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SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 20, 2014

Los Cerritos Channel Watershed Management Group
(See Distribution List)

REVIEW OF THE LOS CERRITOS CHANNEL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP'S DRAFT COORDINATED INTEGRATED MONITORING PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO PART VI.B AND ATTACHMENT E PART IV.B OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) PERMIT (NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004001; ORDER NO. R4-2012-0175) AND PART VII.B AND ATTACHMENT E, PART IV.B OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH MS4 PERMIT (NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004003; ORDER NO. R4-2014-0024)

Dear Los Cerritos Channel Watershed Management Group:

The Regional Water Board has reviewed the draft Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program (CIMP) submitted on June 30, 2014 by the Los Cerritos Channel (LCC) Watershed Management Group (WMG). This program was submitted pursuant to the provisions of NPDES Permit No. CAS004001 (Order No. R4-2012-0175), which authorizes discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) operated by 86 municipal Permittees within Los Angeles County (hereafter, LA County MS4 Permit).

The LA County MS4 Permit allows Permittees the option to develop and implement, in coordination with an approved Watershed Management Program per Part VI.C, a customized monitoring program that achieves the five Primary Objectives set forth in Part II.A of Attachment E and includes the elements set forth in Part II.E of Attachment E. Customized monitoring programs may be developed on an individual jurisdictional basis, referred to as an Integrated Monitoring Program (IMP), or a on watershed basis, referred to as a CIMP. These programs must be approved by the Executive Officer of the Regional Water Board.

NPDES Permit No. CAS004003 (Order No. R4-2014-0024) authorizes discharges from the MS4 operated by the City of Long Beach (hereafter, Long Beach MS4 Permit). The Long Beach MS4 Permit similarly allows the City of Long Beach to develop either an IMP or CIMP to implement Permit requirements, with the option of collaborating with LA County MS4 Permit Permittees. For simplicity, this letter and its enclosures cite provisions in the LA County MS4 Permit even though the City of Long Beach is a member of the LCC WMG and is permitted under its own individual Permit.

The Regional Water Board has reviewed the draft CIMP and has determined that, for the most part, the CIMP includes the elements set forth in Part II.E and will achieve the Primary Objectives set forth in Part II.A of Attachment E of the LA County MS4 Permit. However, some

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additions and revisions to the CIMP are necessary. The Regional Water Board's comments on the CIMP, including detailed information concerning necessary additions and revisions to the CIMP, are found in Enclosure 1 and Enclosure 2.

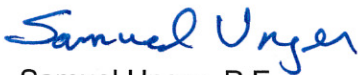
Please make the necessary additions and revisions to the CIMP as identified in the enclosures to this letter and submit the revised CIMP as soon as possible and no later than **February 18, 2015**. The revised CIMP must be submitted to losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "LA County MS4 Permit – Revised LCC CIMP" with a copy to Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov and Chris.Lopez@waterboards.ca.gov.

Upon approval of the revised CIMP by the Executive Officer, the Permittees must prepare to commence their monitoring program within 90 days. If the necessary revisions are not made, the Permittees must comply with the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) and future revisions thereto, in Attachment E of the LA County MS4 Permit and Attachment E of the Long Beach MS4 Permit.

Until the Permittees' CIMP is approved by the Executive Officer, the monitoring requirements pursuant to Order No. 01-182 and MRP CI 6948, Order No. 99-060 and MRP CI 8052 and pursuant to approved TMDL monitoring plans shall remain in effect for the Permittees.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Chris Lopez of the Storm Water Permitting Unit by electronic mail at Chris.Lopez@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (213) 576-6674. 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

Enclosures:

- Enclosure 1 – Summary of Comments and Necessary Revisions to Draft CIMP
- Enclosure 2 – Comments on Aquatic Toxicity Testing
Los Cerritos Channel WMG Distribution List

cc: Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Associates, Inc.

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Enclosure 1 - Summary of Comments and Necessary Revisions to Draft CIMP

Los Cerritos Channel Watershed Management Group

CIMP Reference	MRP Element/ Reference (Attachment E)	Comment and Necessary Revision
Receiving Water Monitoring		
Section 2 (Metals TMDL Monitoring)	Part II.A.2	<p>The draft CIMP indicates on page 12 that monitoring for the LCC Metals TMDL will include monitoring of three wet weather events per year instead of the minimum of four events recommended in the TMDL.</p> <p>The frequency for monitoring metals should be increased to four wet weather events to be consistent with the recommendations listed in the TMDL. Wet-weather monitoring results from the first year may be evaluated to determine whether reducing the frequency to three wet-weather events per year would still provide sufficient data. The LCC Watershed Management Group may request a reduction in frequency on the basis of this data evaluation.</p>
Section 3 (Constituent Removal) – Chemical/Physical Parameters	Part VI.C.1.e and Part VI.D.1.d	<p>The draft CIMP states on page 17 that, “[i]f an analyte is not detected at levels of concern during two consecutive monitoring events representing the same seasonal conditions, the analysis will be removed from the sampling requirements until being subject to reconsideration during the next five year Permit cycle.” It is not clear whether this statement applies only to constituents in Table E-2 of Attachment E that are not otherwise identified as a basic monitoring requirement, a TMDL analyte or a 303(d) listing for Los Cerritos Channel. If this statement applies broadly to all constituents, including basic monitoring requirements, TMDL analytes and 303(d) listings, it should be removed from the CIMP. Part VI.C.1.e and Part VI.D.1.d of the MRP do not specify or include language for the removal of these constituents from the monitoring requirements.</p>
Section 3 (Receiving Water Monitoring)	Part C.1.d and Part D.1.c	<p>Table 3-2 (page 18) does not include ammonia in its list of constituents to be monitored. Regional Water Board staff note that the Group does not intend to address this pollutant since it has been proposed for delisting. To support this position, the Group has been asked to present data demonstrating that there is no longer an impairment due to ammonia.</p>

CIMP Reference	MRP Element/ Reference (Attachment E)	Comment and Necessary Revision
		Table 3-2 should include and note the appropriate frequencies of analysis for Table E-2 constituents that are detected above the lowest applicable water quality objective during the 1st year of monitoring.
Section 3.1 (Suspended Solids)	Part XIV	The Group should consider monitoring Suspended Sediment Concentration (SSC) in addition to TSS, since an integral part of the Group's pollutant reduction strategy involves the reduction of discharged solids from the MS4.
Section 3.4 (Mercury)	Part XIV	Table 3-6 (page 24) indicates that the EPA Method 245.1 will be used to analyze Mercury. This method is inadequately sensitive. The draft CIMP should be revised to use either EPA Method 245.7 or 1631E to ensure sufficiently sensitive minimum levels that are comparable to the water quality criteria.
Section 3.5 (PCBs)	Part XIV	<p>Table 3-7 (page 25) indicates that PCBs will be monitored by testing for aroclors.</p> <p>Monitoring for PCBs in sediment or water should be reported as the summation of aroclors and a minimum of 40 (and preferably at least 50) congeners. See Table C8 in the state's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program's Quality Assurance Program Plan (Page 72 of Appendix C), which can be downloaded at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/qapp/qaprp082209.pdf for guidance. It is preferable samples be analyzed using EPA Methods 8270 or 1668C (as appropriate), and High Resolution Mass Spectrometry.</p>
Outfall Monitoring		
Section 1.2.2 (Primary Watershed Segmentation Monitoring)	Part II.A.2	<p>The implementation plan for the Los Cerritos Channel Metals TMDL requires MS4 Permittees to demonstrate a progressive reduction in pollutant loading at milestones in 2017, 2020, and 2023. The first milestone is in 2017, and at that time the Permittees shall demonstrate that 30% of the total drainage area served by the storm drain system is effectively meeting the dry-weather WLAs and 10% of the total drainage area served by the storm drain system is effectively meeting the wet-weather WLA.</p> <p>The draft CIMP uses primarily watershed segmentation stormwater monitoring locations for stormwater drain outfall monitoring (i.e. SB4, SB8, SB9, and SB10). Each of the four locations will be phased-in over 3 years, with all 4 stations operational by 2018. However, the plan should be revised to phase-in SB9 and SB8 before 2016/2017 and 2017/18, respectively,</p>

CIMP Reference	MRP Element/ Reference (Attachment E)	Comment and Necessary Revision
		to ensure that compliance with the TMDL can be demonstrated. These two sub-basin monitoring locations represent over 33% of the watershed, with modeling indicating that SB9 and SB8 were expected to have higher concentrations of metals than other areas.
Section 8.1.2 (Maps and Databases)	Part VII.A	Table 8-3 (page 51) indicates the status of basic database and mapping information for the watershed. All of the completed mapping information as listed in Part VII.A of the MRP should be included and submitted in the revised CIMP.

ENCLOSURE 2
COMMENTS ON AQUATIC TOXICITY TESTING
LOS CERRITOS CHANNEL CIMP

Part XII.G.1. (Page E-30) and Part XII.G.2. (Page E-30) of the Monitoring and Reporting Program states that Permittees shall conduct aquatic toxicity monitoring utilizing the critical life stage chronic toxicity test methods listed. The draft CIMP does not propose use of critical life stage chronic toxicity test methods for assessment of toxicity in wet weather samples and instead proposes use of acute toxicity test methods. This is not acceptable; the appropriate chronic toxicity test method listed in the MRP must be used and both survival and sublethal endpoints must be reported. We suggest the group consult the State Water Resources Control Board 2011 publication, "Implementation Guidance: Toxicity Testing for Stormwater" to gain insight on how to run chronic toxicity tests on wet weather samples.

Part VIII.B.1.c.vi. (Page E-23) and Part VIII.G.1.d. (Page 27) of the Monitoring and Reporting Program states that where the TIE conducted at the downstream receiving water monitoring station was inconclusive then aquatic toxicity shall be monitored at the representative upstream outfall(s). The draft CIMP does not propose conducting this required outfall toxicity monitoring.

While development of the proposed Discharge Assessment Plan (DAP) will be useful, it cannot take the place of the required outfall toxicity monitoring following an inconclusive TIE in the receiving water. And, while there may be situations where TIEs cannot be resolved due to non-persistent toxicity and no further action on that sample can be pursued, inconclusive TIEs often result from a lack of following well-defined procedures rather than non-persistent toxicity. As mentioned elsewhere in this comment letter, including pyrethroids in the TIE procedure will reduce the occurrence of inconclusive TIEs as will including chemical testing for Fipronil and its degradates for comparison to U.S. EPA benchmarks.

Additionally, the toxicity flowcharts do not show the need to proceed to outfall toxicity testing should a TIE of a toxic receiving water sample be inconclusive and instead focus on the response to non-persistent toxicity. We strongly recommend a more cohesive approach whereby the Group develops a Toxicity Assessment Plan analogous to the Discharge Assessment Plan currently proposed in the CIMP.

Part XII.I.1. (Page E-33) of the Monitoring and Reporting Program states that a toxicity test sample is immediately subject to TIE procedures if either survival or sublethal endpoints demonstrate a Percent Effect value equal to or greater than 50% at the Instream Waste Concentration. The draft CIMP does not propose to perform a TIE when at least a 50% sublethal effect is seen but instead proposes to first collect a confirmatory sample two weeks later.

This is not an acceptable approach. The CIMP seems to be implying that chronic toxicity has some inherent non-persistent quality to it that makes the results unreliable. It also implies that chronic toxicity is of lesser importance. Although it would be hard to generalize to all possible situations, the fact that a large number of invertebrates (or fish) living in a receiving water can survive an ambient pollutant concentration but are impacted in terms of growth or reproduction means that the population as a whole will be impacted, and could eventually collapse. Some species living in the receiving water

have very short lifespans and during critical times of the year may be prey for other organisms that will in turn be impacted by their population decline.

Suggested Special Study: The 2013 study released by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) entitled "Review of Pyrethroid, Fipronil and Toxicity Monitoring Data from California Urban Watersheds" reviewed stormwater data from studies conducted during 2005 - 2012 and highlighted the toxicity impacts from use of pesticides not currently required to be monitored for by the MRP. We suggest the group begin monitoring for these chemicals in the receiving water and, in addition, assess toxicity using the 2002 acute toxicity testing protocol (EPA-821-R-02-012) with the amphipod *Hyalella azteca* as the test organism. *H. azteca* is known to be much more sensitive to pyrethroids than is *Ceriodaphnia dubia*, while the latter is useful for its sensitivity to OP pesticides. The two species together may also prove to be more useful in detecting toxicity from fipronil. And, should 50% or greater effect be detected in the toxicity test, we suggest a procedure to incorporate pyrethroids into the subsequent TIE be documented (three possible treatments have been identified by researchers, see <http://www.pubfacts.com/detail/20018342/Focused-toxicity-identification-evaluations-to-rapidly-identify-the-cause-of-toxicity-in-environment>). While fipronil does not have a TIE procedure identified currently, chemical testing for the parameter (and degradates) and comparison to U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Program's aquatic life benchmarks at http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/ecorisk_ders/aquatic_life_benchmark.htm will aid in determining the cause(s) of toxicity in order to follow up with outfall testing of the parameter(s) with the ultimate goal of removing the source. This approach will also help minimize inconclusive TIE results which would lead to required toxicity testing in the representative upstream outfall(s).

Los Cerritos Channel WMG Distribution List

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