

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 11, 2008

Prepared July 2, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: 17

SUBJECT: **Approval of Revisions to the City of Salinas Stormwater Management Program and Status of Public Involvement Activities**

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

The City of Salinas posted its latest revised Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) on its website on May 21, 2008 and notified interested persons of its availability. Water Board staff notified the public of its intent to recommend approval of the revised SWMP by sending the staff report for this item to all known interested persons on June 11, 2008, and posting a notice on the Water Board website on June 12, 2008. To date, Water Board staff has received four comment letters and Salinas' response to a previous letter on this subject by Steve Shimek of Monterey Coastkeeper. All five documents are attached. The comment letters are summarized here, followed by staff's responses.

Comment: Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) receives and treats domestic wastewater from the City of Salinas. In a letter dated June 10, 2008 (Attachment 1), MRWPCA requests the SWMP be revised to include, "No connection to the sanitary sewer for stormwater discharge shall be made without the express permission of Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency."

Staff Response: Staff shares MRWPCA's desire to protect its wastewater system and recycled water quality, but does not believe such a change to Salinas' SWMP is necessary. According to Salinas staff, Salinas requirements and MRWPCA standard conditions already require approval before any party may connect any new discharges to the sanitary sewer system. Nevertheless, in response to this letter, staff asked Salinas staff to contact MRWPCA staff and ensure their existing requirements effectively meet their needs. Salinas staff has agreed to send MRWPCA a letter.

Comment: Robin Lee, a member of the Salinas NPDES Stakeholder Committee, submitted an email on June 17, 2008 (Attachment 2). Ms. Lee believes the SWMP has not been implemented, particularly public education and outreach. She feels, "the public services department is so underfunded and understaffed that complete implementation is next to impossible due to their work load created by other responsibilities."

Staff Response: This comment is not especially relevant to whether Salinas properly incorporated the Water Board's required revisions into its SWMP. However, staff appreciates Ms. Lee's concerns about SWMP implementation. Staff discussed Ms. Lee's concerns with Salinas stormwater program manager Michael Ricker. He acknowledged that Salinas does not have the most robust public outreach, but said Salinas is making improvements, such as airing public service announcements and adding stormwater messages to public vehicles. Mr. Ricker stated that public outreach is his

“main priority” this summer. He said Salinas will be spending \$100,000 on this effort in the coming year.

Comment: **Steve Shimek of Monterey Coastkeeper**, a member of the Salinas NPDES Stakeholder Committee, submitted several comments in two letters dated June 23, 2008 (Attachments 3 and 4). The first letter contains essentially the same comments regarding the Salinas SWMP as the letter Monterey Coastkeeper sent Salinas on May 7, 2008 (which was included with the staff report for this item). Salinas sent Monterey Coastkeeper a detailed response to these comments in a letter dated July 1, 2008 (see Attachment 5).

The second letter, Attachment 4, is Mr. Shimek's critical perspective on Salinas' involvement of the public in creation of the SWMP and the stormwater development standards. Mr. Shimek concludes that Salinas, "...has not negotiated or engaged the public in good faith."

Staff Response: The staff report for this item, Monterey Coastkeeper's comments, and Salinas' response (Attachment 5) collectively provide a balanced perspective on the required SWMP revisions and Salinas' efforts to involve the public. After considering all these comments, staff's recommendation remains the same.

CONCLUSION

Salinas has incorporated all the Water Board's required revisions into its SWMP and complied with its permit. The City has also met SWMP requirements to encourage public involvement in its SWMP revisions, and preparation of other documents such as the Stormwater Development Standards. Staff recommends the Board approve the revisions and find the SWMP final.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency letter dated June 10, 2008
2. Robin Lee email dated June 17, 2008
3. Monterey Coastkeeper letter dated June 23, 2008 re: required revisions of Salinas SWMP
4. Monterey Coastkeeper letter dated June 23, 2008 re: required public involvement
5. Salinas letter dated July 1, 2008, with attachments