



## Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

November 10, 2021

A M Finishing Incorporated 928 E South Street Anaheim, CA 92805 (Via USPS Mail) CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7018 3090 0001 0920 3021

Maria Rafay
88sweet@sbcglobal.net
amfinishinginc1@yahoo.com
(Via Email)

Maria L. Rafay
Agent for Service of Process for A M Finishing Incorporated
2531 E Santa Fe Ave
Fullerton, CA 92831
(Via Certified Mail)

SETTLEMENT OFFER NO. R8-2021-0065: OFFER TO PARTICIPATE IN EXPEDITED PAYMENT PROGRAM RELATING TO VIOLATIONS OF THE GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORM WATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES, ORDER NO. 2014-0057-DWQ AS AMENDED BY ORDER NO. 2015-0122-DWQ and ORDER NO. 2018-0028-DWQ, NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM NPDES NO. CAS000001, FOR A M FINISHING INCORPORATED, 928 E SOUTH STREET, ANAHEIM

Dear Ms. Rafay:

This letter is to notify A M Finishing Incorporated, (hereinafter "Discharger" or "you") of alleged violations of the California Water Code (Water Code) identified in the State Water Resources Control Board's water quality data system and to allow the Discharger to participate in the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Santa Ana Water Board) Expedited Payment Program for Reporting Violations to address mandatory minimum penalties that must be assessed pursuant to Water Code section 13399.33.

#### NOTICE OF VIOLATION:

Based on information in the Storm Water Multiple Application & Report Tracking System (SMARTS), the Santa Ana Water Board alleges that the Discharger is in violation of the General Permit Associated with Industrial Activities within the Santa Ana Region, Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ, as amended by Order No. 2015-0122-DWQ and Order No. 2018-

LANA ONG PETERSON, CHAIR | JAYNE JOY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

0028-DWQ, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAS000001 (Industrial General Permit), for failure to obtain permit coverage for the facility located at 928 E South Street, in the City of Anaheim. You failed to obtain permit coverage as required by the Water Code and as indicated in the Notices of Non-Compliance (NNCs) issued on August 10, 2021 and September 8, 2021. To date, the Discharger has not obtained permit coverage. The Discharger will have the opportunity to address the alleged violations as discussed below.

### STATUTORY LIABILITY:

Pursuant to Water Code section 13399.33(a)(1), the Discharger is subject to a minimum penalty of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) plus staff costs for failing to submit the required Notice of Intent in accordance with Water Code section 13399.30 within sixty (60) days after the first NNC was sent. The Discharger is also subject to discretionary administrative civil liabilities of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each day in which the violation occurs. These minimum and discretionary administrative civil liabilities may be assessed by the Santa Ana Water Board beginning with the date that the violations first occurred. The formal enforcement action that the Santa Ana Water Board uses to assess such liability is an administrative civil liability complaint, although the Santa Ana Water Board may instead refer such matters to the Attorney General's Office for prosecution. If referred to the Attorney General for prosecution, the Superior Court may assess up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per violation.

### **DISCHARGER'S OPTIONS FOR RESPONSE TO OFFER:**

You have two options to respond as outlined below.

1. Accept the Expedited Payment Program offer by complying with the Order and agreeing to pay a settlement of five thousand two hundred and sixty-five dollars (\$5,265). The minimum administrative civil liability pursuant to California Water Code section 13399.33(a)(1) is \$5,000 per year of noncompliance or fraction thereof. Staff costs in this matter are \$265. This is a Conditional Offer subject to certain terms and conditions set forth below. If you chose this option you must sign and submit the enclosed Acceptance and Waiver form by December 10, 2021. The form provides submittal instructions. Final closure on this action is only possible after ultimate submission of the settlement amount.

Please submit an original (blue ink) signed Acceptance and Wavier form to:

Devin Darrow, Coastal Storm Water Unit Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board 3737 Main Street, Suite 500 Riverside, CA 92501-3348

In response to the Conditional Offer and payment in settlement of this enforcement action, the Santa Ana Water Board will forego issuance of a formal administrative

complaint, will not refer the violation to the Attorney General, and will waive its right to seek additional discretionary civil liabilities for the violations identified in the NNCs.

2. Contest the non-filing violation by submitting in writing, the basis of your challenge with supporting evidence. For example, you may have evidence that you previously submitted permit coverage, or you are no longer in business. If you choose this option, you must submit your written documentation by December 10, 2021. We will review your submission, and if we agree with you, we will notify you in writing that you are no longer considered in violation of the permit and that our enforcement action has been terminated. All responses should be directed to Devin Darrow.

If you do not respond in a manner described in the above options, the Santa Ana Water Board will prepare an administrative civil liability complaint for the violation cited in the NNCs. The liability amount sought in the administrative civil liability complaint and/or imposed by the Santa Ana Water Board may be higher than the liability amount set forth in this Conditional Offer. Moreover, additional staff costs associated with formal enforcement may be considered in the recommended liability amount in an administrative civil liability complaint.

### CONDITIONS FOR REGIONAL BOARD ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION:

If you accept the Expedited Payment Program offer, the settlement will be published in the following manner: Federal regulations require the Santa Ana Water Board to publish notice of, and to provide at least thirty (30) days for public comment on, any settlement of an enforcement action addressing NPDES permit violations (40 C.F.R. section 123.27(d)(2)(iii)). Upon receipt of the Discharger's Acceptance and Waiver and other requested technical reports on or before **December 10, 2021**, Santa Ana Water Board staff will publish a notice of the proposed resolution of the alleged violations.

If no comments are received within the notice period, the Santa Ana Water Board Executive Officer will execute the Acceptance and Waiver as a stipulated order assessing the uncontested penalty amount pursuant to Water Code section 13399.33. You will then be notified that payment is due within 30 days. Failure to pay the penalty within that time frame may result in further liability, referral of the matter to the Attorney General, and/or may void the offer to participate in this Expedited Payment Program.

If, however, significant comments are received in opposition to the settlement, this offer may be withdrawn. In that case, the Discharger's waiver pursuant to the Acceptance and Waiver will also be treated as withdrawn, and the violations will be addressed through a formal enforcement action.

This Expedited Payment Program offer does not address or resolve liability for any violation that is not specifically identified in the attached NNCs. The Santa Ana Water

Board reserves the right to pursue formal enforcement of any violations not specifically cited in the attached NNCs.

Should you have any questions about this Expedited Payment Program, please contact Devin Darrow via email at <a href="Devin.Darrow@waterboards.ca.gov">Devin.Darrow@waterboards.ca.gov</a> regarding this matter.

### Sincerely,

Ann E.

Sturdivant
Date: 2021.11.10
Date: 2021.11.10
Ann Sturdivant, PG, CEG, CHG
Supervising Engineering Geologist
Chief, Groundwater Protection Division

### enclosures:

Notice of Non-Compliance, dated August 10, 2021 Notice of Non-Compliance, dated September 8, 2021 Acceptance of Conditional Resolution and Waiver of Right to Hearing; (proposed) Order





# Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

August 10, 2021

A M Finishing Incorporated 928 E South Street Anaheim, CA 92805 (Via Certified Mail)

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUIRED

Maria Rafay 88sweet@sbcglobal.net (Via Email)

NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORM WATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES, ORDER NO. 2014-0057-DWQ AS AMENDED BY ORDER NO. 2015-0122-DWQ AND ORDER NO. 2018-0028-DWQ, NPDES PERMIT NUMBER CASO00001 (GENERAL PERMIT)

Dear Maria Rafay:

The Federal Clean Water Act (Clean Water Act) prohibits certain discharges of storm water containing pollutants except where such discharges occur in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. In the state of California, Order No. 2018-0028-DWQ, NPDES Permit No. CAS000001 (General Permit), implements parts of the Clean Water Act by authorizing discharges associated with industrial activity subject to certain conditions and limitations.

Further, dischargers subject to the General Permit may qualify for a conditional exclusion from specific requirements if they submit a No Exposure Certification (NEC) demonstrating that their facilities have no exposure of industrial activities and materials to storm water discharges. The General Permit is available at the web site address provided below:

### https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\_issues/programs/stormwater/industrial.html

On May 18, 2020, you certified that A M Finishing Incorporated had no industrial activities or materials exposed to storm water, that all unauthorized non-storm water discharges had been eliminated, and that all the requirements of the NEC were met. In doing so, you were issued WDID No. 8 30NEC006716.

Per Section XVII.G. of the General Permit, the facility's NEC must be re-certified annually by October 1st of each reporting year. The deadline for this reporting year was October 1, 2020. Your facility, A M Finishing Incorporated, located at 928 E South Street, in the city of Anaheim was notified via email on three separate occasions (July 2, 2020,

LANA ONG PETERSON, CHAIR | HOPE SMYTHE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

September 1, 2020, and September 25, 2020) of the impending deadline to recertify the NEC and the consequences of not recertifying by the deadline.

On July 23, 2021, you were notified via email that your facility's NEC coverage would be administratively terminated if not re-certified by the final deadline of July 30, 2021. Since A M Finishing Incorporated did not recertify the NEC by the deadline, the facility's permit was administratively terminated.

This facility is currently in violation of the General Permit, the California Water Code and the federal Clean Water Act. You are required to immediately obtain coverage under the General Permit by September 8, 2021.

Please be advised that the failure to obtain coverage under the General Permit, as requested, will result in a mandatory minimum penalty of \$5,000 under Section 13399.33(a)(1) of the California Water Code. Furthermore, continued violations of the General Permit may result in the imposition of administrative civil liability in an amount of up to \$10,000 for each day of violation under Section 13385 of the California Water Code. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Devin Darrow via email at <a href="mailto:Devin.Darrow@waterboards.ca.gov">Devin.Darrow@waterboards.ca.gov</a>.

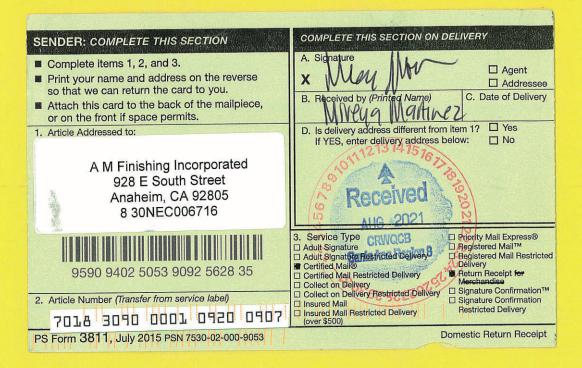
Sincerely,

Michelle R. Beckwith, Chief Senior Environmental Scientist

Coastal Storm Water Unit

cc: OC Public Works - James Fortuna

City of Anaheim, NPDES Coordinator, Keith Linker



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# Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 8, 2021

A M Finishing Incorporated 928 E South Street Anaheim, CA 92805 (Via Certified Mail) CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUIRED
7020 1290 0001 2676 2623

Maria Rafay 88sweet@sbcglobal.net (Via Email)

NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORM WATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES, ORDER NO. 2014-0057-DWQ AS AMENDED BY ORDER NO. 2015-0122-DWQ AND ORDER NO. 2018-0028-DWQ, NPDES PERMIT NUMBER CAS000001 (GENERAL PERMIT)

#### **SECOND NOTICE**

Dear Maria Rafay:

A Notice of Non-Compliance (NNC) was set to A M Finishing Incorporated on August 10, 2021, via certified mail, requesting that A M Finishing Incorporated obtain coverage under the General Permit by September 8, 2021. Per the United States Postal Service website, the certified mail was delivered on August 12, 2021. To date, permit coverage was not obtained.

NPDES Permit No. CAS000001 (General Permit), authorizes discharges associated with industrial activity subject to certain conditions and limitations. Dischargers may qualify for a conditional exclusion from specific requirements if they submit a No Exposure Certification (NEC). The General Permit is available here.

You are required to immediately obtain coverage under the General Permit. Failure to obtain coverage by October 10, 2021, will result in a minimum mandatory penalty of \$5,000. Failure to submit the requested information may result in further enforcement action, including civil monetary penalties of up to \$10,000 for each day of violation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Devin Darrow via email at <a href="mailto:Devin.Darrow@waterboards.ca.gov">Devin.Darrow@waterboards.ca.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

Michelle R. Beckwith, Chief Coastal Storm Water Unit

cc: OC Public Works - James Fortuna

City of Anaheim, NPDES Coordinator, Keith Linker



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25	For delivery information, visit our websit	e at www.usps.com .			
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# ACCEPTANCE OF CONDITIONAL RESOLUTION AND WAIVER OF RIGHT TO HEARING: (Proposed) ORDER

A M Finishing Incorporated Settlement Offer No. R8-2021-0065

By signing below and returning this Acceptance of Conditional Resolution and Waiver of Right to Hearing (Acceptance and Waiver) to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board), A M Finishing Incorporated (Discharger) hereby accepts the "Offer to Participate in Expedited Payment Program" and waives the right to a hearing before the Santa Ana Water Board to dispute the violations described in the Notices of Non-Compliance (NNCs) which are attached and incorporated herein by reference.

The Discharger agrees that the Expedited Payment Program Offer shall serve as a complaint pursuant to Article 2.5 of the California Water Code and that no separate complaint is required for the Santa Ana Water Board to assert jurisdiction over the alleged violations through its Chief Prosecutor. The Discharger agrees to pay the administrative civil liability authorized by California Water Code section 13399.30, in the sum of \$5,265 (Expedited Payment Amount) which shall be deemed payment in full of any civil liability pursuant to California Water Code section 13399.30 that otherwise might be assessed for the violations described in the NNCs.

The Discharger understands that this Acceptance and Waiver waives its right to contest the allegations in the NNCs and the amount of civil liability for such violations. The Discharger understands that this Acceptance and Waiver does not address or resolve liability for any violation that is not specifically identified in the NNCs.

Upon Execution by the Discharger, the completed Acceptance and Waiver, shall be mailed to:

Devin Darrow, Coastal Storm Water Unit Expedited Payment Letter Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board 3737 Main Street, Suite 500 Riverside, CA 92501

The Discharger understands that federal regulations set forth at title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, section 123.27(d)(2)(iii) require the Santa Ana Water Board to publish notice of and provide at least (30) days for public comment on any proposed resolution of an enforcement action addressing NPDES permit violations. Accordingly, this Acceptance and Waiver, prior to execution by the Santa Ana Water Board Executive Officer, will be published as required by law for public comment.

If no comments are received within the notice period that causes the Santa Ana Water Board Executive Officer to question the Expedited Payment Amount, the Santa Ana Water Board Executive Officer will execute the Acceptance and Waiver.

The Discharger understands that if significant comments are received in opposition to the Expedited Payment Amount, the offer on behalf of the Santa Ana Water Board to resolve the violations set forth in the NNCs may be withdrawn. In that circumstance, the Discharger will be advised of that withdrawal, and an administrative civil liability complaint may be issued, and the matter may be set for a hearing before the Santa Ana Water Board. In the event that this matter proceeds to hearing, the Discharger understands that this Acceptance and Waiver executed by the Discharger will be treated as a settlement communication and will not be used as evidence in that hearing.

The Discharger further understands that once this Acceptance and Waiver is executed by the Santa Ana Water Board Executive Officer, the full payment required by the deadline set forth below is a condition of this Acceptance and Waiver. In accordance with California Water Code section 13399.37(a), funds collected for violations pursuant to sections 13399.33(a)(1) and 13399.33(d) shall be deposited in the Waste Discharge Permit Fund. Accordingly, the \$5,265 liability including staff costs shall be paid by a cashiers or certified check made out to the "State Water Resources Control Board" referencing this Order number for deposit into the Waste Discharge Permit Fund. The payment must be submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the date the Acceptance and Waiver is executed by the Santa Ana Water Board Executive Officer.

### Please mail check to:

State Water Resources Control Board Re: Order No. R8-2021-0065 Division of Administrative Services, Accounting Branch 1001 I Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, 95814 P.O. Box 1888 Sacramento, CA 95812-1888

I hereby affirm that I am duly authorized to act on behalf of and to bind the Discharger in the making and giving of this Acceptance and Waiver.

A M	Finishing Incorporated		
By:			
	(Signed Name)	(Date)	
	(Printed or Typed Name)	(Title)	

IT IS S	SO ORDERED	PURSUANT	TO C	CALIFORNIA	WATER	CODE	SECTION	13323
AND G	OVERNMENT	CODE SECT	ION 1	11415.60.				

Date:		 
Ву:		
·	Jayne E. Joy, PE Executive Officer	

