



CITY OF MURRIETA

June 22, 2015

Mr. Kurt Berchtold
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality
Control Board - Santa Ana Region
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3339

Mr. David W. Gibson
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality
Control Board – San Diego Region
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108

Dear Messrs. Berchtold and Gibson:

Re: Request for Designating the San
Diego Regional Board as Regulating
Discharges from MS4 owned by the
City of Murrieta

The City of Murrieta is located within southwestern Riverside County, and covers an area of approximately 33.6 square miles. While the city is located primarily within the Santa Margarita Watershed and therefore is under the jurisdiction of the San Diego Regional Board, approximately 0.58 square miles (or 1.7%) of the city extends into the Santa Ana Watershed which is under the jurisdiction of the Santa Ana Regional Board. Attached for your reference is a map of the city, overlaid with the jurisdictional boundary between the two Regional Boards. Because of this situation, the city is subject to two Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits issued by the respective Regional Boards.

Pursuant to discussions with staff at both Regional Boards and consistent with California Water Code section 13228, the City of Murrieta hereby requests that the Santa Ana Regional Board designate the San Diego Regional Board for regulation of all portions of the city, regardless of Regional Board jurisdictional boundaries, for matters pertaining to MS4 permitting.

The remainder of this letter contains a discussion of the basis for this request; a description of the understood limitations of this designation; a description of the additional portion of the city that, pursuant to this designation, would be regulated by the San Diego Regional Board, and any other associated requests.

Mr. Kurt Berchtold
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Mr. David W. Gibson
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Re: Request for Area Exchange

Basis for the request

The City is currently a named permittee on order R8-2010-0033 issued by the Santa Ana Regional Board (Santa Ana Permit), and order R9-2010-0016 with the San Diego Regional Board (San Diego Permit) – both of which are currently up for renewal. While having the same goal of reducing the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 system, these two orders include requirements that accomplish that goal in different ways. As a result, programs designed to be in compliance with the Santa Ana Permit are similar, but necessarily different than programs designed for compliance with the San Diego Permit. When this situation is applied within a single city, such as the City of Murrieta, having two differing programs creates significant confusion among both city staff and the public, which can lead to inefficient and inconsistent implementation of the programs and less effective protection of water quality. Additionally, and no less significant, there is a duplicative administrative and financial burden that is inherent in complying with two MS4 permits: two sets of programs have to be developed; staff have to be trained to two sets of requirements, and at differing frequencies; business inspections must inspect for and track different information, at differing frequencies; two sets of annual reports have to be created, with each report being required to include different information; etc.

The purpose of the City's request is to reduce the aforementioned complexity to allow for the more effective and focused utilization of the City's resources to the benefit of water quality.

Understood Limitations

This request by the City of Murrieta is made with the understanding that:

- For the purposes of MS4 permitting only, the San Diego Regional Board would regulate the entirety of the City of Murrieta. As a result, the City of Murrieta would be subject to a single MS4 permit, which would be issued by the San Diego Regional Board.
- Enforcement of any provisions of the MS4 permit issued to the City of Murrieta would be performed by the San Diego Regional Board.
- Any TMDLs and associated MS4 permit requirements issued by the Santa Ana Regional Board, which include the City of Murrieta as a responsible party, will be incorporated into the MS4 permit issued by the San Diego Regional Board by reference, including reference to any associated provisions, findings or elements of the fact sheet.
- Enforcement of any TMDL will remain with the Regional Board that has jurisdiction over the targeted impaired water body.
- Other Waste Discharge Requirements, or other Orders issued or enforced by the San Diego Regional Board would remain wholly under the jurisdiction of the San Diego Regional Board.

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Mr. Kurt Berchtold
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
Mr. David W. Gibson
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Re: Request for Area Exchange

Description of the area of the City subject to the designation:

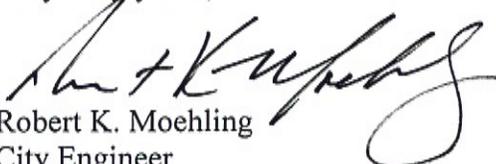
Some facts about the City of Murrieta and the portion within the jurisdiction of the Santa Ana Regional Board are described below. Also enclosed with this letter is a map of the City with the subject area highlighted.

- Total Area of the city = 33.6 square miles
- Area within the Santa Ana Region Watershed = 0.58 square miles (or 375 acres)
- Percent of City in the Santa Ana Region Watershed = 1.7%

In conclusion, the requested designation of regulatory authority to the San Diego Regional Board will not only reduce the complexity and administrative burden upon the City of Murrieta, but will allow the City to better focus and effectively utilize their available resources to the best benefit to water quality in both regions.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Robert K. Moehling at 951-304-2489.

Very truly yours,


Robert K. Moehling
City Engineer
CITY OF MURRIETA

Attachments:

Map of the City of Murrieta

cc:

Bill Woolsey, City of Murrieta
James Ozouf, City of Murrieta
Stuart McKibbin, Riverside County Flood Control
Scott Bruckner, Riverside County Flood Control

