



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 9, 2024

Via Email Only

Permittees of the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Group¹

FINAL APPROVAL OF THE UPPER SANTA CLARA RIVER WATERSHED GROUP'S WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (WMP) PURSUANT TO THE REGIONAL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS AND NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION (NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004004; ORDER NO. R4-2021-0105)

Dear Permittees of the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Group:

The Regional MS4 Permit (Order No. R4-2021-0105) authorizes discharges from the MS4 operated by 99 municipal Permittees within the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (hereafter, Regional MS4 Permit or Order). The Regional MS4 Permit allows Permittees the option to use a Watershed Management Program (WMP) to implement many of the permit's requirements through customized strategies, control measures, and best management practices (BMPs).

1) Approval of the Watershed Management Program

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board or Board), approved with conditions, the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Management Group's (Group) WMP on April 4, 2023. The conditional approval letter directed the Group to submit a final WMP that satisfies all the conditions listed in the letter no later than July 3, 2023. The Group submitted a revised WMP on June 30, 2023. On August 4, 2023, the Board sent a courtesy email to the Group directing them to revise the WMP to address the conditions that were not fully satisfied. The Group submitted their 2nd revised WMP on October 11, 2023, and their final WMP on November 30, 2023.

After review of the Group's final WMP, the Board has determined that the Group's WMP, submitted on November 30, 2023, is consistent with the requirements of the Regional MS4 Permit. The Los Angeles Water Board hereby approves the Group's WMP, submitted on November 30, 2023. Pursuant to Parts IX.C.1 and IX.G.3.c of the Order, the Group **shall implement their approved WMP immediately**. The Group is

¹ Permittees of the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Group include County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, and the City of Santa Clarita.

subject to all applicable compliance schedules in Part IV.B and Attachments K through S of the Order.

2) *Compliance Determinations*

2.1 Compliance Determination for WBPCs other than Trash

2.1.1 Compliance Metric: Pursuant to Part IX.B.7.h of the Order, the WMP is required to specify the expected volume capture, load reductions, or other compliance metric(s) at regular milestones, and the methods by which these reductions will be measured and demonstrated for each waterbody pollutant combinations (WBPCs) and supported via the RAA. Based on the information provided in the WMP, submitted on November 30, 2023, the Los Angeles Water Board will determine deemed compliance with the Group's WMP and associated interim WQBELs based on the following compliance metric(s) per the approved compliance schedule:

- Structural Capacity (ac-ft) in Figure 7-13 of the WMP (Scheduling of the USCR EWMP Implementation Plan for all Assessment Areas to address the Bacteria TMDL)

The Group must demonstrate compliance with final WQBELs through the direct demonstration of compliance options outlined in Part X.B.2.a of the Order or demonstrate that structural BMPs retain all non-stormwater runoff and the volume of stormwater runoff generated from the 85th percentile 24-hour storm event for the watershed area.

2.1.2 WBPCs Eligible for Deemed Compliance Through Alternative Demonstration of Compliance: The following WBPCs will receive deemed compliance through the WMP if the actions and schedules specified in the WMP are attained as outlined in Parts X.B.1.b and X.B.2.b of the Order:

- Table 4-6 of the WMP (Prioritized WBPCs): Priority 1 *E. coli* wet weather WBPCs
- Table 4-6 of the WMP (Prioritized WBPCs): All Priority 2 WBPCs

Any WBPCs that are not listed above are not eligible for deemed compliance for the following reasons: (a) for Category 1 WBPCs with interim deadlines, the WMP proposes watershed control measures for which there are no quantitative analyses that satisfy the RAA requirements, (b) the final TMDL deadline(s) have passed and there is no approved Time Schedule Order (TSO) nor retention of all non-stormwater runoff and the volume of stormwater runoff from the 85th percentile 24-hour storm event, (c) the WMP only proposes the implementation of baseline Permit requirements, and/or (d) the WMP does not propose implementing additional structural BMPs and proposes to demonstrate compliance through monitoring.

2.2 Compliance Determination for Trash WBPCs

Trash WBPCs are not eligible for deemed compliance under the WMP. For Trash WBPCs, compliance shall be determined as outlined in Part X.C of the Order.

3) *Other Requirements*

Adaptive Management: Pursuant to Part IX.E.1 of the Order, the Permittee(s) shall implement an adaptive management process for each approved WMP. An adaptive management process is a periodic, comprehensive program evaluation, including re-analysis of data and/or modeling, and modification process to determine progress toward achieving WQBELs and receiving water limitations and to adapt the Watershed Management Program to become more effective at achieving WQBELs and receiving water limitations. Pursuant to Part IX.E.4 of the Order, Permittee(s) shall submit the results of the adaptive management process with the Permittees' Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to the Los Angeles Water Board no later than **March 15, 2026**.

Per Part IX.E.3 of the Order, the adaptive management process fulfills the requirements in Part V.D of the Order to address continuing exceedances of receiving water limitations.

Modifications: The Group may propose WMP modifications at any time during the term of the Order, as necessary. The Group shall provide a standalone written request explaining the nature of the proposed modification(s) and justification for consideration by the Los Angeles Water Board. Such justification may include the need to align the timing of implementation for a specific project with a project partner that is not regulated by the Regional MS4 Permit.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Ms. Erum Razzak with the Municipal Stormwater Permitting Unit by email at Erum.Razzak@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (213) 576-6786. Alternatively, you may also contact Ivar Ridgeway, Municipal Stormwater Permitting Unit Supervisor by email at Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (213) 620-2150.

Sincerely,

for Susana Arredondo
Executive Officer

cc: Jerrid Mckenna, City of Santa Clarita
Darin Seegmiller, City of Santa Clarita
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