6144 FEDERAL BLVD., SAN DIEGO — PUBLIC RECORDS FILE

Section 11.70 · United Rentals (North America), Inc. dba Reliable Onsite Services — Sewage Disposal Records

Date	July 3, 2026 (request filed)
Agency	City of San Diego — Stormwater Division
Request No.	California Public Records Act Request No. 26-6563
Status	**OPEN**
Description	Public Records Act request to City Stormwater seeking illicit-discharge screening records and records responsive to (but not produced in) closed request 26-6342. Includes a photograph exhibit of the South Chollas Creek channel.

Summary

This is the requester's Public Records Act request to City of San Diego Stormwater, filed July 3, 2026 (Request No. 26-6563). It asks, among other things, whether the storm-drain outfall below the yard is a permitted or illicit connection, requests dry-weather screening records for the South Chollas Creek reach adjacent to 6144 Federal Blvd., and seeks records that were responsive to closed Request No. 26-6342 but not produced. A photograph exhibit (B.0–B.10) documenting channel conditions is included as filed.

Related records (Section 11.70): Closed Stormwater request 26-6342; Regional Water Board (Region 9); County DEHQ PRA 26-3709.

Filed on 07.03.2026

Request Visibility: Embargoed -- Will be auto-published 72 hours after closure

Request 26-6563

Open

Dates

Received
July 03, 2026 via web

Requester

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Fleet Systems

Staff assigned

Departments
Stormwater

Point of contact
Angela Laurita

Request

This is a request under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 et seq.) and a follow-up to Request No. 26-6342, which was closed without producing the records I sought. My complete request — a signed cover letter and its supporting Exhibit A (photographs B.0 through B.10) — is contained in the single bookmarked PDF attached to this submission. Please treat that attachment as the operative request; its bookmarks link directly to the letter and to each individual photograph.

In brief, the records concern the concrete channel adjacent to 6144 / 6176 Federal Blvd., San Diego (District 4) — locally known as the South Chollas Creek Channel — and the United Rentals septage yard at 6144 Federal Blvd. The attached exhibit documents a concrete berm at the yard edge (B.5) and an approximately ten-inch pipe at the channel sidewall (B.7, B.8), photographed on dry days with no rain. I am requesting the City's records identifying this berm and outfall; Inspector Daniel DeCurtins' June 2026 inspection records for the site and any clean-up directive issued; any illicit-discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) investigation under MS4 Permit Order No. R9-2013-0001; the channel's official City/MS4 designation; the most recent water-quality or dry-weather-flow sampling at this section; and the records that were responsive to Request No. 26-6342 but never produced. The specific, numbered list is set out in the attached letter.

This is a neutral records request; I am not asserting the source, content, or cause of any discharge. Please provide records electronically where possible, and please provide the determination required under Gov. Code § 7922.535(a) within 10 days. I can be reached at 151darrylcotton@gmail.com or 619.954.4447.

Show less

Timeline | Documents

Message to requester — Requester + Staff

Please be advised that City staff have received your CPRA request. Within the next 10 days, we will determine whether your request seeks copies of disclosable records in the City's possession or whether the City will require an extension. If your request is submitted on a Saturday, Sunday, or City holiday, the City considers the request received on the following business day.

July 3, 2026, 10:35am

Department assignment — Anyone with access to this request

Stormwater

July 3, 2026, 10:35am by the requester

Request opened — Anyone with access to this request

Request received via web

July 3, 2026, 10:35am by the requester

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July 3, 2026

City of San Diego
Stormwater Department / Office of the City Clerk — Public Records
Submitted via the City's public-records portal

RE: California Public Records Act request and follow-up to Request No. 26-6342 — storm-water inspection records, identification of a berm and outfall, and water-quality monitoring for the South Chollas Creek Channel adjacent to 6144 / 6176 Federal Blvd.

This is a request under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 et seq.). It also follows up on Request No. 26-6342, which was closed without producing the records I requested.

Background and scope (stated neutrally). United Rentals (North America), Inc. dba Reliable Onsite Services operates a porta-potty septage transfer-and-storage activity at 6144 Federal Blvd., immediately adjacent to the concrete South Chollas Creek Channel and to my property at 6176 Federal Blvd. In late June 2026, City storm-water inspector Daniel DeCurtins conducted a field visit to the area; during a conversation at my property he stated he had just come from the United Rentals site and had directed them to clean up debris. The attached photographs (Exhibit A, images B.0–B.10, taken June 26 – July 3, 2026) show, among other things: accumulated debris along the yard boundary (B.0); the site's FRAC septage holding tank at the property line behind a 7,000-volt, alarmed and monitored electric fence, establishing the yard is secured and not open to the public (B.1); the yard and a clearly visible concrete berm at the channel edge, positioned directly in line with the site's approximately 21,000-gallon FRAC septage holding tank (B.5); a pipe of roughly ten inches discharging at the concrete channel sidewall (B.7, B.8); broad staining fanning down the channel slope directly below the yard (B.10); and nutrient-type algae/duckweed and staining in the channel water (B.2, B.3, B.6, B.9). I am not asserting the source or content of any discharge; I am asking the City to identify this infrastructure and to produce its inspection and monitoring records so the questions below can be answered from the record.

Why the berm and outfall matter. The photographs were taken on dry days with no rain. By the channel's design, surface storm water from the surrounding lots sheet-flows over the top of the concrete channel walls and down the channel; there is no surface-grade feature that would require a berm, or a dedicated pipe through the channel wall, to manage storm water. The presence of both therefore raises a question the City's records should be able to resolve: what is the berm, what is the pipe, and what non-storm-water purpose, if any, do they serve? A pipe that discharges in dry weather is, under MS4 Permit Order No. R9-2013-0001, a presumptive illicit

discharge unless it falls within an exempt non-storm-water category. Accordingly, I am asking specifically whether the City holds any record of this berm and this outfall — and, if it does not, an explanation of how a connection to the channel would exist without one.

Water-quality context. The Chollas Creek Watershed Water Quality Report (2021–2023) by San Diego Coastkeeper and Groundwork San Diego–Chollas Creek includes a monitoring station at Federal Boulevard (32.72715, −117.06994), described as the most upstream site with "consistent water throughout the year." That report records recurring exceedances of fecal-indicator bacteria at this section of the channel — stating that in September 2022 "all types of bacteria had high levels above water quality standards," with total-coliform spikes in April 2022, September 2022, and March 2023 — and defines E. coli as "a strong indicator of sewage or animal contamination." Chollas Creek is listed as impaired under Clean Water Act § 303(d).

Records requested (any format; "records" as defined in Gov. Code § 7920.530):

1. All field records for Inspector Daniel DeCurtins' visit(s) to 6144 Federal Blvd. and the adjacent South Chollas Creek Channel in June 2026 — including the date(s) of the visit, inspection notes, field sheets, checklists, photographs, and any report generated.
2. Any notice of violation, directive, corrective order, or clean-up demand issued to United Rentals as a result of that visit, including the compliance deadline given and the date issued.
3. Records identifying the person(s) the inspector spoke with or corresponded with at United Rentals regarding the visit.
4. All records identifying the concrete berm/curb structure shown in photograph B.5 and any storm drain, pipe, or conveyance it conceals, contains, or connects to.
5. All records identifying the pipe/outfall (approximately ten inches) discharging at the channel sidewall shown in photographs B.7 and B.8 — including whether it is a permitted MS4 connection or an unpermitted / illicit connection, and any illicit-discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) investigation records for this location under MS4 Permit Order No. R9-2013-0001.
6. Any and all records in the City's possession reflecting the existence, permitting, inspection, or investigation of the berm (B.5) and the outfall (B.7, B.8). **If the City holds no record of the berm or the outfall, please so state in writing,** and identify the office responsible for permitting or recording a connection or discharge to this channel.
7. The official designation/name and the MS4 asset or structure identifier of the channel segment adjacent to 6144 / 6176 Federal Blvd. (this section has been referred to locally as the South Chollas Creek Channel; please confirm the City's official designation).
8. The date and results of the most recent City water-quality sampling or reading at this section of the channel, and any dry-weather-flow monitoring or screening conducted at or near this outfall.

9. All records that were responsive to Request No. 26-6342 but were not produced when that request was closed.

Please provide records electronically where possible. Partial or rolling production is preferred. To minimize cost, please notify me before incurring any duplication charges (Gov. Code §§ 7922.530, 7922.575). This request invokes the agency's duty to assist under § 7922.600(a); please provide the § 7922.535(a) determination within 10 days. If any record or portion is withheld, please cite the specific exemption and produce all reasonably segregable non-exempt portions (§§ 7922.525, 7922.000). This request seeks existing records; it does not ask the City to create new records.

Framing. To be clear, I am not alleging that the conditions shown are caused by United Rentals or by any other party; the photographs and the watershed data raise questions I am asking the City's records to resolve. Because no disposal manifests accounting for the septage stored on the adjacent site have yet been produced in response to my other pending requests, a contribution from that site cannot be excluded — which is why identifying this berm and outfall, and any monitoring of this section of the channel, matters.

Thank you for your assistance.

Attachment: Exhibit A — "Photograph Analysis, plates B.0–B.10" (eleven photographs), dated July 3, 2026.

Darryl Cotton
6176 Federal Blvd., San Diego, CA 92114

Photograph Analysis: B.0-B.10 of the South Chollas Creek Channel

South Chollas Creek Channel outfall and possible discharge pathway, 6144 / 6176 Federal Blvd., San Diego (District 4)

Photographs taken June 26 – July 3, 2026 · Prepared as an exhibit to a California Public Records Act request to the City of San Diego Stormwater Department · Issue-spotting only; not legal advice; no causation asserted.

Purpose

These eleven photographs document conditions at and below the United Rentals yard where it abuts the concrete South Chollas Creek Channel. Read in sequence they depict a **possible pathway** by which liquid could reach the channel: a yard with a clearly visible concrete berm/curb at its edge, a pipe discharging at the channel sidewall with heavy staining, and broad staining down the slope directly below the yard, within a section of the channel that shows nutrient-type algae and standing water. The photographs describe conditions; they do not, by themselves, identify the source or content of any discharge. That is precisely what the accompanying records request asks the City to resolve.

B.0 — Debris at the yard boundary (June 26, 3:42 pm)

Litter and debris — plastic wrappers, food packaging, a tire, and cardboard — accumulated along the 6144 Federal Blvd. yard's 7,000-volt fence and property boundary line at grade. This is the debris the City storm-water inspector reportedly directed United Rentals to clean up. Establishes housekeeping conditions at the boundary and a route by which loose material can move toward the channel.

B.1 — The FRAC tank behind the 7,000-volt electric fence (July 3, 5:38 am)

Close view from the property line: the site's approximately 21,000-gallon FRAC septage holding tank (dark green) sits at the boundary, with valves, fittings, and hoses at its base. A posted sign reads “WARNING! Electric Fence — Alarmed and Monitored — 7,000 V.” United Rentals-branded equipment, IBC totes, and rows of portable toilets are staged in the yard. The alarmed, monitored, energized perimeter establishes that the yard is secured and not open to the public, so the conditions shown throughout this exhibit are on controlled ground.

Compliance note — San Diego Municipal Code § 142.0390 (Monitored Perimeter Security Fence Systems). In the City of San Diego, an energized “monitored perimeter security fence system” of this type is allowed only in industrial zones that do not allow for residential development (§ 142.0390(c)(1)), and only with a Process One permit, a separate Alarm System Permit, and a signed indemnification agreement with the City. It must be installed 4–8 inches behind a non-electrified perimeter fence at least five feet in height (§ 142.0390(b)(3)), limited to ten feet in height, posted with warning signs at intervals not exceeding 30 feet, and fitted with a Knox device for Police and Fire access. As shown, the energized wire — approximately ten feet high, at the maximum height the code allows (§ 142.0390(b)(4)) — faces the public sidewalk at the property line rather than behind a five-foot non-electrified barrier, so the required setback does not appear to be met, and residentially zoned property lies directly across the street. These raise the question whether an energized security fence is permitted at this location at all — and, if a permit was issued, on what basis.

B.2 — Channel wall below the yard (June 30, 7:11 am)

The concrete channel wall immediately below the yard, with algae and dark staining in the standing water at the base and small 4” corrugated drainpipe weep-holes in the bottom of the wall. The staining of the concrete wall should be investigated as to cause.

B.3 — Channel condition and nutrient indicators (June 30, 7:25 am)

The sloped concrete channel with standing water, green algae/duckweed at the invert, and vegetation rooted in the joints — nutrient-enrichment indicators in the channel.

Water-quality note — elevated fecal-indicator bacteria detected at this section of the channel. Per the Chollas Creek Watershed Water Quality Report (2021–2023) (San Diego Coastkeeper / Groundwork San Diego–Chollas Creek): at the Federal Boulevard monitoring station — the most upstream site — "in September 2022, all types of bacteria had high levels above water quality standards," with total-coliform spikes in April 2022, September 2022, and March 2023. The report defines E. coli as "a strong indicator of sewage or animal contamination" and enterococcus as indicating "fecal bacteria and the possible presence of disease-causing bacteria, viruses, and protozoa." Chollas Creek is listed as impaired for pathogens under Clean Water Act § 303(d). These detections are watershed data for this section of the channel; they are not attributed here to any particular source.

B.4 — Concrete drainage structure in the channel (June 30, 7:24 am)

A concrete drainage structure/apron in the channel with a dark void or opening (a possible culvert) emitting into the channel, with the electrified yard fence and utility lines above — a drainage feature warranting identification as it is concealed under the concrete berm.

B.5 — The yard and a clearly visible concrete berm (June 29, 4:56 pm)

Elevated view down into the United Rentals yard: staged fencing, pipe, pallets, plastic-covered/sandbagged piles, and vehicles, with a clearly visible concrete berm along the yard edge nearest the channel. The berm sits directly in line with the site's approximately 21,000-gallon FRAC septage holding tank. The records request asks the City to identify this berm and any drain line it conceals or connects to.

B.6 — Nutrient-type algae and a wet stain at the slope base (June 30, 7:28 am)

The channel invert with bright green/yellow algae and duckweed on slow, standing water, and a dark wet stain at the base of the slope — a possible seep or discharge point.

Water-quality note — this section of the channel is already a designated impaired waterway with fecal-indicator bacteria detected above objectives. A South Chollas Creek Channel water-quality assessment prepared by Rick Engineering (channel sampling dated March 9, 2017) identifies South Chollas Creek Channel as a tributary to Chollas Creek, which is "listed as an impaired water body" under Clean Water Act § 303(d) with "Indicator Bacteria" among the listed pollutants requiring a TMDL. That assessment's own sampling of the channel measured total coliform at 5,000–8,000 and enterococcus at 240–700 organisms/100 mL — exceeding the Basin Plan objectives of 1,000 and 151, respectively. Because elevated fecal-indicator bacteria are already documented in this section of the channel, additional fecal loading from a new discharge could go undetected against the already-impaired background — which is precisely why identifying and sampling this outfall matters. Source: Rick Engineering, South Chollas Creek Channel Initial Water-Quality Assessment (2017).

B.7 — Pipe/culvert opening at the channel edge (June 30, 7:20 am)

A pipe or culvert opening at the base of a concrete mass, tied to the berm on the opposite side of the fence at the top of the channel, partly concealed by grass — a structure associated with the outfall discharge into the channel below.

B.8 — A pipe (~10 inches) with discharge (June 30, 7:23 am)

A dark round pipe — roughly ten inches in diameter — protruding from the concrete channel sidewall.

B.9 — Yard, wall, and a discharge opening (June 30, 7:24 am)

A low concrete wall/step with the United yard and building above and a dark opening at the top of the wall; algae and staining in the standing water below. Shows the spatial relationship between the yard, the wall, and a discharge point with liquid accumulation at the bottom of the channel.

B.10 — Broad staining down the slope below the yard (June 30, 7:25 am)

The concrete channel slope directly below the yard — blue portable toilets are visible through the fence above — showing a broad brown/orange stain fanning down the concrete toward the water.

The pathway these images raise (stated neutrally)

Taken together, B.5 → B.7 / B.8 → B.10, within the channel conditions shown in B.2, B.3, B.6 and B.9, depict a plausible route by which liquid from the yard could enter the channel: a clearly visible berm at the yard edge, directly in line with the FRAC tank; a pipe of roughly ten inches discharging at the sidewall with heavy staining; and broad staining down the slope directly below the yard. B.1 shows that tank at the property line behind a posted 7,000-volt, alarmed and monitored electric fence — establishing that the yard is secured and the conditions shown are on controlled ground, not publicly accessible. The photographs were taken on dry, no-rain days; by the channel's design, site storm water sheet-flows over the top of the concrete walls, so a berm and a dedicated pipe through the wall serve no apparent surface-drainage purpose — which is itself the question the records request puts to the City. These are observations consistent with a dry-weather discharge to the channel. They do not establish the source, the content, or the timing of any discharge; sampling and the City's records are required for that.

Water-quality foundation (San Diego Coastkeeper / Groundwork data)

- Chollas Creek is listed as impaired under Clean Water Act § 303(d); documented pollutants include pathogens (bacteria), toxic metals, and nutrients.
- The Chollas Creek Watershed Water Quality Report (2021–2023) includes a monitoring station at Federal Boulevard (32.72715, −117.06994) — the most upstream site — described as having "consistent water throughout the year." Persistent year-round flow in an urban concrete channel can indicate a dry-weather (non-storm) source; the report does not identify one.
- At that Federal Boulevard station the report states that in September 2022 "all types of bacteria had high levels above water quality standards," with total-coliform spikes in April 2022, September 2022, and March 2023.
- The report defines E. coli as "a strong indicator of sewage or animal contamination" and enterococcus as indicating "fecal bacteria and the possible presence of disease-causing bacteria, viruses, and protozoa."

What these materials do and do not show

They show physical infrastructure (a berm, a pipe of roughly ten inches, drainage structures), a secured operating yard, staining consistent with repeated flow, nutrient-type algae, and documented fecal-indicator bacteria in this section of the channel. They do NOT establish the source, content, or timing of any discharge, and elevated bacteria and nutrients in an urban creek can have multiple sources. Nothing here attributes the observed conditions to United Rentals or to any other party.

The open question

Because no disposal manifests accounting for the septage stored on the adjacent site have yet been produced in response to the pending records requests, a contribution from that operation to this section of the channel cannot be excluded. Identifying the berm and outfall, confirming whether the