

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 25, 2013

Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group
(See Distribution List)

APPROVAL OF NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (NOI) TO DEVELOP A WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (WMP), PURSUANT TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) PERMIT (NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004001; ORDER NO. R4-2012-0175)

Dear Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group Participants:

Regional Board staff reviewed the NOI to prepare a WMP that the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group submitted to the Regional Board on June 27, 2013; according to the NOI, the participants in the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group are the Cities of Downey, Lakewood, Long Beach, Lynwood, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Signal Hill, South Gate, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, and Caltrans. Upon review, Regional Board staff determined the NOI meets the notification requirements of Part VI.C of Order No. R4-2012-0175, *Waste Discharge Requirements for MS4 Discharges within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County, except those Discharges Originating from the City of Long Beach* (hereafter, Order).

As you are aware, the Order allows permittees the option to submit to the Regional Board for approval an NOI to prepare a WMP. Preparing a WMP allows permittees to implement the requirements of the Order on a watershed scale through customized strategies, control measures, and best management practices (BMPs). Implementing a WMP allows permittees to address the highest watershed priorities, including complying with the requirements of Part V.A (Receiving Water Limitations), Part VI.E (Total Maximum Daily Load Provisions) and Attachments L through R, by customizing the control measures in Parts III.A (Prohibitions – Non-Storm Water Discharges) and VI.D (Minimum Control Measures) of the Order.

The Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group must submit to the Regional Board for review and approval a draft WMP for the Lower Los Angeles River watershed no later than June 28, 2014. Until Regional Board staff approves the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group WMP, each Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group participant must do the following:

1. Continue to implement all the watershed control measures in their corresponding storm water management programs, including actions within each of the six categories of minimum control measures consistent with Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Section 122.26(d)(2)(iv) and Part VI.C.4.d.i of the Order.
2. Continue to implement watershed control measures to eliminate non-storm water discharges through the MS4 that are a source of pollutants to receiving waters consistent with Clean Water Act Section 402(p)(3)(B)(ii) and Part VI.C.4.d.ii of the Order.
3. Implement watershed control measures, including those identified in existing TMDL implementation plans, to ensure MS4 discharges achieve compliance with interim and final trash WQBELs and all other final WQBELs and receiving water limitations pursuant to Part VI.E and set forth in Attachments L through Q by the applicable compliance deadlines occurring prior to approval of the WMP per Part VI.C.4.d.iii of the Order.
4. Target implementation of watershed control measures listed above to address known contributions of pollutants from MS4 discharges to receiving waters.
5. Meet all interim and final deadlines for development of a WMP.

The Regional Board understands that the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group may opt to develop an enhanced watershed management program (EWMP) instead of a WMP, after further evaluation. Regional Board staff determined the NOI the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group submitted met most of the requirements specific to an EWMP but lacked sufficiently detailed information about the structural best management practice(s) the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group participants will implement to provide meaningful water quality improvement. If the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group decides to develop an EWMP, please notify the Regional Board in writing no later December 28, 2013. Along with this written notification, submit a copy of the executed memorandum of understanding describing the mechanism to fund the development of the EWMP, and detailed technical information on the structural best management practice (BMP) or suite of BMPs the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group will implement, including the BMPs to quantifiably reduce pollutant loads, the size of the drainage area, the volume of storm water addressed, and the estimated pollutant load reduction.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Pavlova Vitale of the Storm Water Permitting Unit by electronic mail at Pavlova.Vitale@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (213) 576-6761. Alternatively, you may also contact Mr. Ivar Ridgeway, Chief of the Storm Water Permitting Unit, by electronic mail at Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (213) 620-2150.

Sincerely,



Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

cc: Jason Wen, City of Downey
Konya Vivanti, City of Lakewood
Anthony Arevalo, Long Beach
Emilio Murga, City of Lynwood
Sarah Ho, City of Paramount
Arturo Cervantes, City of Pico Rivera
Steve Myrter, City of Signal Hill
Mohammad Mostahkami, City of South Gate
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Terry Grant, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Dave Smith, US EPA
Walt Shannon, State Water Resources Control Board – Storm Water Section
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ECM#

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