



# City of Camarillo

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October 12, 2007

Ms. Tracy Egoscue  
Executive Officer  
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
320 Fourth Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Subject: **Comments to 8/28/2007 Second Draft Order – Ventura County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit (NPDES No. CAS004002)**

Dear Ms. Egoscue:

The City of Camarillo respectfully submits the following comments regarding the above referenced Second Draft Permit for your consideration. The City of Camarillo has been a co-permittee under the Ventura Countywide Municipal Permit since its adoption in 1994. Although our population of fewer than 66,000 classifies us as a Phase II municipality, Camarillo chose to join the countywide effort toward improving water quality in a proactive manner. We feel the collaborative countywide program has been very successful toward meeting that goal. As was mentioned by several speakers at the September 20, 2007 Regional Board Workshop, the City of Camarillo is in the Calleguas Creek Watershed (CCW) and is also an active member in the Calleguas Creek Management Plan Program, which is another successful program led by stakeholders that are committed to improving water quality.

As currently crafted, the Second Draft Permit will place undue financial and technical requirements on our Stormwater program that may ultimately not result in efficiently improving water quality which we and your agency are seeking to obtain. The City of Camarillo concurs with the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Program comment letter dated October 12, 2007, which we hereby incorporate our support for the record.

The following Second Draft Permit requirements are of particular concern to our City:

- The Second Draft Permit's use of Municipal Action Levels (MALs) is inconsistent with state and federal policies, is technically flawed, results in requirements more stringent than federal law, and creates limits that are more restrictive than adopted water quality objectives contained in the Basin Plan.
- The Second Draft Permit contains prescriptive requirements such as low impact development, hydromodification, and post-construction best management practices for "all" development and redevelopment projects that cannot be met and that do not preserve local government control over land use planning. Further, the draft permit places these development requirements on routine maintenance projects such as street repaving and channel clearing, which is excessive and will impair the ability to build and maintain public facilities.

- The Second Draft Permit requires the installation of trash excluders on all catch basin inlets in commercial, industrial, and near educational institutions within one year of permit adoption. Not only would the installation and subsequent maintenance of these devices be cost prohibitive, they would also create a health and safety problem due to the potential flooding hazard they create. Further, a trash TMDL was adopted by the Regional Board in June 2007 for two reaches of Calleguas Creek with expected adoption by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2008. This draft permit requirement should defer to the trash TMDL for those areas in Camarillo that discharge to the identified impaired waterbody. For areas in Camarillo not covered by the trash TMDL, we suggest that our existing trash management program be enhanced and if necessary, trash excluders only be required in locations identified by the city as high trash generating areas.
- We appreciate Regional Board staff removing the 100,000 gallon per year requirement for potable water discharges from the Second Draft Permit. However, we are still concerned that as presently written, the draft permit prohibits fire hydrant or water main flushing. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) strongly supports routine water main flushing. Furthermore, in response to water quality issues, CDPH may require a water utility to flush their mains to protect public health. We respectfully request that language be amended in the permit that allows for releases of potable water from activities such as fire hydrant or water main flushing, until such time as a new General Permit is issued that addresses those types of releases. Our staff has been working with other stakeholders and your staff on a proposed General Permit for potable water releases such as fire hydrant flushing.
- There are several discrepancies between the language in TMDLs which have been adopted for the Calleguas Creek Watershed and the language in the Second Draft Permit. This was relayed in our March 6, 2007 First Draft Permit comment letter as well as at the September 20, 2007 Regional Board Workshop, and we feel confident that the Regional Board understood our concerns. The effective TMDLs should be incorporated into the NPDES Municipal Permit in a manner that is consistent with the assumptions and requirements of the waste load allocations and conditions as adopted in the TMDLs.

### Conclusion

The City of Camarillo appreciates this opportunity to provide comments to the Second Draft Permit and we want to reiterate our commitment to the collaborative effort in maintaining and enhancing water quality in our watershed. However, we have significant concerns about the draft permit as currently proposed.

Camarillo believes that an NPDES permit can be developed that provides for accountability, conducts public outreach and education, supports ongoing water quality efforts, including the TMDL effort Camarillo has been very involved with, and receives broad public support. We look forward to working with the Regional Board to incorporate these changes into the draft permit. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Anita Kuhlman, Stormwater Coordinator, at 805-383-5659.

Sincerely,



Jerry Bankston  
City Manager

cc: Xavier Swamikannu, LARWQCB  
Camarillo City Council