

**H.R. 4611, Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on September 30, 2020

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2025	2021-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program controls water pollution by regulating point sources of discharge into the waters of the United States. Under that program, publicly owned wastewater treatment works must meet secondary treatment standards specified by law. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) generally delegates the authority to administer the NPDES program to individual states.

Under current law, the Point Loma Plant in San Diego, California, can apply to be exempted from secondary treatment standards if it meets certain conditions. H.R. 4611 would eliminate the need for an application and would allow that exemption under the plant's normal NPDES permit if it meets additional conditions that include implementing a pretreatment program and a water reuse program.

Using information from EPA, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would have an insignificant effect on EPA's costs to administer the NPDES program over the 2021-2025 period. CBO expects that EPA's cost to administer the Point Loma Plant secondary treatment standard waiver would shift to administering and evaluating its performance under the NPDES permit.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Stephen Rabent. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.