

'Attachment 9':
Comments on the Monitoring and Reporting Program

Receiving Waters
and MS4 Discharge Monitoring
and Reporting Program
No. R9-2010-0016

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Section 303(d) listed impaired waters.

6.7. ~~Intermittent and Ephemeral Stream Perennial Conversion Study~~

The Copermittees must develop and submit for approval to the San Diego Water Board by April 01, 2013, a special study workplan to investigate the extent of any impacts to beneficial uses from the conversion of historically ephemeral or intermittent receiving waters to perennially flowing waters due to the continued discharge of currently exempted non-storm water from the MS4 and/or discharges into MS4s covered under a separate NPDES permit into receiving waters. The goal of the study is to assess if any impacts to beneficial uses, including, but not limited to, WILD, WARM, COLD or RARE, have occurred due to continuous discharge of currently exempted non-storm water discharges, and if the discharges should no longer be exempt. The Copermittees must implement the special study unless otherwise directed in writing by the San Diego Water Board.

The Intermittent and Ephemeral Stream Perennial Conversion Special Study must include the following elements:

- a. Locations: The Copermittees must investigate their MS4 and adjacent downstream receiving waters to identify portions that have historically been ephemeral or intermittent but currently exhibit perennial flow due to exempted non-storm water discharges. Investigation must include historic habitat assessments, USGS gauging information, and historic aerial photography. Sampling must occur at a minimum of 2 identified perennially converted locations. Should the Copermittees be unable to locate any converted waters, a full description of the investigation must be documented in the annual report.
- b. Parameters/Methods: The Copermittees must conduct water quality monitoring of the non-storm water discharge in accordance with Section C of this Order. In addition, the Copermittees must select a minimum of 2 downstream sampling points within the receiving waters subject the discharge and conduct the following:
 - (1) Grab samples must be taken and analyzed for indicator bacteria, nutrients (Nitrite, Nitrate, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, Ammonia and Total Phosphorous), turbidity (NTU), temperature, dissolved oxygen, total hardness, pH and 303(d) listed pollutants for all receiving waters at or downstream of the sampling site. The Copermittees must measure or estimate flow

Comment [CP27]: Request remove
See discussion in Attachment 4 to the
Comment Letter

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2. Monitoring Annual Report: The Principal Copermittee must submit the Receiving Waters and MS4 Discharge Monitoring Annual Report to the San Diego Water Board on October 1 of each year, beginning on **October 1, 2013**. Receiving Waters and MS4 Discharge Monitoring Annual Reports must cover the monitoring activities and results from the previous fiscal year, and must meet the following requirements:

Comment [CP28]: See discussion in Attachment 4 to the Comment Letter

- a. Annual monitoring reports must include the data/results, methods of evaluating the data, graphical summaries of the data, and an explanation/discussion of the data for each monitoring program component.
- b. Annual monitoring reports must include a watershed-based analysis of the findings of each monitoring program component (mass loading, bioassessment, etc...). Each watershed-based analysis must include:
 - (1) Identification and prioritization of water quality problems within each watershed.
 - (2) Identification and description of the nature and magnitude of potential sources of the water quality problems within each watershed.
 - (3) Evaluation and presentation of pollutant load and concentration increases or decreases at each mass loading station over time.
 - (4) Evaluation of pollutant loads and concentrations measured at mass loading stations with respect to land use, population, sources, and other characteristics of watersheds using tools such as multiple linear regression, factor analysis, and cluster analysis.
 - (5) Identification of links between source activities/conditions and observed receiving water impacts.
 - (6) Identification of recommended future monitoring to identify and address sources of water quality problems.
 - (7) Results and discussion of any TIE conducted, together with actions that will be implemented to reduce the discharge of pollutants in storm water MS4 discharges, eliminate any discharge of pollutants in non-storm water MS4 discharges, and abate the sources causing the toxicity.
- c. Annual monitoring reports must include an analysis and interpretation of the data for each watershed with respect to the management questions listed in section I.B of this Receiving Waters Monitoring and Reporting Program.

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- d. Annual monitoring reports must include a discussion describing how each of the goals listed in section I.A of this MRP is addressed by the Copermittees' monitoring program for the monitoring year covered by the report.
- e. Annual The 4th year monitoring reports must include identification and analysis of any long-term trends in the Copermittees' MS4 storm water discharges or receiving water quality. Appropriate statistical methods shall be used to evaluate the water quality data. Trend analysis must use nonparametric approaches, such as the Mann-Kendall test, including exogenous variables in a multiple regression model, and/or using a seasonal nonparametric trend model, where applicable.
- f. Annual monitoring reports must provide an estimation of total pollutant loads (wet weather loads plus dry weather loads) due to MS4 Discharge for each of the hydrologic subareas, including for 303(d) pollutants specified in Table 2 of the Order.
- g. Annual monitoring reports must, for each monitoring program component listed above, include an assessment of compliance with applicable water quality standards.
- h. Annual monitoring reports must describe monitoring station locations by latitude and longitude coordinates, frequency of sampling, quality assurance/quality control procedures, and sampling and analysis protocols.
- i. Annual monitoring reports must use a standard report format and include the following elements:
 - (1) A stand alone comprehensive executive summary addressing all sections of the monitoring report;
 - (2) Comprehensive interpretations and conclusions; and
 - (3) Recommendations for future actions.
- j. All monitoring reports submitted to the Principal Copermittee or the San Diego Water Board must contain the certified perjury statement described in Attachment B of this Order No. R9-2010-0016.
- k. Annual monitoring reports must be reviewed prior to submittal to the San Diego Water Board by a committee of the Copermittees (consisting of no less than three different Copermittee members).

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Comment [CP29]: See discussion in Attachment 4 to the Comment Letter

Comment [CP30]: See discussion in Attachment 4 to the Comment Letter

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- I. Annual monitoring reports must be submitted in both electronic and paper formats. Electronic formats must be CEDEN or SWAMP-uploadable.¹⁴¹¹

3. Monitoring programs and reports must comply with section II.F of Receiving Waters and MS4 Discharge Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R9-2010-0016 and Attachment B of this Order.

4. Following completion of an annual cycle of monitoring in October, the Copermittees must make the monitoring data and results available to the San Diego Water Board at the San Diego Water Board's request.

B. Interim Reporting Requirements

Prior to July 1, 2012 For the ~~October 2010 to October 2012~~ monitoring period, the Principal Copermittee must submit the Receiving Waters Monitoring Annual Report as required under Order No. 2004-0001. The Receiving Waters Monitoring Annual Report must address the monitoring conducted to comply with the requirements of Order No. 2004-0001.

Comment [CP31]: The existing monitoring program is reported on a fiscal year basis. Need to align the monitoring report with the fiscal year and the JRMP annual report.

Also consistent with the change requested in III.A.2.

C. Reporting Dates

Table 5. Table of Required MRP Reporting Dates and Frequencies.

Submittal	Section	Completion Date	Frequency
Description of Proposed Monitoring Program	III.A.1	June 1, 2012	One Time
Receiving Waters and MS4 Discharge Monitoring Annual Reports, Including Proposed Updates to the Monitoring Program	III.A.2	Starting October 1, 2013	Annual
Copermittees submit Interim Monitoring Program Annual Report	III.B	As required under Order No. 2004-001	One Time
Draft Wet Weather MS4 Discharge Monitoring Program	II.B	July 01, 2012	One Time
Draft High Priority Inland Aquatic Habitat Monitoring	II.D	April 01, 2012	One Time
Draft Sediment Toxicity Special Study	II.E.2	April 01, 2012	One Time
Draft Trash and Litter Impairment Special Study	II.E.3	September 01, 2012	One Time

Comment [CP32]: See discussion in Attachment 4 to the Comment Letter related to the special studies changes.

^{11 14} For updates to the SWAMP templates and formats, see <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp>.

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Submittal	Section	Completion Date	Frequency
Draft Agricultural, Federal and Tribal Input Study	II.E.4	September 01, 2012	One Time
Draft MS4 and Receiving Water Maintenance Study	II.E.5	April 01, 2012	One Time
Draft Intermittent and Ephemeral Stream Perennial Conversion Study	II.E.6	April 01, 2013	One Time

Attachment 10: Fact Sheet Comments

Introduction

These comments on the Fact Sheet should be read in conjunction with the other white papers submitted as part of the comments on the Tentative Order.

Fact Sheet Text, Page 7:

"The First and Second Term Permits, Order Nos. 90-46 and 98-02, provided maximum flexibility. San Diego Water Board Order No. 90-46 contained the "essentials" of the 1990 regulations, but the requirements were written in very broad, generic terms. This was done in order to provide the maximum amount of flexibility to the Copermittees in implementing the new requirements (flexibility was, in fact, the stated reason for issuing the permit in advance of the final regulations). From staff's perspective however, "flexibility" in the form of lack of specificity, combined with the Copermittees' *lack of funding and political will*, also provided the Copermittees with ample reasons to take few substantive steps towards achieving water quality standards. The situation was exacerbated by the San Diego Water Board's own lack of storm water resources for oversight."

Problem with Text:

The statement regarding a 'lack of funding and political will' is unsupported and inflammatory, and provides no benefit in a public document.

Suggestion:

Delete this statement.

Fact Sheet Text, Page 12 and 13:

"It is very difficult to ascertain the true cost of implementation of the Copermittees' management programs because of inconsistencies in reporting by the Copermittees. Reported costs of compliance for the same program element can vary widely from city to city, often by a very wide margin that is not easily explained.⁶ Despite these problems, efforts have been made to identify management program costs, which can be helpful in understanding the costs of program implementation....

A study on Phase I MS4 program cost was also conducted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board), where program costs reported in the municipalities' annual reports were assessed. The Los Angeles Water Board estimated that average per household cost to implement the MS4 program in Los Angeles County was \$12.50. ⁸ Since the Los Angeles County permit is very similar to Order No. R9-2004-001, this estimate is also useful in assessing general program costs in Riverside County.

The State Water Board also commissioned a study by the California State University, Sacramento to assess costs of the Phase I MS4 program. This study includes an assessment of costs incurred by Phase I MS4s throughout the State to implement their programs. Annual cost per household in the study ranged from \$18-46, with the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area (FCMA) representing the lower end of the range, and the City of Encinitas (in San Diego County) representing the upper end of the range.⁹ Included in the study is the City of Corona, which is in Riverside County

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under the jurisdiction of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (Santa Ana Water Board).

The annual cost per household for the City of Corona's program was estimated to be \$32, which should be similar to the costs to implement the MS4 programs in the Riverside County portion of the San Diego Region. In contrast, the cost of the City of Encinitas' program, with an annual cost per household estimated to be \$46, may represent the upper range of Riverside County MS4 programs. However, the City of Encinitas's program cost can be considered as the high end of the spectrum for management program costs because the City has a consent decree with environmental groups regarding its program, and City of Encinitas has received recognition for implementing a superior program.

The annual costs for the City of Corona and City of Encinitas were estimated from data collected in 2003-2004. Between 2003 and 2008, the number of households in both cities has increased by approximately 3 percent and 7 percent, respectively.¹⁰ In contrast, between 2003 and 2008 the number of households in the City of Temecula has increased from 23,199 to 31,135 (34 percent)¹¹ and the City of Murrieta has increased from 22,020 to 32,664 (48 percent).¹² This significant increase in number of households indicates a significant increase in the tax base (sales and property tax) available to fund the implementation of the MS4 programs for the City of Temecula and City of Murrieta, as well as for the County of Riverside and recently incorporated cities."

Problem with Text:

The text notes that it is difficult to compare costs between Cities for stormwater program implementation since the cost accounting varies widely, and the specific issues also vary widely. Despite this fact, the fact sheet goes on to make just such comparisons and further implies that the Santa Margarita Region Cities are underfunding their programs by comparison. For example, the City of Encinitas is cited as an example of a city that is spending on the upper end for a stormwater program. The City of Encinitas varies significantly from the cities in the Santa Margarita area in that it must address a major outfall (Cottonwood Creek) at its primary beach (Moonlight Beach). Cottonwood Creek has perennial dry weather flow from urban sources and exceeds REC-1 and REC-2 water quality standards. Since Cottonwood Creek discharges at Moonlight Beach, frequent sanitary standard exceedences were noted on a year-round basis. The City of Encinitas constructed a dry weather flow treatment plant near Moonlight Beach to treat Cottonwood Creek to correct this problem. No such compliance problems exist for the Copermittees. The comparisons in this part of the fact sheet are not valid.

In addition, the Fact Sheet leaves the inaccurate impression that the Copermittees have ample financial resources to fund MS4 programs by completely ignoring the effects of the current national recession. (See Attachment 2). As pointed out in Attachment 2 (Economic Assessment), declines in home values and tax receipts have crippled the ability of the Copermittees to finance such programs. The Fact Sheet selectively examines the period 2003-2008, when there was significant growth, but ignores the period 2008-2010, when that growth ended and the economy declined precipitously, affecting property and sale tax receipts as well as other sources of revenue.

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Suggestion:

Delete the text on Page 13 and 14 of the Fact Sheet.

Fact Sheet Text Page 15:

"The vast majority of costs that will be incurred as a result of implementing Order No. R9-2010-0016 is not new. Storm water management programs have been in place in Riverside County for over 15 years. As shown in the discussion above, the amount spent for MS4 Permit compliance per household in the municipalities in the Riverside County portion of the San Diego Region is already low compared to other regions. Any increase in cost to the Copermittees, however, is still expected to be incremental in nature. Since Order No. R9-2010-0016 "fine tunes" the requirements of Order No. R9-2004-001, these cost increases are expected to be modest.

Where there may be additional elements that will incur new costs, the Riverside County Copermittees are given the time to develop the budgets and funding mechanisms to phase those elements into their programs. Additionally, development of these additional elements by the Riverside County Copermittees will have the benefit of the experiences and work already done by the San Diego County and Orange County Copermittees."

Problem with Text:

The Fact Sheet states that the vast majority of costs for implementing the Tentative Order are 'not new'. This is not correct. Almost every program in the Tentative Order has been amended and require new resources. Specific programs include, but are not limited to, the monitoring program (over fivefold increase in costs), hydromodification management programs, new development programs, inspection programs, irrigation runoff prohibitions, retrofit studies and MS4 maintenance programs. The very prescriptive and detailed requirements of the Tentative Order impose new requirements on the Copermittees at a time when funding sources are drying up. The Copermittees estimate that implementation of the regional components of the new Order (as written) will cost approximately \$11,500,000 (e.g. the costs to write the new compliance documents, develop the retrofit, hydromodification programs and develop and implement the new monitoring program). These costs are on top of the current expenditures to implement the existing regional monitoring program (approximately \$5,000,000 for the five-year permit term). These costs are further amplified by the direct cost of implementation that will be incurred by the individual Permittees (e.g. the cost to implement the new compliance documents and hydromodification programs). The text further indicates that the Tentative Order provides time for the Permittees to 'develop...funding mechanisms'. This statement assumes that the Copermittees have the ability to collect additional funds from taxpayers to support the stormwater program implementation. This is false, since any such funds, outside of inspection or plan review fees, would be required to be submitted to a vote of the people pursuant to Proposition 218. In the current economic and political climate, a successful vote to increase taxes is extremely remote. The Copermittees further note that in the City of Encinitas in Orange County, cited by the staff as an example of proactive MS4 regulation, a minimal stormwater proposition recently was voted down.

Suggestion:

Delete the text noted above in the Fact Sheet and add a discussion on the difficulties of funding expansions to the Copermittees' stormwater programs due to Proposition 218.

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Fact Sheet Text Page 16:

"For example, household willingness to pay for improvements in fresh water quality for fishing and boating has been estimated by USEPA to be \$158-210.18. This estimate can be considered conservative, since it does not include important considerations such as marine waters benefits, wildlife benefits, or flood control benefits. The California State University, Sacramento study reports that the annual household willingness to pay for statewide clean water is approximately \$180.19. When viewed in comparison to household costs for existing management programs, household willingness to pay estimates exhibit that per household costs incurred by the Riverside County Copermittees to implement their management programs are very low."

Problem with Text:

The discussion in the referenced text is not represented correctly. The figure cited in the California State University, Sacramento study includes the cost of wastewater treatment. The author of the study notes:

'The survey question was for restoring water quality for all waters throughout the state from all impairment, not just within a city or region and not just for impairment from stormwater pollution.' The current cost for sewer fees exceed \$200 per year, Thus, the vast majority of the "household willingness" figure relates to sanitary sewer costs, and not to the costs of addressing stormwater.

Suggestion:

Delete this text in the fact sheet and note that the cost consumers are currently paying for clean water in the Permit area exceeds that which studies cited have found they are willing to pay.

Fact Sheet Text Page 17:

"University of California, Los Angeles assessed the costs and benefits of implementing various approaches for achieving compliance with the MS4 permits in the Los Angeles Region. The study found that non-structural systems would cost \$2.8 billion but provide \$5.6 billion in benefit. If structural systems were determined to be needed, the study found that total costs would be \$5.7 to \$7.4 billion, while benefits could reach \$18 billion.²¹ Costs are anticipated to be borne over many years – probably ten years at least. As can be seen, the benefits of the programs are expected to considerably exceed their costs. Such findings are corroborated by USEPA, which found that the benefits of implementation of its Phase II storm water rule would also outweigh the costs."

Problem with Text:

It is a basic principle that public spending should have a positive cost-benefit. The Fact Sheet implies that since spending on stormwater has a positive cost-benefit, such spending should be increased. The reality is that there are also other public spending priorities such as police, fire, ambulance, and public utilities competing for the same funding, all of which have positive cost-benefit ratios. Moreover, the UCLA study specifically focused on the benefit of improving beach water quality, which is a very significant economic factor in terms of tourism in coastal Los Angeles County. No beaches exist in the Santa Margarita Region, and given the ephemeral nature of many of the Region's waterways, attempting to extrapolate the UCLA study is not appropriate. In the absence of a similar cost-benefit study being undertaken in the Santa Margarita Region, the studies cited by staff do not provide any basis for the conclusions reached in the Fact Sheet.

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Suggestion:

As the fundamental basis for this comment is flawed, in the absence of any local data for inland waterbodies in semi-arid climates, the text should be deleted.

Fact Sheet Text Page 35:

"Trash, as litter in both solid and liquid form, is consistently found on and adjacent to roadways. A California Department of Transportation Litter Management Pilot Study found that of roadway trash, plastics and Styrofoam accounted for 33 percent of trash by weight, and 43 percent by volume. Further, the study found that approximately 80 percent of the litter associated with roadways was floatable, indicating that, without capture, this litter would enter Waters of the State after a storm event, resulting in the impairment of Beneficial Uses.⁴⁵ The study, however, relied upon a mesh capture size of 0.25 inches (6.35 millimeters). This size is too large to effectively capture plastic pre-production pellets (a.k.a. "nurdles"), which are roughly 3 mm in size, and likely underestimated the total contribution of plastics. Furthermore, pre-production plastic pellets, which are small enough to be easily digested, have been found to carry persistent organic pollutants, including PCBs and DDT."

Problem with Text:

While the Fact Sheet suggests that there is a compelling argument to address trash along Caltrans highways, such a problem is not found on municipal streets. The Caltrans studies found that a substantial portion of the litter load comes from uncovered loads on commercial and private vehicles. The low speed roadways operated by the Copermittees do not create similar conditions or handle similar traffic. Further, the text discusses pre-production plastics (nurdles), yet fails to acknowledge that there are no industries within the Copermittees' jurisdiction that manufacture or use this material. The Fact Sheet's citation of studies that have no bearing on actual conditions within the Santa Margarita Region cannot be used to justify programs in the Tentative Order addressing such non-existent conditions. The ROWD has a more informed discussion of trash issues based on actual conditions in the Santa Margarita Region.

Suggestion:

Revise the fact sheet text to discuss the current findings relative to trash in the Permit region based on the ROWD.

Fact Sheet Text Page 50 and 51

Pg. 50 - "To date the San Diego Water Board and the Copermittees have identified overspray and drainage from potable and reclaimed water landscape irrigation as a substantial source and conveyance mechanism for pollutants into waters of the United States."

Pg. 51 - "The San Diego Water Board and the Copermittees have identified irrigation water as a source of pollutants and conveyance of pollutants to waters of the United States, when applied improperly in excess and thereafter entering the MS4, in the following documents:"

Problem with Text:

The documents cited in the Fact Sheet do not support the conclusion that irrigation water is a source of pollutants or conveyance of pollutants in the *Santa Margarita Region*. First, the comments in the public education document cited in the Fact Sheet were borrowed from an Orange County publication, and do not represent any official conclusion by the Copermittees that irrigation water represents a water quality

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threat. Plainly over-irrigation is to be discouraged, as even if the water is clean, it adds to the Copermittees' costs of addressing such waters. Second, this public education document is the *only* document from a Santa Margarita Region source. The other documents cited by staff are studies conducted in other areas, with different hydrology and climate. For a more comprehensive assessment of the irrigation runoff issues, please see Attachment 6 (Prohibition of Irrigation Runoff).

Suggestion:

Delete the referenced text and the quotes referencing Permittee education materials. Also remove the improperly supported irrigation runoff prohibition.

Revise the text to accurately reflect the lack of any connection between irrigation runoff and impairments of receiving waters in the Santa Margarita Region.

Fact Sheet Text Page 58:

"Enforcement and inspection activities conducted by the San Diego Water Board during the previous permit term have found a lack of source control for many unpaved roads within the jurisdiction of the Copermittees."

Problem with Text:

The Copermittees submit that there is no evidence reflecting any substantial water quality problem relating to MS4 discharges affected by unpaved roads. Moreover, the mileage of unpaved roads in the jurisdiction of the Copermittees is a small percentage of the total mileage of unpaved roads in the Santa Margarita Region, given that many of these roads are operated by such jurisdictions as the U.S. Forest Service. Please see Attachment 5 (Unpaved Roads). Further, the Fact Sheet notes on page 27 that Permits "will cover municipal systems discharges in unincorporated portions of the county, it is the intent of EPA that management plans and other components of the program focus on the urbanized and developing area of the County". Dedicating resources to unpaved roads diverts already limited resources from the urbanized areas intended to be addressed by USEPA regulations.

Suggestion:

The references and associated program requirements should be removed from the Permit and addressed through a separate general permit for unpaved roads, if in fact unpaved roads are a significant source of pollutants.

Fact Sheet Text Page 69:

"The order also found that the SSMP requirements are appropriately applied to the majority of the Priority Development Project categories that are also contained in section F.1 of this Order. The State Water Board also gave California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) the needed discretion to include additional categories and locations, such as retail gasoline outlets(RGOs), in SSMPs "

"The provisions of the SSMP section of the Order are also consistent with those previously issued by the San Diego Water Board for Riverside County (Order No. R9-2004-001), Southern Orange County (Order Nos. R9-2002-0001 and R9-2009-0002) and San Diego County."

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Problem with Text:

Several PDP categories or thresholds are not supported by Order WQ 2000-11 such as the 10,000 square feet requirement for residential areas nor the 1-acre threshold for all development projects. Further the Order ignores other applicable portions of Order WQ 2000-11. Specifically, the memo from State Board Chief Counsel Craig S. Wilson transmitted WQ Order 2000-11 to the Regional Board executive officers states that with regard to discretion that:

"3. The Order allows broader discretion by the Regional Water Boards to decide whether to include additional types of development in future SUSMPs. These areas for potential future inclusion in SUSMPs include retail gasoline outlets, ministerial projects (only discretionary projects are included in the approved SUSMPs), and projects in environmentally sensitive areas. **If Boards include these types of developments in future permits, the Order explains the types of evidence and findings that are necessary.**"

Order 2000-11 requires that revisions to regulatory thresholds be justified economically. The Copermittees have expressed their concern with requirement F.1.d.(2)(a) regulating residential developments of 10,000 sq. ft. or more and requirement F.1.d.(1)(c) regulating any project 1-acre or more. These thresholds, and their relative impact on project proponents, have not been adequately justified. The Permittees have noted that these regulations will negatively impact the construction of custom homes (individual lot developments). The relative economic impact of meeting the SSMP requirements for individual homeowners has not been justified in the fact sheet.

Suggestion:

As shown in the redline markup (Attachment 9); The 1-acre SSMP threshold (F.1.d.(1)(c)) should be deleted and the 10,000 square feet threshold for residential areas (F.1.d.(2)(a)) should be made the same as the requirement contained in the Riverside County Santa Ana NPDES MS4 Permit.

Fact Sheet Text Page76:

"The success of future stream restoration and stabilization is, however, dependent on preventing and reducing physical impacts from activities upstream. Therefore, hydromodification management measures are necessary upstream of modified (e.g. concrete, rip rap, etc.) channels in addition to non-modified channels."

Problem with Text:

In some areas, hardened channels may be needed for flood control and public safety. In those areas, channel restoration may not be feasible and onsite controls are not warranted. The protection of public safety from flooding is a statutorily required duty of the District. See Water Code App. Section 48-9. Any provisions of the Tentative Order that would presume to challenge this duty must be deleted. The District assumes that the Regional Board and staff are not placing themselves in the position of making flood control judgments, as the agency is neither charged by the Legislature with such obligation nor is the agency equipped to do so.

Suggestion:

Revise the text to add "except where hardened channels are required for the protection of public safety"

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Fact Sheet Text Page 77:

"Since municipalities are the lead permitting authority for industrial land use and construction activities, they are also the lead for enforcement regarding runoff discharges from these sites."

Problem with Text:

This is a leap of logic we should probably not let pass. The Copermittees can greatly influence the design and construction, but the Industrial Permit is focused on the operation of the facility, and that is where the authority of the Board lies - and is arguably the most important aspect of runoff quality from the site.

Suggestion:

Delete the sentence.

Fact Sheet Text Page 79:

"To clarify, an unaltered natural drainage, which receives runoff from a point source (channeled by a Copermittee to drain an area within their jurisdiction), which then conveys the runoff to an altered natural drainage or a man-made MS4, is both an MS4 and a receiving water."

Problem with Text:

As noted in Attachment 7 (General Legal Comments) regarding Finding D.3.c., a natural drainage, whether or not it conveys point source runoff to a man-made MS4, is not itself part of the MS4.

Suggestion:

Delete text.

Fact Sheet Text Page 79:

"As operators of the MS4s, the Copermittees cannot passively receive and discharge pollutants from third parties. By providing free and open access to an MS4 that conveys discharges to waters of the U.S., the operator essentially accepts responsibility for discharges into the MS4 that it does not prohibit or otherwise control. These discharges may cause or contribute to a condition of contamination or a violation of water quality standards."

Problem with Text:

First, the Copermittees, as operators of the MS4, are required to address storm drainage. During storm conditions in particular, the District is required to handle flood waters so as to protect the lives and property of residents of Riverside County. The failure to do so is a violation of state law. See Water Code App. Section 48-9. Thus, the Copermittees must "passively receive and discharge" waters from third parties, which waters may contain pollutants. Moreover, the operator of the MS4 is NOT accepting responsibility for discharges from other MS4 systems. There is no provision for joint liability under the federal Clean Water Act or the California Water Code. The former directs its prohibitions against a "discharger," and no others. 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319 and 1342. A party is responsible only for its own discharges or those over which it has control. *Jones v. E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc.*, 333 F.Supp.2d 1344, 1348 (N.D. Ga. 2004); *United States v. Sargent County Water Dist.*, 876 F.Supp. 1081, 1088 (D.N.D. 1992).

The Clean Water Act MS4 regulations, moreover, specifically provide that Copermittees under an MS4 Permit are required to "comply with permit conditions relating to discharges from the municipal separate storm sewers for which they are operators." 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(a)(3)(vi) (emphasis supplied). Moreover,

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the Regional Board, as the permitting agency for stormwater and Industrial Permits, and the State Board as the overall agency responsible for compliance with the Clean Water Act in California, are responsible for ensuring that the discharges from such permitted facilities, whether or not they enter the MS4, are in compliance with the requirements of those permits. Finally, many sources of pollutants are beyond the control of the MS4 operators but are within the control of other agencies, if those agencies elect to exercise their authority. A major example is the discharge of metals from motor vehicle brake pads, which contributes to exceedances of copper, zinc and potentially other metals in stormwater. The MS4 operators cannot control the composition of brake pads, nor can the MS4 operators control air emissions from domestic and foreign sources that discharge pollutants onto the surface area of the region, which can then wash into the MS4 systems.

Suggestion:

Delete cited text.

Fact Sheet Text Page 81:

"Since treatment generally does not occur within the MS4, in such cases reduction of storm water pollutants to the MEP must occur prior to discharges entering the MS4."

Problem with Text:

Nothing in the MS4 regulations prohibits use of the MS4 for treatment. Frankly, some of the most effective treatment facilities for pollutants may be located in the MS4 as part of regional treatment systems. An example are catch basins, which collect trash and other debris and detention and retention basins that can be used to capture, treat and infiltrate runoff.

Suggestion:

Delete cited text.

Fact Sheet Text Page 84:

"When appropriately applied as in this Order, retrofitting existing development meets MEP."

Problem with Text:

Only retrofits that are applied with the requirements of the Order meet MEP, which is not the case.

Suggestion:

Delete the text.

Fact Sheet Text Page 88:

"The RWL language in the Order requires storm water compliance with water quality standards through an iterative approach for implementing improved and better-tailored BMPs over time. The iterative BMP process requires the implementation of increasingly stringent BMPs until receiving water quality standards are achieved. This is necessary because implementation of BMPs alone cannot ensure attainment of receiving water quality standards."

Problem with Text:

61 Federal Register 57425 (1996), Interim Permitting Approach for Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations in Storm Water Permits states "expanded or better-tailored BMPs in subsequent permits, where necessary, to provide for the attainment of water quality standards."

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Suggestion:

The second sentence should be revised to reflect the actual text from federal regulations (specifically "in subsequent permits"). Further the last sentence does not make sense and is contrary to the proceeding text and should be deleted.

Fact Sheet Text Page 112:

"The San Diego Water Board has responded to complaints about and observed runoff from over-irrigation entering the MS4s in the Riverside County portion of the San Diego Region."

Problem with Text:

There is no evidence in the fact sheet supporting this statement.

Suggestion:

Provide evidence or delete statement.

Fact Sheet Text Page 130:

"This section requires the use of native and/or low water use plants for landscaping."

Problem with Text:

There was an agreement that this would be suggested but not a requirement. This requirement also mandates the means of compliance, in violation of Water Code section 13360.

Suggestion:

Change the text:

"Section ~~requires~~ suggests the use of native and/or low water use plants for landscaping,"

Fact Sheet Text Page 136:

"This requirement is needed because to date, the Copermittees have generally approved low removal efficiency treatment control BMPs without justification or evidence that use of higher efficiency treatment BMPs was considered and found to be infeasible."

Problem with Text:

The Copermittees challenge the accuracy of this Statement. Riverside County has been requiring landscaped based low impact development BMPs since 2005. The District has also spent a substantial sum of money and time developing BMP manuals with specific criteria to ensure the effectiveness of BMPs.

Suggestion:

Delete the unsupported and offensive statement.

Fact Sheet Text Page 142:

"Where streams are hardened and/or buried to convey storm water, they cannot provide adequate water quality."

Problem with Text:

Unsupported and incorrect. Hardened channels can be designed to provide both flood protection and natural stream function. For example, hardened levees can be designed to be set back and backfilled with native material, effectively providing a natural substrate for stream function. Similarly, porous channel materials such as gabions can provide both flood protection and substrate for native habitat. Finally,

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even underground systems can be connected to regional treatment systems that provide requisite water quality benefits where appropriate.

Suggestion:

Delete.

Fact Sheet Text Page 145:

"Redevelopment projects, however, must be able to achieve post-project runoff flow rates and durations that are less than or equal to pre-project and down to pre-development runoff flow rates and durations to be eligible to receive a waiver under the program."

Problem with Text:

This requirement is self-defeating. By placing regulatory obligations on redevelopments that make the cost of redevelopment greater than the cost of developing on virgin land, the Permit effectively promotes inner-city blight as existing structures are abandoned and suburban development is promoted due to economic factors. The Permit should include accommodations for redevelopment to ensure that existing developed areas are economically preferable for new development and to prevent the onset of unnecessary additional impervious area.

Suggestion:

The Permit and fact sheet should be revised to offer exemptions for hydromodification requirements for redevelopments where such improvements are infeasible.

Fact Sheet Text Page 160:

"Retrofitting existing development is practicable for a municipality through a systematic evaluation, prioritization and implementation plan focused on impaired water bodies, pollutants of concern, areas of downstream."

Problem with Text:

Although the current requirement simply calls for a study, it is expected that future permits will require implementation of said study. This study exceeds the requirements for Copermittees to evaluate opportunities for retrofit of the MS4 contained in the federal regulations and federal Clean Water Act. There are no revenues to promote such a program.

Suggestion:

The Board should recognize in the fact sheet that without funding provided by the state, there is no revenue for such a program.

Fact Sheet Text Page 161:

"Section F.3.d.(4) requires each Copermittee to cooperate with private property owners to encourage the implementation of site specific retrofitting projects. Because the Copermittees have limited authority to directly require retrofitting projects on private property, the Copermittees must encourage private property owners to implement retrofitting projects through indirect programs and incentives."

Problem with Text:

If the Board wishes to promote urban retrofit, then they also need to incentivize the program. Currently, property owners wishing to volunteer for urban retrofit projects are required to comply with the SSMP,

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including hydromodification and LID requirements, opt into BMP inspection programs and subject themselves to ongoing scrutiny through business inspection programs required by the Permit. The permit places an ECONOMIC DISINCENTIVE in the way of promoting a general good for the watershed. The purpose of this requirement is to promote acceleration of water quality benefits from existing urban areas. The requirements, as written, promote a program that is doomed to failure.

Suggestion:

The Board should clearly exempt urban retrofit projects from the new development requirements of the Permit if they wish to accelerate water quality improvements from existing urban areas.

Fact Sheet Text Page 162:

"Periodic inspections may be performed to ensure the site owner has not removed the retrofit BMPs."

Problem with Text:

Similar to the prior comment, this creates a disincentive to retrofit BMPs.

Suggestion:

Delete.

Fact Sheet Text Page 163:

"Section F.4.b ...access points (i.e. manholes), connections..."

Problem with Text:

The text from the Phase I rule implementing the NPDES regulations and the requirement of the storm drain system map is:

(from Federal Register, Vol 55, No 222, Friday Nov 18, 1990):

"[submit] a USGS 7.5 minute topographic map...[showing] The location of known municipal storm sewer system outfalls discharging to waters of the United States...the location of major structural controls for storm water discharge (retention basins etc) and the identification of publicly owned parks, recreation areas and other open lands."

The proposed requirements exceed the federal regulatory requirements for MS4 mapping. Further, the mapping of manholes is a significant economic burden that would have no benefit for our staff. Manholes are typically placed at regular intervals (300 – 500 feet) on underground storm drain systems. Once a map providing the location of the MS4 system is available, manholes are quickly located through visual inspection in the field. Further, storm drain plans that are available to Permittee staff can be used to locate specific manholes where absolutely necessary. The economic costs of mapping potentially thousands of manholes is not offset by any known benefit.

Suggestion:

Delete requirement to map manholes.

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Fact Sheet Text Page 198:

"**Section II.D** (High Priority Inland Aquatic Habitat) of the MRP describes required monitoring to be done in order to assess if MS4 storm water and/or non-storm water discharges are affecting high priority aquatic and/or riparian species."

Problem with Text:

This requirement was deleted from the Orange County NPDES MS4 Permit when the provision to assess outfalls using NALs and SALs was added. It is not clear why such an accommodation would not also be provided to the Riverside County NPDES MS4 Program. This region has significantly less economic resources than south Orange County or San Diego County to implement monitoring programs. The Permittees specifically request this be deleted as impacts to aquatic habitat will be detected through the NAL/SAL program.

Suggestion:

This requirement should be deleted.