

**Discharges of Groundwater From San Gabriel Valley Groundwater Basin to Surface Waters in Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo Watersheds-Los Angeles County
Response to Comments**

Comment #	Document Reference (Doc. #, Page #, Section #, Paragraph #)	Issue	Comments
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works			
1	Page 14 of the Order	Advance notification to MS4 owners prior to discharge	<p>COMMENT: The General Permit requires advance notification to MS4 owners prior to discharging, but this requirement is not stated consistently throughout the permit, and it should specify how much advance notice is required.</p> <p>Provision A.2.b. on Page 14 states that the discharger shall notify the applicable MS4 permittee of the planned discharge. Finding F.17 on Page 10, however, may be interpreted as only encouraging dischargers to provide advance notification to MS4 owners prior to discharge of significant volume of water that could impact MS4 owners' facilities ability to meet MS4 requirements. In addition, the General Permit should require the dischargers to provide at least seven days advance notification to the owners of MS4 and other facilities that may be impacted. This would allow the MS4 owners to evaluate the proposed discharge and verify that it can be infiltrated to the groundwater basin, particularly if the discharger is proposing to infiltrate behind an existing rubber dam belonging to the MS4 owner. Finally, the same requirement should apply to new dischargers prior to start-up.</p>

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Response:	<p>Finding 17 on page 10 of the order has been revised to reflect the following. The underlined is added and the strikeout is deleted.</p> <p>“The Regional Water Board requires dischargers enrolled under this general NPDES permit to coordinate their water quality cleanup activities with MS4 owners and to <u>provide</u> notification to MS4 owners <u>at least seven days</u> prior to discharge of significant volume of water that could impact MS4 owners’ facilities ability to meet MS4 requirements.</p> <p>Consistent with the Section A.2.b on page 14 of the Order, section III A.4 on page D-10 of the Fact Sheet has been revised.</p> <p>Notice of Start-Up New Dischargers shall notify the Regional Water Board staff <u>and applicable MS4 owners</u> of the time and date for commencement of the discharge(s) authorized under this General Permit at least seven days prior to initiating a discharge.</p>		
Action:	Agrees with the commenter. Change has been made.		
2	Page 14 of the Order	Obtaining required local permits from affected MS4 owners.	<p>Comment: The General Permit should require dischargers to obtain required local permits from affected MS4 owners. The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) currently requires dischargers to obtain a Flood Permit to utilize its facilities. During the review of the permit application for a proposed discharge, the LACFCD evaluates the discharge for potential impacts to the operation and maintenance of its system as well as potential impacts to receiving water quality. The General Permit should include language that requires dischargers to obtain any required local permits from affected MS4 owners to ensure that the discharges do not adversely affect existing facilities. This is particularly critical if temporary diversion BMPs, such as rubber dams, are proposed to be installed.</p> <p>We recommend the following revision to Provision A.2.b. on Page 14: “...The Discharger shall <u>first secure any applicable local permits and subsequently</u> notify the applicable MS4 permittee <u>owners at least seven days in advance</u> of the planned discharge.”</p>

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Response:	<p>Prior to discharging to the storm drain system, the Discharger is required to notify the owners of the MS4. Although not required by this Order, a finding had been added to the Order to acknowledge that in addition to notification, MS4 owners will likely require local permit to be acquired before the discharge can occur.</p>		
Action:			
3	Page 11 and 12 of the Order and page D-20 of the Fact Sheet.	Wet weather WQBELs	<p>Comment: It is not necessary for the General Permit to incorporate wet weather WQBELs. It is our understanding that the discharges covered under this General Permit are only to occur during dry flow periods. Therefore, it is not necessary to incorporate wet weather WQBELs for either the Los Angeles River and Tributaries or the San Gabriel River and Impaired Tributaries.</p> <p>For clarity, we recommend deleting Tables 3 and 5 on Pages 11 and 12, and Tables 5 and 7 in the Fact Sheet on Page D-20 .</p>
Response:	<p>Dry and wet weather TMDLs are included in the permit to appropriately regulate any authorized or accidental discharge that may occur from a permitted facility, regardless of the season and for compliance purposes. That notwithstanding, discharges are allowed during dry periods both in summer and winter months. Discharges are also allowed during winter months when dry conditions exist in the receiving water.</p>		
Action:	<p>No action is necessary.</p>		
4	Page 11 and 12 of the Order and page D-20 of the Fact Sheet.	TMDLs downstream of Whittier Narrows are not applicable	<p>Comment: The dry weather WQBELs incorporated into the General Permit should correspond to the reaches where the discharges will occur and should be consistent with the WQBELs specified in the applicable TMDLs. The General Permit covers discharges from facilities located upstream of Whittier Narrows (Discharge Information on Page 4). However, the WQBELs included for Rio Hondo in Table 2 on Page 11 and San Gabriel River in Table 4 on Page 12 are downstream of Whittier Narrows. The specified reaches and corresponding WQBELs should correspond to the actual discharge locations and should be consistent with the WQBELs</p>

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			specified in the applicable TMDLs. Corresponding revisions should be made to Tables 4 and 6 in the Fact Sheet on Page D-20..
Response:	<p>Agree. The TMDL-based effluent limitations for Rio Hondo Reach 1 prescribed in the tentative permit, Tables 2 and 3, apply to discharges downstream of the Whittier Narrows. All the discharges authorized under this permit are expected to occur upstream of Whittier Narrows. Therefore, these two tables have been deleted. There are no WLAs developed for Rio Hondo Reach 2 and 3 applicable to a general NPDES permit.</p> <p>Also, TMDL-based effluent limitations for San Gabriel River Reach 1 prescribed in Table 4 of the Order are not applicable to discharges upstream of Whittier Narrows. Therefore, the TMDL-based effluent limitations for San Gabriel River Reach 1 have been deleted. However, the TMDL-based effluent limitations for San Jose Creek Reach 1 are applicable to discharges upstream of Whittier Narrows.</p>		
Action:	Agree with the Commenter. Appropriate changes have been made.		
5		Effluent Limitations for Nitrogen with 1 mg/L and phosphorus with 0.1 mg/L shall be prescribed.	Comments: Additional pollutants should be included in Table 1. Effluent Limitations. Given the well documented concerns regarding nutrients in groundwater (i.e. nitrogen and phosphorus), nutrients should be added to Table 1. Effluent Limitations on Page 11 as shown below:

