also 23 Cal. Code Regs. § 2235.2 (Incorporating EPA's NPDES permitting regulations at 40

C.F.R. Part 122 into the State permitting legal framework); Carlin Decl. at ¶ 21, Exhibit 6 at p. 10 (Order No. R2-2019-0028) (Identification of circumstances that allow for modification to the permit); In re City of Manteca, 2005 WL 5166378, n.27, Order WQ 2005-0005 (March 16, 2005) ("NPDES permits are subject to revision pursuant to the applicable provisions of federal regulations ..."); In re San Diego Unified Port District, 1990 WL 272135, at *6, Order WO 90-3 (40 C.F.R. § 122.62 is the authority to modify a permit).

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determine if it agreed with the Regional Board's interpretation of state and federal permit provisions;

(iv) San Francisco had no opportunity to explain to the Regional Board members how the Westside

Facilities cannot, as a practical matter, be divided consistent with the Regional Board Executive

Officer's vague and arbitrary effort in the October 29 letter to San Francisco, and (v) even the Regional

Board members were not provided an opportunity to review, consider, or voice their opinion via an

adoption hearing or a vote on a modification to the 2019 Permit or the creation of a "state only" permit.

San Francisco is sympathetic to the Regional Board's desire to side step the EPA's failure to issue the 2019 Permit as represented and on a timeline preferred by the Regional Board. But frustration is not a legal basis for the Regional Board to take unlawful actions that have the practical effect of severely harming San Francisco. Notably, Courts have consistently held that "NPDES permits are treated like any other contract."40 In this case, one party (the EPA) has yet to sign the contract, and the other party (the Regional Board) is attempting to enter into a different contract, with neither the EPA's or San Francisco's agreement.

The Regional Board's last minute position that the Permit is – in part – adopted and effective on November 1 fails to provide San Francisco with fair notice of its legal obligations and violates the Due Process Clause of the U.S. Constitution. Fair notice is an "essential requirement of any statutory scheme"⁴¹ and is grounded in "the government's obligation to promulgate clear and unambiguous standards."42 When evaluating fair notice arguments in the context of NPDES permits, courts recognize the Due Process requirement as a basic standard in administrative law.⁴³ A fundamental principle in our legal system, the U.S. Supreme Court explained, "is that laws which regulate persons

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⁴⁰ Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. v. County of Los Angeles, 725 F.3d 1194, 1204-05 (9th 23 Cir. 2013) ⁴¹ Pac. Bell Wireless, LLC v. Pub. Utilities Com., 140 Cal. App. 4th 718, 740 (2006) (quoting

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Grayned v. City of Rockford, 408 U.S. 104, 108 (1972)). ⁴² United States v. Trident Seafoods Corp., 60 F.3d 556, 559 (9th Cir. 1995) (emphasis added).

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⁴³ See, e.g., Wisconsin Resources Protection Council v. Flambeau Min. Co., 727 F.3d 700, 708 (7th Cir. 2013) (In determining whether regulated party received fair notice of EPA's approval of NPDES permit, Court recognized that due process requirement has been "thoroughly incorporated into administrative law.") (citing Gen. Elec. Co. v. United States EPA, 53 F.3d 1324, 1328-29) (D.C. Cir. 1995).

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or entities must give fair notice of conduct that is forbidden or required."44 This principle raises two concerns: first, "regulated parties should know what is required of them so they may act accordingly;" and second, "precision and guidance are necessary so that those enforcing the law do not act in an arbitrary or discriminatory way."45 San Francisco does not know what the Regional Board and EPA believe San Francisco must do to act in accordance with the Clean Water Act or whether the two agencies even have a consistent viewpoint. 46 It also creates significant ambiguity that opens the door to enforcing the law in an arbitrary or discriminatory way, as explained in more detail below.⁴⁷ The Permit adopted and effective without EPA issuing the Permit, the Regional Board decision postadoption to unilaterally modify the 2019 Permit and declare what permit terms are effective and not effective, those decisions made without input from the EPA or confirmation that the EPA agrees with the Regional Board, and the risk of noncompliance and civil and criminal enforcement, are just a few of the reasons why the Permit fails to provide San Francisco with fair notice.

B. The Balance of the Equities Favor Maintaining the Status Quo Pending a Preliminary Injunction Hearing.

San Francisco will suffer irreparable harm from this unprecedented situation if a TRO is not granted. On November 1, San Francisco will not know what permit, or what permit terms, apply to the various components of the Westside Facilities and real life legal and practical ramifications will arise as a result. Nor has the EPA, an integral partner in the issuance of the 2019 Permit, provided its acquiescence to the Regional Board's Eleventh Hour, unilateral action seeking to modify the 2019 Permit and "split" it into separate Federal and State permits. The balance of the equities favor maintaining the status quo pending a preliminary injunction hearing.

⁴⁴ FCC v. Fox Television Stations, Inc., 567 U.S. 239, 253 (2012).

⁴⁵ *Id*.

⁴⁶ See id. (explaining that the aforementioned principle raises two due process concerns: first, "regulated parties should know what is required of them so they may act accordingly;" and second, "precision and guidance are necessary so that those enforcing the law do not act in an arbitrary or discriminatory way."); Carlin Decl. at ¶ 36 ("It is unclear how the SFPUC can operate the plant under these circumstances and with open questions about whether parts of two separately issued NPDES permits apply to various aspects of its facilities."). ⁴⁷ See id.

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One of San Francisco's biggest concerns is the impact of this unprecedented situation on its ability to operate the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant and lawfully discharge treated effluent via Discharge Point 001. Discharge Point No. 001 is the main outfall associated with the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant and is the only outfall associated with the Westside Facilities that discharges during dry and wet weather, with up to 65 million gallons per day of treated effluent via Discharge Point No. 001.⁴⁸ If the Permit has been adopted and is effective on November 1, the discharge via Discharge Point No. 001 will be no longer be authorized by any permit and San Francisco will be in violation of the CWA, subject to civil and criminal enforcement. The October 29 letter from the Regional Board Executive Officer's takes the position the 2009 Permit can continue to be administratively continued "for the conditions applicable to the ocean discharge" via Discharge Point No. 001. However, San Francisco still does not know what permit terms do and do not apply based on the October 29 letter from the Executive Officer of the Regional Board or that San Francisco could rely upon the October 29 letter as a "permit shield" under CWA Section 402(k) in the event of an enforcement action by the EPA or citizen suits. More importantly, the Regional Board Executive Officer's position is directly contradicted by the terms of the Permit. The Permit is clear that once the 2019 Permit is effective, the 2009 Permit is <u>rescinded</u>.⁴⁹ This result is clear from the plain language

The real world implication of the Regional Board's insistence that the 2019 Permit become effective, in part, absent EPA approval, issuance and signature, is that San Francisco will no longer have legal authorization under the Clean Water Act to discharge treated effluent from the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant via Discharge Point No. 001. The Regional Board recognizes these

of the Permit.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 37.

⁴⁹ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 37 at Exhibit 6 at p. 5 ("Order No. R2-2009-0062 (previous order) is rescinded upon the effective date of this Order.").

⁵⁰ See, e.g., Motion Picture Studio Teachers & Welfare Workers v. Millan, 51 Cal. App. 4th 1190, 1195 (1996), as modified (Jan. 15, 1997) (The Regional Board cannot interpret the Permit "in a manner inconsistent with its plain language."); Klamath Water Users Protective Ass'n. v. Patterson, 204 F.3d 1206, 1210 (9th Cir.1999) ("[NPDES permit] terms are to be given their ordinary meaning, and when the terms of a [permit] are clear, the intent of the parties must be ascertained from the [permit] itself.").

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types of issues, explaining to the EPA on October 28 that the failure to issue the Permit before November 1 will result in "uncertainty for [San Francisco]" and the "permit requirements applicable to the main outfall [will not] go into effect."⁵¹ San Francisco will then have three choices: (1) continue to discharge unauthorized via Discharge Point No. 001, every day, in violation of the CWA; (2) cease discharging via Discharge Point No. 001 and discharge lower quality effluent via the other outfalls onto beaches and nearshore waters, every day, in violation of the CWA; or (3) cease operations on the Westside of San Francisco until it can be properly permitted and authorized. None of those choices are acceptable and San Francisco should not be forced to make this choice. The Westside Facilities service hundreds of thousands of San Francisco residents and associated businesses—any interference

with the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant's operations, or potential shut-down, would be

deleterious to human health and the environment in San Francisco and the receiving waters.

The Regional Board and the State Board are essentially asking San Francisco to not worry that it will be in noncompliance with the CWA and to "trust them" that nothing bad will happen. The very real threat of enforcement must be viewed through the aggressive use of citizen suits in California and, more importantly, as explained above, the recent political statements and actions by the Federal government, notably President Trump and the EPA, attacking the State of California and San Francisco.⁵² The aggressive politicized regulatory environment has developed even while EPA represented to the Regional Board that it was working collaboratively during the permit reissuance process.⁵³ Against this backdrop and these extraordinary circumstances, and the lack of clarity on its legal obligations, San Francisco will suffer irreparable harm if the TRO is not granted.

On the other hand, the public will not be substantially harmed if a TRO is granted. Once a TRO is granted, the confusion will be eliminated and it will be clear that San Francisco must comply in the short-term with the currently effective 2009 Permit.⁵⁴ Compliance with the 2009 Permit will ensure protection of human health and the environment. The State Board, in Order No. 79-16, found the

⁵¹ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 38, Exhibit 13 (M. Montgomery Letter to T. Torres, Oct. 25).

⁵² Carlin Decl. at ¶¶ 16, 31. 27

⁵³ Carlin Decl. at ¶¶ 12-13 Exhibit 1 (Adoption Hearing Transcript).

⁵⁴ Carlin Decl. at ¶ 41.

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current design of the Westside Facilities would not impair beneficial uses, which are the uses determined by the State as appropriate for the Pacific Ocean. The Regional Board confirmed the State Board finding in Order No. R2-2009-0062 at F-34, declaring the Westside Facilities "would not compromise beneficial uses."55 Having relied upon the 2009 Permit to serve this function for approximately 10 years, continuing to do so in the short-term will not cause any substantial harm to the public.

V. CONCLUSION.

A Temporary Restraining Order should be granted because there is a strong likelihood of San Francisco's success on the merits of the Petition for Writ of Mandate and Complaint for Declaratory Relief and the balance of equities favor maintaining the status quo pending a Preliminary Injunction hearing.

DATED: October 30, 2019

HUNTON ANDREWS K

Samuel L. Brown

Attorneys for Petitioner CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SAN FRANCISCO CITY

ATTORNEY

John Roddy

Estie Kus

⁵⁵ Carlin Decl. at Exhibit 6 (Order No. R2-2009-0062) at F-34.

	1	Attorneys for Petitioner
	2	CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
	3	
	4	ATTACHMENTS
	5	Exhibit A: Declaration of Michael Carlin
	6	Exhibit B: Declaration of Samuel Brown
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Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP 50 California Street, Suite 1700 San Francisco, California 94111

Exhibit A

Declaration of Michael Carlin

APPLICATION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AND EX PARTE TEMPORARY ORDER; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT; DECLARATION OF MICHAEL CARLIN; DECLARATION OF SAMUEL L. BROWN

PARTE APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE: PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

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I, Michael Carlin, declare and state as follows:

- 1. I am the Deputy General Manager and Chief Operating Officer for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission ("SFPUC"). In this capacity, my responsibilities include overseeing the Wastewater Enterprise whose mission is to operate and maintain the City's water pollution control plants, pumping stations and collection system to protect public health and the environment and in full compliance with permits issued by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Regional Board") and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA").
- 2. This declaration is submitted in support of Petitioner City and County of San Francisco's ("San Francisco") Ex Parte Application for Temporary Restraining Order and for Order to Show Cause, and corresponding Petition for Writ of Mandate, or in the Alternative, for Writ of Administrative Mandamus, filed today with the Court. SFPUC is filing this writ in an effort to preserve the status quo in connection with the permitting of its Oceanside sewer treatment plant and associated collection system and to cure the lack of action by the State Water Resources Control Board in response to the SFPUC's request for a stay. Absent issuance of a stay by the State Board or this court, San Francisco will be substantially harmed and the ability of the City to continue operating sewer services to hundreds of thousands of residents in a legal manner subject to authorization by a jointly issued permit by the Regional Board and EPA will be in immediate jeopardy. The need for intervention by this court has arisen, as described below, because EPA has refused to co-sign the jointly issued permit with the Regional Board due to apparent intervention by EPA Headquarters directly into the permitting process.
- 3. I became the Deputy General Manager and Chief Operating Officer for the SFPUC in 2009. In that role, I supervise the SFPUC's efforts in capital planning, emergency response, asset management, and other functions across the three business lines, including the Wastewater Enterprise. Prior to this position, I served as the SFPUC's Assistant General Manager for Water where I led the effort to diversify the water supply portfolio.
- Prior to joining the SFPUC in 1996, I worked for more than a decade at the Regional Board where I served as the Board's Planning Chief.

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- 5. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from San Francisco State University and a Master Degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University.
- 6. Unless otherwise stated, I have personal knowledge of the matters state herein and could and would testify competently thereto.
- On information and belief, the Regional Board and EPA (collectively, the "Agencies") issued Tentative Order R2-2019-XXXX on April 19, 2019. The Agencies requested public comment on the Tentative Order. The deadline for providing comments to the Agencies was May 20, 2019.
- 8. San Francisco submitted extensive comments on the Tentative Order. These comments raised a variety of issues, including, but not limited to, concerns with the generic water quality standards provisions, requirements associated with the long-term control plan, reporting associated with sewer overflows from the combined sewer system, and the overly prescriptive nature of signage requirements.
- 9. The Regional Board prepared responses to San Francisco's comments on the Tentative Order. Upon information and belief, those comments are part of the Administrative Record maintained by the Regional Board.
- 10. On information and belief, the Regional Board issued a Revised Tentative Order R2-2019-XXXX and a Staff Summary Report in advance of its September 11, 2019 public hearing on the Tentative Permit.
- 11. On September 11, 2019, the Regional Board held a public hearing on the proposed adoption of Revised Tentative Order R2-2019-XXXX. I attended that hearing. On information and belief, a transcript was made of the statements at that hearing based upon the web-video posted online by the Regional Board. Based upon representations made to me, and my experiences observing the hearing in person, a true and correct copy of the transcript of the relevant portions of the Regional Board Adoption Hearing on September 11, 2019 is attached as Exhibit 1.

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12.	During the Regional Board adoption hearing on September 11, 2019, I saw that
representative	es from EPA Region 9 were in attendance and heard them express EPA's support for
the adoption o	of Revised Tentative Order R2-2019-XXXX. ¹

- 13. My recollection of EPA's statement is consistent with what is reported on page 47:14-22 of the transcript attached as Exhibit 1, *i.e.*, EPA represented that "EPA has worked closely with [Regional Board] staff during permit development and have responded jointly to all public comments. EPA and the Regional Board Staff also have worked closely with the City and County of San Francisco during the permit reissuance process. For example, since last October, EPA and the Regional Water Board Staff have met nine times with the City."
- 14. During the Regional Board adoption hearing on September 11, 2019, the Regional Board adopted the NPDES Permit as recommended by staff and without change from the Revised Tentative Order R2-2019-XXXX. The adopted permit was labeled as Order R2-2019-0028.
- 15. The NPDES Permit was adopted over San Francisco's objections, made at the September 11, 2019 hearing before the Regional Board and via written comments.
- 16. On September 18, 2019, President Trump made disparaging and factually inaccurate comments about the State of California and San Francisco, stating there are "tremendous things that we don't have to discuss pouring into the ocean. You know there are needles, there are other things." He went on to threaten that "we're going to be giving San Francisco they're in total violation we're going to be giving them a notice very soon . . . [y]ou're going to see over the next, I would say, less than a week. EPA is going to be putting out a notice. They're in serious violation."
- 17. On September 26, 2019, EPA Administrator Wheeler followed through on President Trump's threat and sent Governor Newsom a letter alleging the State of California was failing to

¹ See also Exhibit 1 at p. 46:18-24 (stating that the EPA representatives at the hearing were Becky Michell in EPA's Region 9 NPDES Permit Section and Elizabeth Sublott, Ms. Michell's supervisor) and p. 47:5-48:20 (expressing support for the NPDES Permit).

² See Trump threatens EPA action against S.F. after claiming that needles from homeless are 'pouring into the ocean' available at, https://www.mercurynews.com/2019/09/18/trump-threatens-epa-action-against-s-f-over-needles-in-the-ocean-from-homeless/ (last visited, Oct. 29, 2019).

³ *Id*.

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implement, in part, the federal Clean Water Act, and focused on San Francisco, again, making inaccurate and baseless allegations of noncompliance with the Clean Water Act. A true and correct copy of the letter dated September 26, 2019 from Administrator Wheeler to Governor Newsom is attached as Exhibit 2.

- 18. On October 1, 2019, Harlan Kelly, General Manager, SFPUC, sent a letter to Administrator Wheeler responding to the allegations in the September 26, 2019 letter. A true and correct copy of the letter dated October 1, 2019 from Mr. Kelly to Administrator Wheeler is attached as Exhibit 3. The October 1 letter from Mr. Kelly identified the large number of inaccuracies and mischaracterizations in the September 26 letter and requested a meeting with Administrator Wheeler to explain the design and performance of the combined sewer system.
- 19. On October 2, 2019, the next day, the EPA followed through with President Trump's threat and sent San Francisco a Notice of Violation ("NOV") alleging, in part, noncompliance with Order R2-2009-006, the currently effective NPDES permit. A true and correct copy of the NOV from EPA Region 9 Regional Administrator Michael Stoker to Mr. Kelly dated October 2, 2019 is attached as Exhibit 4.
- 20. Also on October 1, 2019, Michael Montgomery, Executive Officer of the Regional Board, sent the SFPUC a letter attaching a copy of the NPDES Permit adopted on September 11, 2019. The transmittal letter states that the "requirements of the [NPDES Permit] are effective starting November 1, 2019." A true and correct copy of the letter dated October 1, 2019 from Mr. Montgomery to the SFPUC, transmitting the NPDES Permit, is attached as Exhibit 5. The copy of the NPDES Permit provided by Mr. Montgomery was signed on behalf of the Regional Board. A true and correct copy of the NPDES Permit, transmitted by Mr. Montgomery on October 1, 2019, is attached as Exhibit 6. The accompanying signature block for Mr. Tomas Torres of EPA Region 9, was blank, as evidenced in Exhibit 6 and excerpted here:

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Michael Montgomery, Executive Officer
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board

Tomás Torres, Water Division Director U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- 21. Upon information and belief, it was and continues to be my understanding that the NPDES Permit must be issued by EPA Region 9 because it is jointly issued by the Regional Board and EPA. By way of example, I have reviewed Order R2-2019-0028 and it contains the following language: "The signatures below certify that this Order with all attachments is a full, true, and correct copy of the Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on the date indicated above, and an NPDES permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, on the date above."
- 22. On October 1, 2019, on behalf of San Francisco, the SFPUC sent a letter to Tomas Torres, Director of the Water Division of EPA Region 9, who I understand to be designated as the person that will sign the NPDES Permit on behalf of the EPA. In that letter, the SFPUC inquired about the status of the NPDES Permit and how and when the NPDES Permit may ultimately be issued by EPA. A true and correct copy of the letter dated October 1, 2019 to Mr. Torres is attached as Exhibit 7.
- 23. On October 2, 2019, Mr. Torres responded to the October 1, 2019 letter via voicemail. A true and correct transcript of a voicemail from Mr. Torres that was left on the voicemail system of Greg Norby, Assistance General Manager, Wastewater Enterprise, SFPUC, on October 2, 2019 is attached as Exhibit 8. As represented in Exhibit 8, Mr. Torres indicated that he "can't speak to the

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scope and the timing of that [review] but I want to refer you to the person that is doing the review ... [I]t's pretty much been elevated to ... the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator at the Office of Water [in Washington, DC] ..."

- 24. On October 3, 2019, I had a telephone conversation with Michael Montgomery, Executive Officer of the Regional Board. We discussed the potential issuance of the NPDES Permit by the EPA. Mr. Montgomery informed me that the NPDES Permit approval was now being handled by EPA Headquarters. He further indicated that, from the State's perspective, certain portions of the NPDES permit would become effective on November 1. We did not discuss which portions he had in mind with any specificity.
 - 25. On October 11, 2019, San Francisco filed a Petition for Review of the NPDES Permit.
- 26. Concurrently, on October 11, 2019, San Francisco filed a Request for Stay of the NPDES Permit. A true and correct copy of the Request for Stay is attached as Exhibit 9. The Request for Stay was based on San Francisco's concern with the NPDES Permit could not reasonably become "effective" on November 1 without an action by EPA. San Francisco requested the State Board stay the entire NPDES Permit at least until, and if, EPA adopts the NPDES Permit without changes.
- 27. On information and belief, as of today's date, the SFPUC has not received any notification from the State Board that it has granted the Request for Stay.
- 28. Therefore, on information and belief, as of today's date, the State Board has not issued a stay of the NPDES Permit.
- 29. On October 18, 2019, I sent a letter to Michael Montgomery, Executive Officer of the Regional Board, expressing concern with the continuing uncertainty associated with the NPDES Permit due to lack of any action or substantive communication from EPA on the NPDES Permit. A true and correct copy of the letter dated October 18 to Mr. Montgomery is attached as Exhibit 10. I explained in the letter that the NPDES Permit cannot be effective on November 1 absent the EPA issuing the NPDES Permit. Eileen Sobeck, Executive Director of the State Board was copied on the October 18 letter.

31. On October 28, President Trump again attacked San Francisco on Twitter, specifically identifying its combined sewer system:



32. On information and belief, on October 28, 2019 the San Francisco City Attorneys' Office, and outside counsel from Hunton Andrews Kurth, participated in a telephone call with Marc Melnick and Daniel Harris, both Deputy Attorney Generals with the California Department of Justice. Counsel from Hunton Andrews Kurth followed up the telephone with a letter to Mr. Melnick and Mr. Harris. A true and correct copy of the letter dated October 28 to Mr. Melnick and Mr. Harris is attached as Exhibit 12. The October 28 letter explained that given recent statements and actions —

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and lack of actions – by the EPA, San Francisco believes the State Board granting its October 11, 2019 Stay Request is necessary to maintain the status quo until it is known what action(s) EPA will take on the NPDES Permit.

- 33. On information and belief, as of today's date, the SFPUC has not received any notification from EPA that it has approved, signed, or otherwise issued Order R2-2019-0028.
- 34. Therefore, on information and belief, as of today's date, the EPA has not issued the NPDES Permit.
- 35. Upon information and belief, pursuant to the requirements of the Clean Water Act and California law, the Oceanside Water Treatment Plant can only operate with a duly issued and approved NPDES permit. The Oceanside Treatment Plant is a vital and irreplaceable part of the City's sewer treatment system and the Plant, along with its associated collection system, services hundreds of thousands of people and associated businesses. There is no other way to collect and treat the sewage generated in the relevant area of the City absent operation of the Oceanside Plant. Shutting down the Oceanside Plant would be deleterious to human health and the environment in the City of San Francisco and would, ultimately, result in the discharge of untreated sewage directly to the Pacific Ocean.
- 36. The SFPUC will be substantially harmed if the stay is not granted because there will be confusion and uncertainty over whether the existing NPDES Permit R2-2009-0062, approved by the Regional Water Board and EPA on August 12, 2009, or Order R2-2019-0028, approved only by the Regional Board, govern operation of the Oceanside Treatment Plant and its associated collection system. It is unclear how the SFPUC can operate the plant under these circumstances and with open questions about whether parts of two separately issued NPDES permits apply to various aspects of its facilities. Further, in the event that EPA refuses to approve Order R2-2019-0028, or requests substantive modifications, efforts undertaken by the SFPUC to comply with Order R2-2019-0028 in the meantime will have been unnecessary. To the extent that there is a conflict between Order R2-2019-0028 and the current Order R2-2009-0062, it is unclear how it will be resolved by the SFPUC. Further, in the event that SFPUC receives conflicting instruction about which order is effective from

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EPA and the Regional Board, there is no immediate mechanism by which the conflict can be resolved. EPA has not communicated the timing or scope of the current review of Order R2-2019-0028, nor has EPA opined whether or not any aspect of the Order can become effective absent EPA's explicit approval. On its face, per paragraph 21 above, the Order requires signatures by both the Regional Board and EPA Region 9 to be effective.

- 37. The NPDES Permit on p. 5 is clear that "Order No. R2-2009-0062 (previous order) is rescinded upon the effective date of this Order." Order No. R2-2009-0062 will be rescinded per the terms of the NPDES permit on November 1. There are many implications from this provision of the NPDES Permit on San Francisco. However, the most concerning is that on November 1, the treated effluent from the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant via Discharge Point 001 will not be authorized by the NPDES Permit (i.e., because the EPA has not issued the NPDES Permit) and will not authorized by Order No. R2-2009-0062 (i.e., because Order No. R2-2009-0062 is rescinded by the NPDES Permit). San Francisco discharges treated effluent every day from Discharge Point 001 and on November 1 – unless the Request for Stay is granted or EPA issues the NPDES Permit – San Francisco will not be authorized to discharge effluent via Discharge Point 001. San Francisco will be subject to potential enforcement, under the Clean Water Act, by the Regional Board, EPA, and private-third parties (via citizen suits).
- 38. On October 25, 2019, Michael Montgomery, Executive Officer, Regional Board, sent a letter to Tomas Torres, Director, Water Division, EPA Region 9, acknowledging the legitimacy of San Francisco's concerns about confusion, saying the Regional Board expects "EPA will also sign the permit by November 1, 2019, to avoid any uncertainty for the permittee." A true and correct copy of the October 25 letter from Mr. Montgomery to Mr. Torres is attached as Exhibit 13. The letter from Mr. Montgomery also demands the EPA take action "to ensure that permit requirements applicable to the main outfall also go into effect," recognizing that Discharge Point 001 (i.e., the "main outfall") will be unauthorized on November 1. Finally, the letter requests that if EPA does not intend to sign the permit, it should provide the Regional Board with "a written explanation for . .

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. clarification regarding the applicable federal NPDES permit requirements," further confirming the confusion and uncertainty that will result from EPA's inaction.

- 39. On October 29, 2019, I received a letter from Michael Montgomery, Executive Officer, Regional Board, who explained that "the effective date of the Oceanside permit remains November 1, 2019." A true and correct copy of the October 29 letter to me from Mr. Montgomery is attached as Exhibit 14. The October 29 letter from Mr. Montgomery took the position that there are two permits – one state, one federal – and that only the permit terms in the "state permit" are effective on November 1. The October 29 letter also took the position that the discharges from Discharge Point 001 into federal waters would continue to be permitted by Order R2-2019-0028, contrary to the NPDES Permit rescinding Order R2-2019-0028 on the effective date.
- 40. In response, on October 29, 2019, I responded via a letter to Mr. Montgomery's October 29 letter explaining that "the SFPUC fundamentally disagrees with your position and the legal basis included in your October 29 letter. The Oceanside permit cannot be effective on November 1, absent the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issuing the permit." A true and correct copy of the October 29 letter from me to Mr. Montgomery is attached as Exhibit 15. I explained that "your October 29 letter creates a fiction that there are two permits – one federal, one state. This position conflicts with the permitting process used for approval of the Oceanside permit by the Regional Board members, the associated administrative record, the terms of the permit, and the reality of the design of the combined sewer system on the Westside of San Francisco."
- 41. Staying the November 1, 2019, effective date of Order R2-2019-0028 is in the public interest because it will reduce confusion, among the SFPUC, regulators and the public, about exactly which permit, and which permit terms, are applicable to San Francisco's operation of the Oceanside Treatment Plant and its associated collection system. Further, in the event that the stay is granted, the SFPUC would continue to comply with the terms and requirements of the existing R2-2009-0062, which has governed operation of the Oceanside Treatment Plant and its associated collection system since August 12, 2009. Upon information and belief, the terms in R2-2009-0062 protect human health and the environment and there would be no harm to third-parties or the public interest

if the SFPUC continued operating under that Order while the issues related to EPA's approval of Order R2-2019-0028 are resolved and the State Water Board addresses the questions raised in the associated petition.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 29th day of October 2019, in San Francisco, California.

By Hull Car

Michael Carlin

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP 50 California Street, Suite 1700 San Francisco, California 94111

Exhibit B

Declaration of Samuel Brown

APPLICATION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AND EX PARTE TEMPORARY ORDER; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT; DECLARATION OF MICHAEL CARLIN; DECLARATION OF SAMUEL L. BROWN

1	HUNTON ANDREWS KURTH LLP
2	J. TOM BOER (State Bar No. 199563) SAMUEL L. BROWN (State Bar No. 283995)
3	50 California Street, Suite 1700 San Francisco, California 94111
4	Telephone: 415 • 975 • 3700
5	Facsimile: 415 • 975 • 3701
6	OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY DENNIS HERRERA CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
7	JOHN RODDY (State Bar No. 96848) ESTIE KUS (State Bar No. 239523)
8	
9	San Francisco, California
10	Telephone: 415 • 554 • 3986 Facsimile: 415 • 554 • 8793
11	Attorneys for Petitioner, CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
12	CITTAINS COUNTY OF SANTAINVEISCO
13	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE ST IN AND FOR THE COUNTY

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CITY	AND	COUNTY	OF SAN	FRANCISCO.
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Plaintiff/Petitioner,

vs.

CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD; THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

Defendants/Respondents.

Case No.:

DECLARATION OF NOTICE IN SUPPORT OF CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO'S EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AND TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

DECLARATION OF NOTICE IN SUPPORT OF EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AND TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

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1.	Samuel.	L. Drown.	ueciare and	State as	TOHOWS

- 1. I am the attorney for Petitioner City and County of San Francisco ("San Francisco") in this action.
- 2. Unless otherwise stated, I have personal knowledge of the matters state herein and could and would testify competently thereto.
- I and my colleague J. Tom Boer provided Respondents California State Water Resources Control Board and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board through their counsel with notice of Petitioner's ex parte application for an Order to Show Cause Re Preliminary Injunction and Temporary Restraining Order in accordance with California Rule of Court 3.1204.
 - 4. The names and addresses of counsel for Respondents are as follows:

Philip Wyels, Assistant Chief Counsel State Water Resources Control Board Office of Chief Counsel 1001 I Street, 22nd Floor Sacramento, CA philip.wyels@waterboards.ca.gov (916) 341-5178

Daniel Harris California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General 1515 Clay Street, 20th Floor Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 879-0274 daniel.harris@doj.ca.gov

Marc Melnick California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General 1515 Clay Street, Floor 20 Oakland, CA 94612 marc.melnick@doj.ca.gov (510) 879-0750

William Jenkins California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General 455 Golden Gate Ave., Suite 1100 San Francisco, CA 94102

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William.jenkins@doj.ca.gov

(415) 510-3466

Tiffany Yee California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General 1515 Clay Street, Floor 20 Oakland, CA 94612 <u>Tiffany.yee@doj.ca.gov</u> (510) 879-1020

5. On October 29, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., I, as well as my colleague, J. Tom Boer, spoke on the telephone with Daniel Harris, Marc Melnick, Phil Wyels, William Jenkins, and Tiffany Yee to provide notice that San Francisco would be filing an *ex parte* application for an Order to Show Cause re Preliminary Injunction and Temporary Restraining Order to this Court on October 30, 2019.

- 6. On October 29, 2019 at 5:09 p.m., my colleague, J. Tom Boer, notified Daniel Harris and Marc Melnick by email that San Francisco would be presenting to this Court, on October 31, 2019 at 11:00 am in Department 302, its *ex parte* application for an Order to Show Cause Re Preliminary Injunction and Temporary Restraining Order that would restrain and enjoin Respondents from implementing a November 1, 2019 effective date for Order No. R2-2019-0028. A copy of the email notice is attached as Exhibit A to this declaration.
- 7. In response to the foregoing notice, I was informed by Daniel Harris and Marc Melnick that one (or both) of them would appear on October 31, 2019 at 11:00 am in Department 302 on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- 8. On October 29, 2019 at 5:18 p.m., my colleague, J. Tom Boer, notified William Jenkins, Tiffany Yee, and Phil Wyels by email that San Francisco would be presenting to this Court, on October 31, 2019 at 11:00 am in Department 302, its *ex parte* application for an Order to Show Cause Re Preliminary Injunction and Temporary Restraining Order that would restrain and enjoin Respondents from implementing a November 1, 2019 effective date for Order No. R2-2019-0028. A copy of the email notice is attached as Exhibit B to this declaration.

9.	In response to the foregoing notice, neither William Jenkins, Tiffany Yee, nor Phi
Wyels respond	led to the email notice or otherwise identified whether anyone would appear on October
31, 2019 at 11	:00 am in Department 302 on behalf of the State Water Resources Control Board.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 30th day of October 2019, in San Francisco, California.

Samuel L. Brown Attorney for Petitioner City and County of San Francisco