



January 28, 2016

Renee Purdy  
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

**Subject: Ventura River Estuary Trash TMDL Annual Monitoring Report**

Dear Ms. Purdy,

Enclosed for your review and consideration is the Ventura River Estuary Trash TMDL Annual Monitoring Report for 2014-2015. This Annual Monitoring Report is being submitted per the requirements of the Ventura River Estuary Trash TMDL, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Resolution No. R4-2007-008.

This document is being submitted on behalf of the following responsible parties: City of Ventura, County of Ventura, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Ventura County Fairgrounds, California Department of Transportation, California Department of Parks and Recreation-Channel Coast District, and participants in the Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group, which is a subdivision of the Farm Bureau of Ventura County.

During the 2013-2014 monitoring year, the responsible parties developed a revised Trash Monitoring and Reporting Plan (TMRP–Addendum No. 1) to include a new MFAC/BMP Program that utilizes visual trash assessments and targeted clean ups of the parcels located within the Estuary, coupled with BMPs implemented in the Estuary and on the land areas adjacent to the Estuary. The Addendum 1 dated October 22, 2014 was submitted by our consultant Larry Walker & Associates on November 11, 2014 reflective of the input received from Regional Board staff during the June 17, 2014 meeting between the Responsible Parties and Regional Board staff. The responsible parties are still waiting for approval of the Addendum No. 1; however, Regional Board staff indicated the responsible parties should implement the revised TMRP program while awaiting approval. This Annual Monitoring Report summarizes the results of the

second year of the revised TMRP and MFAC/BMP Program (October 2014 through September 2015).

If you have any comments or questions regarding the attached document, please contact me via email ([Ewelina.Mutkowska@ventura.org](mailto:Ewelina.Mutkowska@ventura.org)) or by phone at (805) 645-1382.

Sincerely,

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Ventura County Public Works Agency

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JANUARY 2016

# Ventura River Estuary Trash TMDL 2014-2015 TMRP Annual Report

*prepared by*

VENTURA HILLSIDE CONSERVANCY

*submitted to*

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD,  
LOS ANGELES REGION

*submitted by*

CITY OF VENTURA, COUNTY OF VENTURA, VENTURA COUNTY  
WATERSHED PROTECTION DISTRICT, PARTICIPANTS IN THE VENTURA  
COUNTY AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATED LANDS GROUP, CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF STATE PARKS, AND CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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## Introduction

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This Annual Report is being submitted to fulfill the compliance requirements of the Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan – Los Angeles Region for the Ventura River Estuary Trash Total Maximum Daily Load (Trash TMDL), Resolution No. R4-2007-008 (effective March 6, 2008). The purpose of this report is to present the results of the monitoring efforts conducted in accordance with the Trash Monitoring Reporting Plan (TMRP) and Minimum Frequency Assessment Collection/Best Management Practice (MFAC/BMP) Program developed to meet the requirements of the Trash TMDL.

The initial TMRP, which was approved in 2009 by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board), was revised in 2014 to more effectively target the disbandment of homeless encampments in the Ventura River Estuary (Estuary), which have been determined to be the primary source of trash in the TMDL compliance area. An Addendum No. 1 to the TMRP was submitted on April 30, 2014 and a revised Addendum was submitted on October 22, 2014 addressing comments from Regional Board staff. The TMRP and MFAC/BMP Program are designed to prioritize the use of resources to implement actions effective in reducing trash in the Estuary, while still providing a monitoring approach that will allow for an evaluation of the effectiveness of the MFAC/BMP Program and support identification of any needed adjustments to the MFAC/BMP Program. The responsible parties are still waiting for approval of the Addendum No. 1; however, Regional Board staff indicated the responsible parties should implement the revised TMRP program while awaiting approval.

In the responsible parties' TMRP revision request letter, dated October 9, 2013, the responsible parties stated additional time was needed to develop the details of the monitoring approach, particularly the most effective locations to implement the patrols and visual assessments. As such, the responsible parties proposed implementing an interim MFAC/BMP Program to begin in October 2014 while the responsible parties developed the revised MFAC/BMP Program and Regional Board staff reviewed and approved the revised MFAC/BMP Program. An interim MFAC/BMP Program was necessary to support development of some aspects of the monitoring approach, facilitate transition to a more effective clean-up and trash prevention program, and avoid the necessity of continuing to count pieces of trash while the responsible parties developed the detailed TMRP. The interim MFAC/BMP Program implemented by the responsible parties was as follows:

1. Conducted clean-up of all Estuary parcels within the TMDL compliance area by mid-November 2013 as the initial quarterly event.
2. Began initial patrols to determine the route(s) that will be used for visual assessments and identified the preferred routes by January 2014.
3. Formalized Memorandum of Agreement with Ventura Hillside Conservancy to organize and manage volunteer cleanup events and conduct trash monitoring activities.
4. Conducted regularly scheduled clean-up events in the Estuary beginning in March 2014, which were additional to the required collection events for the MFAC/BMP Program.

In addition, the responsible parties conducted several initial assessments in May and June 2014 and an initial collection event in May 2014 to test the applicability of the revised MFAC/BMP Program. The revised MFAC/BMP Program began in July 2014.

This Annual Report includes the following information from first-year monitoring conducted under the revised TMRP and MFAC/BMP Program:

- Monitoring Summary
- MFAC Events/BMP Implementation Summary
- MFAC/BMP Program Evaluation and Revision Recommendations

The efforts to implement the Trash TMDL are being completed on behalf of the responsible parties to the Trash TMDL as listed in **Table 1**. The efforts to implement the Trash TMDL requirements for nonpoint sources are focused within the Estuary and the parcels adjacent to the Estuary. **Table 2** presents the names of the parcels within the Estuary, which were grouped into four MFAC areas identified for the MFAC/BMP Program implementation. **Figure 1** shows the locations of the parcels within the Estuary. During this monitoring period, the cleanup and monitoring efforts were expanded to include the whole TMDL compliance area including areas that are not part of the eight parcels listed in **Table 2** and shown in **Figure 1** including the area under the Main Street Bridge, the area under the US 101 Bridge, and the area under the railroad bridge between MFAC Area 1 and MFAC Area 2. In addition, County of Ventura installed full trash capture devices within County unincorporated areas draining to the MS4 within the Trash TMDL Staff Report-defined Estuary Sub-watershed area.

**Table 1. Responsible Parties Participating in the TMRP and MFAC/BMP Program**

Responsible Party	Nonpoint Source (NPS)	Point Source (PS)
City of Ventura (City)	X	X
Ventura County (County)	X	X
Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD)	X	X
California Department of Food & Agriculture (Ventura Fairgrounds)	X	X
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	X <sup>1</sup>	X
California Department of Parks and Recreation	X	--
Participants in the VCAILG <sup>2</sup>	X	--

1. Caltrans was not assigned a Load Allocation, yet it is participating in the MFAC/BMP Program to meet the Trash TMDL goals.

2. Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group.

**Table 2. Estuary Parcels by MFAC Area**

	MFAC Area 1	MFAC Area 2	MFAC Area 3	MFAC Area 4
Parcel Owner	State of California Department of Parks and Recreation	State of California Department of Parks and Recreation	Ventura Beach RV Resort, Inc.	Wood-Claeysens Foundation
	City of San Buenaventura	State of California Department of Parks and Recreation	Ventura Hillside Conservancy	Ventura County Watershed Protection District



Figure 1. MFAC/BMP Program Monitoring Area and Assessment/Patrol Route

## Monitoring Summary

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### ASSESSMENTS AND COLLECTION EVENTS

The responsible parties implemented the revised MFAC/BMP Program (as of July 2014) from the October 2014 to September 2015 reporting period. Upon implementation of the revised MFAC/BMP Program, the responsible parties conducted regular visual trash assessment surveys along a pre-defined route in the Estuary on a rotating schedule each month to ensure the entire Estuary, as defined in the Trash TMDL, was covered on a quarterly basis. The assessment route was designed to include historic in-Estuary TMRP monitoring locations in addition to other areas on all parcels of the Estuary to reflect the new MFAC/BMP Program. The assessment route is shown in **Figure 1**. The visual trash assessment surveys were conducted in accordance with the revised TMRP. However, the responsible parties conducted significantly more assessments than required in the revised TMRP, which is one assessment per quarter. This is due to this monitoring year being a transition year between the previous MFAC/BMP Program and the revised MFAC/BMP Program. Additional cleanups have been determined to be necessary to address legacy trash that has accumulated in the Estuary. After the legacy trash has been removed, the revised TMRP frequency will be implemented.

The responsible parties also conducted trash collection events utilizing information from the monitoring program and from the assessments to determine the locations to focus trash collection efforts.

In addition, the responsible parties conducted regularly scheduled patrols along the assessment route as shown in **Figure 1**. The patrols were conducted to eliminate existing homeless encampments and prevent the establishment of new homeless encampments and to assess trash levels, as homeless individuals and homeless encampments are the main nonpoint sources of trash for the Estuary. The responsible parties averaged up to two patrols per week in areas exhibiting large homeless populations and averaged up to two patrols per month in areas exhibiting small homeless populations. The responsible parties conducted 125 patrols from October 2014 to December 2015.

A summary of the assessment dates, the collection event dates, and the patrol dates is presented in **Table 3**. Assessment and Collection Worksheets contains the Trash Visual Survey Worksheets and the Collection Event Worksheets for all MFAC Events conducted during October 2014 to September 2015.

**Table 3. Assessment, Collection, and Patrol Dates for October 2014-September 2015**

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	
	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			
<b>Assessment Dates</b>													
MFAC Area 1		11/5/14	12/1/14			3/9/15						8/30/15	
MFAC Area 2	10/17/14	11/5/14		1/6/15	2/15/15	3/9/15	4/15/15	5/12/15			8/5/15	8/30/15	
MFAC Area 3	10/17/14		12/1/14	1/6/15	2/15/15		4/15/15	5/12/15	6/16/15	7/1/15		8/30/15	
MFAC Area 4	10/17/14						4/15/15	5/12/15	6/16/15			8/30/15	
<b>Collection Dates</b>													
MFAC Area 1		11/3/14	12/20/14				4/16/15					9/19/15	
		11/8/14											
MFAC Area 2	10/18/14	11/3/14	12/20/14	1/17/15	2/21/15	3/21/15	4/16/15	5/16/15			8/30/15	9/19/15	
		11/8/14		1/19/15									
		11/15/14											
MFAC Area 3	10/18/14				2/21/15	3/21/15		5/16/15	6/20/15	7/3/15		9/19/15	
MFAC Area 4	10/18/14					3/21/15		5/16/15	6/20/15			9/19/15	
<b>Patrol Dates</b>													
10/4/14	10/27/14	11/12/14	12/5/14	1/6/15	2/13/15	3/26/15	5/15/15	6/10/15	7/10/15	8/4/15	9/2/15	10/2/15	11/4/15
10/7/14	10/28/14	11/14/14	12/7/14	1/9/15	2/15/15	3/31/15	5/19/15	6/16/15	7/15/15	8/5/15	9/8/15	10/5/15	11/10/15
10/9/14	10/29/14	11/17/14	12/8/14	1/12/15	2/19/15	4/2/15	5/22/15	6/22/15	7/17/15	8/14/15	9/11/15	10/9/15	11/12/15
10/10/14	10/31/14	11/21/14	12/9/14	1/16/15	2/28/15	4/7/15	5/24/15	6/24/15	7/20/15	8/15/15	9/14/15	10/12/15	11/30/15
10/13/14	11/5/14	11/22/14	12/10/14	1/20/15	3/3/15	4/15/15	5/27/15	6/27/15	7/22/15	8/19/15	9/17/15	10/15/15	12/7/15
10/17/14	11/6/14	11/24/14	12/16/14	1/21/15	3/7/15	4/29/15	5/30/15	6/29/15	7/23/15	8/24/15	9/21/15	10/26/15	12/14/15
10/18/14	11/7/14	11/25/14	12/30/14	1/26/15	3/9/15	5/4/15	5/31/15	7/1/15	7/27/15	8/28/15	9/28/15	10/29/15	12/21/15
10/20/14	11/8/14	12/1/14	1/2/15	1/30/15	3/20/15	5/12/15	6/3/15	7/3/15	7/28/15	8/30/15	9/30/15	11/1/15	12/28/15
10/23/14	11/10/14	12/2/14	1/4/15	2/4/15	3/25/15	5/13/15	6/4/15	7/9/15	7/31/15	9/1/15	10/1/15	11/3/15	

## ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

The goal of the MFAC/BMP Program is to ensure the parcels in the Estuary are at a Category 1 level of trash based on the information collected during Estuary visual assessments.

The three Trash Assessment Categories of the MFAC/BMP Program are:

- Category 1 – Represents the SWAMP Category “Optimal”
- Category 2 – Represents the SWAMP Category “Suboptimal”
- Category 3 – Represents the SWAMP Category “Poor”

The definition of Category 1 is:

- “On first glance, no trash is visible. Little or no trash (<10 pieces) evident when streambed and stream banks are closely examined for litter and debris, for instance by looking under leaves.”

The definition of Category 2 is:

- “On first glance, low to medium levels of trash are evident (10 – 50 pieces). Stream, bank surfaces, and riparian zone contain some litter and debris. Possible evidence of site being used by people: scattered cans, bottles, food wrappers, blankets, clothing.”

The definition of Category 3 is:

- “On first glance, medium to high levels of trash (51-100 pieces) are visible at stream, bank surfaces, and immediate riparian zone contain substantial levels of litter and debris. Evidence of site being used frequently by people: many cans, bottles, and food wrappers, blankets, clothing.”

In addition, during Quarter 1 (October 2014 through December 2014) assessment was completed for additional “Category 4 – Represents the SWAMP Category “Very Poor”, which is outside the scope of TMRP Addendum 1 dated October 22, 2014.

There were multiple locations on the parcels within the four MFAC Areas that were assessed during the MFAC Events. These areas were located along the assessment route and in other areas of the Estuary identified through the patrols. Based on the trash conditions at the multiple assessed locations, the Ventura Hillside Conservancy determined the overall percentage of the MFAC Areas that were in each of the Trash Assessment Categories. **Table 4** presents a summary of the Trash Assessment Categories for MFAC Areas resulting from the assessments conducted during 2014-2015. Assessment and Collection Worksheets contains the Trash Visual Survey Worksheets with all assessment locations for all MFAC Events conducted during 2014-2015.

**Table 4. Percent of MFAC Area by Assessment Category**

Quarter 1				
Assessment Area	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Notes
MFAC Area 1	92%	6%	1%	Category 4: 1% Clean except 2 consistent camp areas at base of levee and in middle of Parcel 1
MFAC Area 2	80%	8%	4%	Category 4: 8%
MFAC Area 3	99%	0.5%*	0.5%*	Category 4: 0% * random trash under Main St. bridge
MFAC Area 4	99.5%	0.5%	-	Category 4: 0%
Quarter 2				
Assessment Area	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Notes
MFAC Area 1	93%	6%	1%	
MFAC Area 2	95%	3%	2%	
MFAC Area 3	98%	1%*	1%*	
MFAC Area 4	99.5%	0.5%	-	
Quarter 3				
Assessment Area	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Notes
MFAC Area 1	94%	5%	1%	
MFAC Area 2	96%	3%	2%	
MFAC Area 3	99%	1%*	0%*	
MFAC Area 4	100%	0%	-	
Quarter 4				
Assessment Area	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Notes
MFAC Area 1	96%	2%	2%	
MFAC Area 2	96%	2%	3%	
MFAC Area 3	98%	1%*	1%*	
MFAC Area 4	99%	1%	-	

## **MFAC Events/BMP Implementation Summary**

To ensure the parcels are all within Category 1, the MFAC/BMP Program is continuously evaluated and modified using the following adaptive management approach:

1. Estuary parcels in Category 1 for the monitoring event conducted prior to a scheduled MFAC Event are noted and any trash observed is collected during the visual survey. If no potential high trash generating areas are identified through the patrol of the parcel, the MFAC Event is not conducted. If potential high trash generating areas are identified by the patrols, then the MFAC Event focusing on those areas of the parcel that require clean-up.
2. Monitoring sites in Category 2 are evaluated to determine if additional BMPs are needed to reduce the accumulation of trash between monitoring events (i.e., visual surveys). The

types of trash, likely sources, and observed trends in trash amounts are considered in determining if modifications to the MFAC/BMP Program are necessary to move these sites to Category 1.

3. Monitoring sites in Category 3 for two (2) consecutive quarterly MFAC Events are targeted for more frequent patrols and/or more frequent clean-ups depending on the identified primary source of trash until the site reaches Category 1 for two (2) consecutive visual surveys.

This following section provides the results of the collection events and the results of the BMPs implemented related to reducing trash within the Estuary and from adjacent land areas.

### **MFAC COLLECTION EVENTS AND ADDITIONAL CLEAN-UP EVENTS**

One facet of the MFAC/BMP Program is to clean up any trash found through the assessments. This is done to ensure zero pieces of trash are found after the assessment. **Table 5** presents the trash collected during the collection events during 2014-2015. Assessment and Collection Worksheets contains the Collection Event Worksheets for all MFAC Events conducted during 2014-2015 (**Appendix 1**). Another facet of the MFAC/BMP Program is to conduct additional clean-ups in the Estuary if it is found that trash is accumulating in deleterious amounts between assessments. The Ventura Hillside Conservancy conducted 15 clean-ups in the Estuary to address high trash accumulation areas. Parcels 3 and 4 were known to have legacy trash issues, and therefore were targeted for additional clean-ups from the beginning of the 2014-2015 monitoring year. Clean-up provided in **Appendix 2** include photos of the types of trash removed during collection events and additional clean-up events.

**Table 5. Summary of Trash Collected during the MFAC Collection and Additional Clean-up Events**

Date	MFAC Area 1	MFAC Area 2	MFAC Area 3	MFAC Area 4
10/18/14		38 bags/950lbs	5 bags/125lbs	7 bags/175lbs
11/3/14		2 bags/50lbs		
11/8/14	90 bags/1/3 <sup>rd</sup> 40cy dumpster	160/2/3 <sup>rd</sup> 40cy dumpster		
11/15/14		120 bags/3000lbs		
12/20/14	20 bags/~500lbs	60 bags/1500lbs		
1/17/15		30 bags/750lbs		
1/19/15		100 bags/2500lbs		
2/21/15		12 bags/300	8 bags/200lbs	
3/21/15		24 bags/600lbs	4 bags/100lbs	5 bags/150lbs
4/16/15	60 bags/~1300lbs	60 bags/1500lbs		
5/16/15		5 bags/125lbs	6 bags/150lbs	4 bags/100lbs
6/20/15			6 bags/150lbs	8 bags/200lbs
7/3/15				2 bags/50lbs
8/15/15			60 bags/1500lbs	
9/19/15			22 bags/550lbs	

lbs=pounds (1 bag roughly equal to 25 lbs)

## **BMP IMPLEMENTATION**

This section describes the BMPs implemented by the responsible parties within the Estuary and on land areas adjacent to the Estuary.

### **City of Ventura Litter Management Program BMPs**

- Street Sweeping
  - Residential Streets swept at least once a month.
  - Commercial Streets swept two to four times per month.
  - Information encouraging residents/businesses to move parked cars for sweeping.
- Catch Basin Inlet-Cleaning and Placarding
  - City-maintained catch basin inlets are inspected and cleaned of trash and debris one to three times per year depending on the priority categorization of the catch basin.
  - Information encouraging residents/businesses to report trash filled inlets.
  - “Don’t Dump – Drains to Oceans – Only Rain Down the Drain” stencils or placards placed on storm drain inlets.

- Trash Collection in Public Areas
  - Trash and recycling containers are installed at all transit shelters and maintained at least once per week to remove litter and to verify that containers are functioning properly.
  - Special event permit language requires additional trash and recycling containers to be set out during street fairs and art walks, along with litter clean-up following events.
  - Collection of trash from 18 public trash receptacles located within the watershed two or three times per week depending on the locations of the receptacles.
- Trash Collection and Bulky Item Pickup
  - Residents and businesses are provided with trash and recycling collection services.
  - Residential customers are allowed to set out two “bulky items” for free collection once per year as part of their regular trash collection service.
- Inspection, Planning and Enforcement Support
  - The City identifies and requires corrective measures for litter or litter sources found during commercial, industrial, and construction site inspections.
  - New development and redevelopment projects are required to install trash enclosures with doors and covers to reduce litter.
  - The Ventura Police Department conducts periodic “enforcement sweeps” through the portion of the Estuary that is adjacent to the City limits.
  - Litter laws that prohibit the accumulation of trash on private property are enforced by the City Code Enforcement and County Environmental Health Department. Private properties are required to remove all trash from their premises at least once every seven days.
- Outreach
  - Litter prevention outreach is included in classroom presentations and stormwater pollution prevention advertisements/announcements.
  - Several half-hour TV programs produced by the City encourage residents to prevent litter.
- Partners in Progress
  - Citywide volunteer program with a mission to preserve Ventura’s natural environment by minimizing litter in water bodies and coastal areas.
- City-Initiated Clean-Up Events
  - The City will initiate clean-up events, as necessary, in response to observed elevated trash levels.
- City-Sponsored Clean-Up Events

- The City sponsors various clean-up events throughout the City that may include one or more of the following events during any given year: Martin Luther King Day; Earth Day Beach Clean-Up; Coastal Clean-Up Day; Backyard Collective; and Ventura Charter School Trash-a-thon.
- The City sponsored Westside Clean-Up (June 7, 2014) provided free disposal of solid waste from any west side (adjacent to the Ventura River) Ventura residents. Residents brought solid waste to a centralized location where it was sorted for recycling or disposal.
- An additional clean-up event conducted by the City in the Estuary occurred on July 28, 2014 (underneath the rail road bridge).
- Work Plan to Eliminate Homeless Encampments (Safe and Clean Program)
  - The Ventura City Council initiated the development of a work plan in September 2012 to eliminate encampments in the Estuary and to implement an on-going enforcement program. The work plan includes organizing stakeholder partners, conducting civil engagement, developing an action plan and corresponding follow-up steps, posting camps, conducting camp removal, and launching post-camp removal strategies.

### **County of Ventura and VCWPD Litter Management Program BMPs**

- Installation of Full Capture Catch Basin Trash Excluders – Installation of certified Stormtek Full Capture Catch Basin Trash Excluder Devices (CPS Devices) to achieve 100% reduction of trash from Baseline WLA, for all Ventura County Unincorporated areas draining to the County’s MS4 within the Ventura River Estuary subwatershed. Installation completed in October 2014. Certification Report was provided in the 2013-2014 Annual Report (Appendix 1).
- Development and Implementation of Connector Pipe Screen Trash Excluders Operation and Maintenance Plan and Manual – Developed an Operations and Maintenance Plan and Manual including schedule for regular maintenance and reporting of debris/trash removed for the 15 installed CPS devices. Training provided to maintenance staff in both the classroom and field to ensure proper cleanout and reporting methods and procedures.
- Catch Basin Cleaning – Catch basins are inspected at least once per year and cleaned when filled to 25% or more of the catch basin’s capacity. During storm season, all drainage facilities are inspected and cleaned as necessary.
- Catch Basin Labeling – All County catch basins are labeled with “Don’t Pollute, Flows to Waterways.”
- Open Channel Storm Drain Maintenance – All VCWPD owned and maintained channels are cleared, inspected, and cleaned as required at least once per year.
- Trash and Sediment Channel Clean Out – In December 2014, VCWPD cleaned out 0.34 tons of trash from the lower Ventura River area and removed 24 cubic yards of sediment from the side drains within the Ventura River Estuary subwatershed.

- Trash Management at Public Events – A plan for the proper management of trash and litter is required when obtaining a permit for staging public events. This plan requires adequate facilities for trash collection and disposal.
- Trash Collection in Public Areas – Trash receptacles have been placed within high trash generation areas. These devices are cleaned and maintained regularly to prevent trash overflow.
- Ventura County Ordinance No. 4142 – County ordinance (Section 6923 “Litter” and Section 6955 “Watercourse Protection”) prohibit the disposal and accumulation of trash in public areas, private driveways, parking areas, streets, alleys, sidewalks, or components of the storm drain or any watercourse.
- Inspections – The County conducts commercial, industrial, and construction facility/site inspections to ensure proper pollution prevention BMPs are being applied and to educate employees on the importance of pollution prevention.
- Anti-Littering Signage – The County has installed anti-dumping and anti-littering signage at key locations including high trash generating areas, as well as at known illegal dumping locations.
- Foster Park Trash Management – The County manages Foster Park, which is situated along the Ventura River upstream of the Estuary, to ensure that trash originating from the park does not enter the river and deposit in the Estuary. Management actions include:
  - Park host and rangers removing trash and enforcing litter ordinance
  - Increased enforcement and collection during high trash generating events (holidays)
  - Covered trash containers and frequent trash pick-up and removal
  - Continued evaluation of trash management practices to determine whether current practices are sufficient
  - Continued evaluation of existing litter-related signage to determine whether current signage is adequate
- Countywide Outreach – The County and VCWPD continue to participate in the Countywide Outreach Program retaining the services of The Agency, a professional advertisement group that designs and conducts countywide, bilingual outreach programs advocating proper trash disposal. The most recent addition to the outreach program is trash prevention and protection of storm water quality education using Facebook®, Twitter® and other forms of social media.
- Targeted Outreach – The County conducts targeted outreach to schools within the area covered by the Trash TMDL to educate students, staff, and faculty on the importance of pollution prevention specifically regarding trash.

### **California Department of Food and Agriculture BMPs**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture implements trash control BMPs at the Ventura County Fairgrounds on a schedule that varies depending on the time of the year. When

the Ventura County Fair is being held at the Fairgrounds, the following BMPs are implemented daily and on an as needed basis:

- Litter pickup in the main parking lot, the beach parking lot, and the overflow parking lot
- Litter pickup in the areas surrounding the event locations
- Emptying of trash cans
- Emptying of recycle bins
- Diversion of storm drains to the sanitary sewer during the Fair (July – August)

When the Ventura County Fair is not in progress at the Fairgrounds, the above BMPs are still implemented, but on a daily, weekly, and/or as needed basis depending on the specific BMP.

### **Caltrans Litter Management Program BMPs**

- Ventura River Estuary – State Highway 33, between Post Mile 0.0 and 5.55, has litter removed approximately twice per month and is mechanically swept approximately once per month, as needed. This highway is also open to 'Adopt-A-Highway' groups and there are groups who currently have adoptions and perform litter removal twice per month.

### Additional Trash Management Plans/BMPs in place for Caltrans:

- Caltrans currently uses a variety of methods to educate the public about the importance of managing stormwater. These are intended to change public behavior regarding the release of potential pollutants (e.g., litter, spilled loads, and oil leaks).
  - The outreach program consists of a variety of written materials, monthly and quarterly bulletins, websites, workshops, and Caltrans's Adopt-a-Highway Program, as described below.
- Caltrans installs “No Dumping” and “Litter Fine” signs at selected locations on highways and freeways. Stenciled warnings prohibiting discharges to drain inlets at state-owned park-and-ride lots, rest areas, vista points, and other areas with pedestrian traffic are also used to increase public awareness.
- Litter and debris removal activities include sweeping of shoulders, paved medians, etc., and litter removal along the roadsides.
- Caltrans uses venues such as public schools, community-sponsored clean-up events, Bring Your Child to Work Day, and Earth Day to educate the public about the importance of excluding pollutants from stormwater.
- Caltrans's Adopt-A-Highway program is an opportunity for volunteers to make a tangible contribution to community and roadside aesthetics, and acts as a way to inform the public about the stormwater problems related to illegal dumping of litter and debris. As part of this program, signs are posted along roadways acknowledging groups that have volunteered to plant wildflowers, trees and/or shrubs, collect litter, or remove graffiti from structures.

- In the metropolitan portions of Los Angeles, San Diego, Orange, and Ventura Counties, storm drain inlets are inspected and cleaned annually prior to the rainy season. Those storm drain inlets that contain 12 inches or more of accumulated material will be cleaned.
- Litter and debris are periodically collected from Caltrans's rights-of-way and removed from drainage grates, trash racks, and ditch lines. Maintenance supervisors inspect highways in their assigned sections for the accumulation of litter. Signs may be installed where litter accumulation is a concern.
- "Don't Trash California" is a statewide Caltrans education and outreach trash reduction public program that has been conducted since 2005. The program uses public service announcements through various media such as television and radio broadcasts, billboards, newspapers, etc, and focuses on behavior changes. The program's surveys have shown changes in public perception on littering and results in reduced litter on the roadways.

In addition to local anti-litter ordinances, Caltrans relies on Sections 23112, 23113, 23114, and 23115 of the Vehicle Code as legal authority to prevent spills, dumping or disposal of materials on the highways and freeways under its jurisdiction, as enforced by the California Highway Patrol.

- Section 23112 states:

No person shall throw or deposit, nor shall the registered owner or the driver, if such owner is not then present in the vehicle, aid or abet in the throwing or depositing upon any highway any bottle, can, garbage, glass, nail, offal, paper, wire, any substance likely to injure or damage traffic using the highway, or any noisome, nauseous, or offensive matter of any kind.

No person shall place, deposit, or dump, or cause to be placed, deposited, or dumped, any rocks, refuse, garbage, or dirt in or upon any highway, including any portion of the right-of-way thereof, without the consent of the state or local agency having jurisdiction over the highway.

- Section 23113 states:

Any person who drops, dumps, deposits, places or throws, or causes or permits to be dropped, dumped, deposited, placed or thrown, upon any highway or street any material described in Section 23112 or in subdivision (d) of Section 23114 shall immediately remove the material or cause the material to be removed.

If the person fails to comply with subdivision (a), the governmental agency responsible for the maintenance of the street or highway on which the material has been deposited may remove the material and collect, by civil action, if necessary, the actual cost of the removal operation in addition to any other damages authorized by law from the person made responsible under subdivision (a).

- Section 23114 states (in pertinent part):

No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any highway unless the vehicle is so constructed, covered, or loaded as to prevent any of its contents or load other than

clear water or feathers from live birds from dropping, sifting, leaking, blowing, spilling, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle.

- Section 23115 of the Vehicle Code states (in pertinent part):

No vehicle loaded with garbage, swill, cans, bottles, waste papers, ashes, refuse, trash, or rubbish, or any other noisome, nauseous, or offensive matter, or anything being transported to a dump site for disposal shall be driven or moved upon any highway unless the load is totally covered in a manner which will prevent the load or any part of the load from spilling or falling from the vehicle.

## **California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) BMPs**

- Designated Public Use Areas
  - Trash containers are installed at all visitor activity areas. Containers are kept in good working order and are emptied as needed.
  - State Parks keeps one mixed use 40 yard roll-off container onsite to collect and dispose of approximately 20,000 lbs. of trash annually.
  - Park personnel and camp hosts routinely collect loose trash within developed park areas as a part of their daily duties. In addition, park personnel conduct weekly sweeps to identify, and remove trash accumulation in vegetated areas along the established trail system east of the campground.
- Undeveloped Areas
  - Litter and debris is periodically collected from park backcountry lands, water courses, and roadways. Maintenance supervisors inspect park roads in their assigned sections for the accumulation of litter.
  - Signs may be installed where litter concentration is repetitive and at known illegal dumping locations.
  - Catch basins are inspected and cleaned at least once per year. During storm season, drainage facilities are inspected before significant storm events.
- Volunteer Events and Public Outreach
  - State Parks sponsors various Earth Day and Coastal Cleanup events throughout the district and participates in special cleanup events to address observed elevated trash levels.
  - Routine and random river bottom patrols are conducted by law enforcement at a minimum of once per week to discourage establishment of illegal camp sites.
  - Camper outreach and education is implemented year-round in an effort to limit trash dispersal by wind and wildlife.
- Construction Projects and Special Events
  - All special events permits issued on State Park property require a plan for the proper management of trash. This plan requires adequate facilities and patrols for trash collection and disposal.

- All contractors that work on State property are required to implement BMPs to keep job site clean and litter free.

### **VCAILG Litter Management Program BMPs**

- Conditional Waiver – The *Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands within the Los Angeles Region* (“Conditional Waiver”, Order No. R4-2010-0186) requires VCAILG to provide educational classes focused on improving water quality, including identifying trash as an impairment of water quality.
- VCAILG members are required to document the trash control BMPs for agricultural areas that they employ. In a BMP survey completed in 2015, VCAILG members in the Ventura River watershed reported a 99% adoption rate for trash control BMPs, an 18% increase since 2010. In its role, VCAILG will continue to assist members with implementation of additional BMPs for trash control, as necessary, following the adaptive process identified in the group’s Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP).
- Outreach – During VCAILG outreach activities, the Trash TMDL is highlighted and a connection made for the need to control trash in order to meet the requirements of the Trash TMDL. VCAILG’s Management Practice Survey, used to determine the degree of implementation of BMPs and to provide targeted outreach, includes questions regarding trash control practices. As noted, this approach has been very effective as VCAILG members in the area have reported a very high adoption rate for trash BMPs.
- Ventura River Trash TMDL Fee – VCAILG members are assessed a fee, based on acreage farmed, to further reinforce through a fiscal measure that trash in the watershed needs addressing.
- Plastics Recycling – Community Recycling & Resource Recovery, Inc. and local farmers are collaborating to recycle agricultural plastic used to cover strawberry beds and used in some vegetable fields during the growing season. Community Recycling & Resource Recovery, Inc. estimates that it collects approximately 70 percent of the agricultural plastic used in Ventura County. Collection and recycling of plastic is an effective method for reducing plastic trash from entering the Ventura River and the Estuary.
- Taylor Ranch (Wood-Claeyssens Foundation), a VCAILG member with property beginning immediately upstream of the Ventura River Main Street bridge, is an active participant in the Trash TMDL program by regularly cleaning and patrolling their property. Through the efforts of the Wood-Claeyssens Foundation, it is estimated that approximately 55 tons of trash were removed from the Taylor Ranch Ventura River bottom from transient/homeless camps through March 2012. Since that time, 5 to 10 more tons have been collected – a rough estimate since the smaller batches are not always weighed and simply disposed of in local dumpsters. Taylor Ranch has been successful in maintaining the cleanliness of the property and protecting water quality by employing the following:
  - Regular monitoring and patrolling of the area adjacent to the river at approximately 3 week intervals. This has been established as the optimum frequency to intercept homeless camps and prevent the cycle of trash accumulation.

- As camps are discovered, clean-up is initiated as soon as possible in order to convey the message that the area is being actively monitored.
- Law enforcement assistance is requested, as needed. Both the Ventura Police Department and the Ventura County Sheriff's Department have responded in the past. In the future, Rangers from the California State Parks systems will also be helping with this effort.

## **MFAC/BMP Program Evaluation and Revision Recommendations**

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The TMRP states the responsible parties will: "Evaluate effectiveness of BMPs and recommended changes to TMRP Addendum No. 1 and MFAC/BMP Program, as necessary." Under the previous MFAC/BMP Program and TMRP, the following steps were used to assess MFAC/ BMP Program effectiveness:

1. A review of BMP implementation, including identification of BMPs, location of BMPs, and time frame (*e.g.*, when an activity was implemented or installed); and
2. A comparison of monitoring results between monitoring locations and between events before and after BMP implementation.
3. Comprehensive review and assessment of MFAC/BMP Program

Given the broad nature of most of the BMPs implemented (*e.g.*, education programs, ordinances, street sweeping), the highly variable amounts of trash collected, and the relatively short time frame that full capture devices were installed, the responsible parties could not identify trends in the monitoring data that could be used to determine effectiveness of individual BMPs implemented. Based on the results of the previous evaluation and the structure of the new MFAC/BMP Program, the responsible parties utilized an approach based on the visual assessments.

The responsible parties utilized parcel rankings by Category as a means to assess effectiveness of the MFAC/BMP Program. That is, if there was an overall trend of parcels starting out and remaining in Category 1, or parcels moving from Category 2 or Category 3 to Category 1, then no modifications to the MFAC/BMP Program are needed. Conversely, if there was an overall trend of parcels moving from Category 1 to Category 2 or Category 3 over the course of the implementation year, then modifications to the MFAC/BMP Program would be considered.

2013-14 was the first year of the revised TMRP and modified MFAC/BMP Program implementation. A large amount of legacy trash existed in the Ventura River Estuary and the bulk of the effort (including many additional clean-up events) during this monitoring year has gone towards cleaning up the legacy trash. While most of the parcels have been cleaned and legacy trash removed, the State Parks Parcel (MFAC Area 2) still contains legacy trash. This is due to a population of homeless individuals that are not receptive to relocating from the area, even after multiple citations from local law enforcement. Once the legacy trash is removed, the revised TMRP and MFAC/BMP Program will begin to be implemented at the frequency outlined in the TMRP (without the additional clean-ups).

As a result, the responsible parties are not conducting an assessment of the program or proposing any revisions to the MFAC/BMP Program during this annual report. The focus on removing

remaining legacy trash in the Estuary during the monitoring year does not allow for development of an assessment of the baseline MFAC/BMP Program this year. Once the legacy trash is removed and the MFAC/BMP Program has been implemented without the legacy trash, the responsible parties will have a clearer understanding of the effectiveness of the baseline MFAC/BMP Program. However, through the initial implementation of the revised MFAC/BMP Program, it is clear that the revised MFAC/BMP Program is a better use of resources and much more effective at removing trash from the Estuary compared to the previous MFAC/BMP Program. The responsible parties will provide any revisions that were made or will be made to the MFAC/BMP Program, in the third-year Annual Report, which will be submitted in January 2017.