

**SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 14.3
(ID # 27637)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, July 01, 2025

FROM : FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

SUBJECT: FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT: (PUBLIC HEARING) Adopt Resolution F2025-10 Adopting and Confirming Each and All Assessments on Property in the Whitewater Watershed Benefit Assessment Area Pursuant to Ordinance No. 14 Providing for the establishment and Levy of Benefit Assessments for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program, Districts 4 and 5. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Conduct the public hearing concerning the Engineer's Report on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program for the Whitewater Watershed Benefit Assessment Area, dated July 2025; and
2. If at the conclusion of the hearing a majority protest has not been received, adopt the following Resolution: Resolution No. F2025-10 Adopting and Confirming Each and All Assessments on Property in the Whitewater Watershed Benefit Assessment Area Pursuant to Ordinance No. 14 Providing for the Establishment and Levy of Benefit Assessments for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program.

ACTION:Set for Hearing

Jason Uhley, GENERAL MGR-CHF FLD CNTRL ENG

6/17/2025

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Gutierrez, seconded by Supervisor Spiegel and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: July 1, 2025
xc: Flood, Recorder

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board

By:
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment:	N/A
			For Fiscal Year:	25/26

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

All of the requirements of District Ordinance No. 14 providing for the establishment and levy of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Benefit Assessments have been satisfied; therefore, the public hearing may be closed and the assessments levied.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

The financial impact to property owners is outlined in the Engineer's Report and Benefit Assessment Tax Rolls. The proposed benefit assessment rate for Fiscal Year 2025-26 is \$3.63 per Benefit Assessment Unit; this is equal to the Benefit Assessment that was enrolled and levied for Fiscal Year 1996-97 and all subsequent years.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. WWR BA Engineer's Report FY 2025-26
2. WWR BA Resolution No. F2025-10
3. Notice of Public Hearing for the Whitewater Watershed BA


 Douglas Cordonez Jr. 6/25/2025


 Aaron Gettis, Chief of Deputy County Counsel 6/24/2025

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS INFORMATION

RECORDING REQUESTED BY:

KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, CLERK OF THE BOARD
RIVERSIDE CO. CLERK OF THE BOARD
4080 LEMON STREET, 1ST FLOOR CAC
P O BOX 1147 – RIVERSIDE, CA 92502

MAIL STOP # 1010

AND WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:

RETURN TO: STOP #1010
RIVERSIDE COUNTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
P. O. BOX 1147 – RIVERSIDE, CA 92502

2025-0204513

07/03/2025 08:46 AM Fee: \$ 0.00

Page 1 of 6

Recorded in Official Records
County of Riverside
Peter Aldana
Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder



2148

THIS SPACE FOR RECORDERS USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO. F2025-10

ADOPTION AND CONFIRMING EACH AND ALL ASSESSMENTS ON PROPERTY IN THE WHITEWATER WATERSHED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 14 PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND LEVY OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM STORMWATER PROGRAM

(FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – ITEM 14.3 of 07/01/2025)

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. F2025-10

ADOPTING AND CONFIRMING EACH AND ALL ASSESSMENTS ON PROPERTY IN THE WHITEWATER WATERSHED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 14 PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND LEVY OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM STORMWATER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Colorado River Basin Region, on behalf of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), and consistent with Section 402 of the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended, and the regulations promulgated by the EPA pursuant thereto, has issued an area-wide stormwater discharge permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES Permit") to the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District"), the County of Riverside and certain Cities within the Whitewater Watershed that are within the District's jurisdiction, and has named the District as the "Principal Permittee"; and

WHEREAS, under existing state and federal regulations, the District must obtain and comply with the provisions of the NPDES Permit in order to legally discharge stormwater from its flood control and stormwater drainage facilities; and

WHEREAS, the NPDES Permit requires the District to develop, implement and manage specific programs dealing with stormwater runoff that will benefit all property within the Whitewater Watershed that lies within the District's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Supervisors ("Board") on May 14, 1991 adopted Resolution No. F91-23 pursuant to the provisions of Section 14 of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act, which is Appendix 48 to the California Water Code ("District Act"), and pursuant to Ordinance No. 14 that formed a Benefit Assessment Area ("Benefit Assessment Area"), which encompasses all territory within the District's jurisdiction that is within the Whitewater Watershed as described in Ordinance No. 14, and has levied annually thereon a Benefit Assessment ("Benefit Assessment") to pay the District's annual costs associated with the NPDES Permit; and

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: AARON C. GETTIS DATE 5-8-25

1 **WHEREAS**, the Benefit Assessments collected are principally used to finance capital
2 costs and to maintain and operate the flood control system as required by the terms of said Permit
3 and must be expended in the Benefit Assessment Area in which they are collected; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the District initially levied the Benefit Assessment for 1991-92 Fiscal Year
5 and has levied the Benefit Assessment in each successive fiscal year; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the voters of California on November 5, 1996 approved Proposition No. 218,
7 which added Article XIID to the California Constitution ("Article XIID") effective November 6,
8 1996; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Section 5(a) of Article XIID provides in pertinent part that "...any
10 assessment imposed exclusively to finance the capital costs or maintenance and operation expenses
11 for...flood control and drainage systems..." shall be exempt from the procedures and approval
12 process set forth in Section 4 of Article XIID until the assessment is increased; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Benefit Assessment proposed to be levied and enrolled for the 2025-26
14 Fiscal Year is not greater than the Benefit Assessment that was levied for the 1996-97 Fiscal Year
15 and all subsequent years;

16 **WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed hearing as required by Ordinance No. 14, the Board heard
17 and considered all protests with respect to the amount of the Benefit Assessment to be levied for
18 the 2025-26 Fiscal Year.

19 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED** by the
20 Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District,
21 County of Riverside, State of California, in regular session assembled on July 1, 2025 as follows:

22 Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct.

23 Section 2. That a public hearing has been duly held on this date, and that each and every
24 step in the proceedings as required by the District Act and Ordinance No. 14 has been duly taken
25 and all protests considered, and that the Board does hereby close the public hearing.

26 Section 3. That the Board does hereby make its determination upon each parcel in the
27 Benefit Assessment Area as described in the Engineer's Report entitled "Engineer's Report to the
28 Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District on

1 the NPDES Program for the Whitewater Watershed Benefit Assessment Area" ("Engineer's
2 Report"), dated July 1, 2025 filed with the Board pursuant to Ordinance No. 14, and that the Board
3 does hereby confirm each and all Benefit Assessments on such parcels and thereby levies a Benefit
4 Assessment in the Benefit Assessment Area of the District for the Fiscal Year 2025-26 at a rate of
5 \$3.63 per benefit assessment unit.

6 Section 4. Pursuant to Section 5(a) of Article XIID, compliance with the procedures set
7 forth in Section (4) of Article XIID is not necessary and there will be no increase in the Benefit
8 Assessment to be enrolled for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year over the Benefit Assessment enrolled for
9 the 1996-97 Fiscal Year and all subsequent years.

10 Section 5. That a copy of this Resolution duly certified by the Clerk of this Board be
11 recorded in the Office of the Recorder of the County of Riverside, and a copy of this Resolution
12 duly certified by the Clerk of this Board and the Engineer's Report be filed with the
13 Auditor/Controller of the County of Riverside.

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4 RESOLUTION NO. F2025-10

5 ADOPTION AND CONFIRMING EACH AND ALL ASSESSMENTS ON PROPERTY IN
6 THE WHITEWATER WATERSHED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA PURSUANT TO
7 ORDINANCE NO. 14 PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND LEVY OF
8 BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
9 ELIMINATION SYSTEM STORMWATER PROGRAM

10 ROLL CALL:

11 Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez

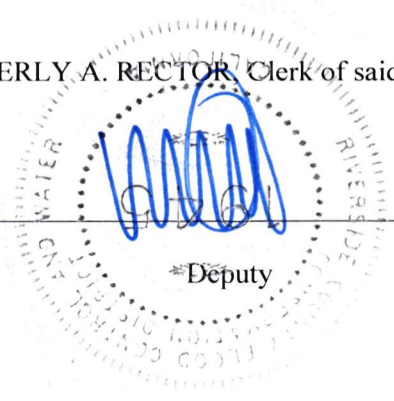
12 Nays: None

13 Absent: None

14 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of
15 Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

16 KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, Clerk of said Board

17 By: _____
18



**PETER ALDANA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER**

Recorder
P.O. Box 751
(951) 486-7000

www.riversideacr.com

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code 27361.7, I certify under the penalty of perjury that the following is a true copy of illegible wording found in the attached document:

(Print or type the page number(s) and wording below):

CLARIFICATION FOR SEAL for the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (EMBOSSSED ON DOCUMENT)

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1945

CALIFORNIA

Date: 07/01/2025

Signature: _____

Print Name: Whitney Mayo, Clerk of Board Assistant

ENGINEER'S REPORT
TO THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ON THE
NPDES PROGRAM
FOR THE
WHITEWATER WATERSHED
BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA
JUNE 2025

Jason E. Uhley
General Manager-Chief Engineer



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APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A – Proposed NPDES Program Budget (FY 2025-26)**
- APPENDIX B – RCFC&WCD Ordinance No. 14 (May 14, 1991)**
- APPENDIX C – Map of Whitewater Watershed Benefit Assessment Area (WWBAA)**
- APPENDIX D – WWBAA Assessment Roll (FY 2025-26)**

INTRODUCTION

In 1987, Congress amended the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to require public agencies which serve urbanized areas with a population greater than 100,000 and other designated areas to obtain permits to discharge urban stormwater runoff from municipally owned drainage facilities including streets, highways, storm drains, and flood control channels. In November 1990, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) promulgated enforceable regulations establishing Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit requirements under its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. In California, USEPA has delegated its NPDES permitting authority to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The SWRCB issues and enforces NPDES MS4 Permits through its nine California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (CRWQCB).

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's (District) service area encompasses portions of three major watersheds: the Santa Ana, Santa Margarita, and Whitewater Watersheds. The discharge of stormwater from MS4s within each of these three watersheds is regulated pursuant to an NPDES MS4 Permit (Permit) administered by separate CRWQCBs. **The District must comply with the provisions of these Permits in order to legally operate and maintain its flood control and drainage system infrastructure.** The USEPA and the CRWQCBs can impose significant penalties for non-compliance as high as \$32,500 per day per violation. In addition, private citizens can pursue enforcement actions under the Federal CWA.

In the Whitewater Watershed, the District, in conjunction with the County of Riverside (County), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), and the Cities of Banning, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs and Rancho Mirage (Cities) have had to comply with Permit requirements issued by the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). On June 11, 1992, the District, County, CVWD, and Cities jointly submitted Part 1 of the required Permit application to the Regional Board. This application consisted of a compilation of existing information such as land use, facilities, discharge information, fiscal resources, legal authority, etc. Part 2 of the Permit application was submitted to the Regional Board on May 17, 1994 and outlined the development of the region's first municipal stormwater management program.

The Regional Board adopted the initial (first-term) Permit, Order No. 96-015 (1996 Permit), for the Whitewater Watershed on May 22, 1996, which designated the District and County as Co-Principal Permittees and the CVWD and Cities as Co-Permittees (collectively, the Permittees). This Permit expired on May 22, 2001. In compliance with the Permit renewal requirements, the Permittees submitted a Permit renewal application referred to as the Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) to the Regional Board. The ROWD subsequently led to the adoption of the region's second-term Permit, Order No. 01-077 (2001 Permit), on September 5, 2001. The Permittees have since then submitted new ROWDs prior to each new Permit.

The second-term Permit incorporated the Permittees' Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP), which was developed during the initial Permit term, and identified additional activities and corresponding compliance schedules that were necessary to achieve compliance with the CWA. On May 21, 2008, the Regional Board adopted the region's third-term Permit, Order No. R7-2008-0001 (2008 Permit), which sought to improve programs established in the previous term, and on June 20, 2013, the fourth-term Permit, Order No. R7-2013-0011 (2013 Permit), was adopted. This latest Permit represents a collaborative effort between the Permittees and Regional Board staff in which local Best Management Practices (BMPs) were analyzed for effectiveness and applicability, and statewide permits were reviewed to develop region-appropriate language and requirements.

From the beginning, the Permittees' stormwater management programs have been guided by the following principles:

1. Utilize existing municipal departments/programs to meet Permit requirements whenever possible.
2. Minimize duplication of effort through coordinated Permittee compliance actions.
3. When necessary, develop new or enhanced stormwater management programs that are both cost-effective and acceptable to the public.

The Whitewater Watershed Benefit Assessment Area (WWBAA) was established pursuant to District Ordinance No. 14 on May 14, 1991 (copy attached - see Appendix B). The WWBAA was formed to offset the District's NPDES program and administrative costs associated with the development and implementation of identified stormwater management activities required by the Permit. The District must continue to develop and implement these stormwater management activities in order to legally operate and maintain its flood control and drainage facilities. A map showing the boundaries of the WWBAA is attached hereto as Appendix C.

The District coordinates and implements regional-scale Permit compliance activities of common interest¹. The costs to implement these activities fluctuate year to year. Some expenses do not change significantly on a yearly basis (e.g., the preparation of annual reports), while other expenses vary significantly due to the amount of rainfall occurring each year (e.g., monitoring and sampling) or in. Additionally, there are certain costs (e.g., public education materials, ROWD, Permit renewal, etc.) that are not always incurred on a fiscal year (FY) basis. Occasionally, additional consultant and/or legal services may be needed to assist the District with the development of a particular Permit requirement or program activity. Also, certain activities or programs may be expanded or curtailed from time to time and, occasionally, new programs or activities must be developed and implemented.

The regulation and management of stormwater runoff is a continuing topic of increasing interest among the public, municipalities, regulatory authorities, and legislators. Although new laws and regulations could result in changes to the assessment rate in future years, **the proposed assessment rate for FY 2025-26 remains unchanged from last fiscal year and continues to be equal to or less than the assessment rate that has been levied since the adoption of the first-term Permit.**

¹ Section E.2, Order No. R7-2013-0011

APPORTIONMENT METHODOLOGY

WWBAA assessments are apportioned based on proportionate stormwater runoff generated by each parcel. This method of assessment is consistent with state law and District Ordinance No. 14. The amount of benefit is computed based on parcel size (acreage) and land-use classification. A single-family residential structure on a 7,200 square foot lot (1/6 of an acre) is defined as one benefit assessment unit (BAU). The BAUs for other types of land uses are calculated in proportion to the amount of runoff generated by a single-family residence on a 7,200 square foot lot.

In comparison with a typical single-family residence, industrial and commercial properties typically generate more stormwater runoff and higher pollutant loads on a per acre basis. Thus, industrial/commercial parcels are assessed at a higher rate than residential parcels. Because agricultural discharges are currently exempt under the NPDES regulations, parcels within the WWBAA that are used for agricultural purposes are exempted from the assessment. Vacant, undeveloped parcels are not assessed because they are considered to generate no increase in pollutant loading. Additionally, certain large undeveloped tracts of land such as federal or state-owned forests are excluded from the WWBAA. A more detailed discussion of the apportionment methodology is presented in Appendix B.

CURRENT YEAR ASSESSMENTS (FY 2024-25)

In July 2024, the District's Board of Supervisors confirmed a benefit assessment rate for FY 2024-25 of \$3.63 per BAU. Following is a summary of the FY 2024-25 assessments:

Rate	Billed Parcels	BAUs	Assessments	Corrections	Amount Paid⁽²⁾⁽³⁾
\$3.63	58,394	96,237	\$350,315 ⁽¹⁾	\$0	\$(CW to fill in)

⁽¹⁾ Amount reflects actual total assessments on all parcels. Total may vary due to rounding.

⁽²⁾ Estimated based on FY 2023-24 delinquency percentage.

⁽³⁾ Includes payments received for direct billed parcels.

Property owners may request a review of their assessment(s) by contacting the District. District staff considers each request by reviewing information such as assessor's parcel maps, aerial photographs, and, when necessary, conducting site visits. The Auditor-Controller is notified of any needed corrections and a new tax bill is issued or, in cases where the assessment has been paid, a refund is made. Last year, there were no corrections processed.

RECOMMENDED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT RATES (FY 2025-26)

The District recommends that for FY 2025-26, the WWBAA assessment rate remain unchanged at \$3.63 per BAU. This BAU rate results in an equivalent charge per acre for the following land uses:

Group	Land Use Category	BAU/Acre	Assessment Rate*
A	Industrial, Commercial	12	\$43.56/acre
B	Apartments/Mobile Home Parks, Churches and Schools	9	\$32.67/acre
C	Single-family Residential	6**	\$21.78/acre
D	Agricultural/Vacant Undeveloped	Exempt	\$0.00/acre
E	Golf Courses	0.10	\$0.36/acre
F	Undeveloped Portions of Parcels	0.05	\$0.18/acre

* Refer to Appendix B for a detailed discussion of the Benefit Assessment methodology.

** 1 BAU per single-family residence, assuming six equally sized residential parcels per acre.

The projected revenue for FY 2025-26, using the proposed benefit assessment rate of \$3.63 per BAU is as follows:

Rate	Parcels⁽¹⁾	BAUs	Assessment⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Projected Revenue⁽³⁾
\$3.63	58,394	96,237	\$350,315	\$332,799

⁽¹⁾ Based on FY 2024-25 Assessor's information.

⁽²⁾ Totals may vary due to rounding.

⁽³⁾ Assumes a 5.0% delinquency rate.

The projected revenue along with a portion of the end of year balance from FY 2024-25 will fund the District's NPDES Program for the Whitewater Watershed in FY 2025-26. The proposed FY 2025-26 budget is presented in Appendix A.

During the early years of the NPDES Program, there were many uncertainties regarding startup costs (e.g., consultant costs, amount of required sampling, overall program scope, etc.) since the program was new for both the regulatory authorities and the Permittees. Consequently, the initial assessment rates were set conservatively to ensure that all Permit obligations could be met. To date, the District has been able to successfully work with the Regional Board and implement its NPDES Program in a manner that has retained a portion of the program's initial budget surpluses. As a result, a modest fund balance has been maintained since the benefit assessments were first levied. However, as the District's NPDES Program expenditures continue to rise, and the assessment rate remains unchanged, the fund balance is gradually being reduced. It should be noted that the current trend in California is toward more stringent regulation of municipal stormwater runoff. Thus, it is expected that the District's Permit compliance costs will continue to rise over the coming years.

ASSESSMENT ROLL

The WWBAA Assessment Roll provides a listing by Assessor's Parcel Number of the proposed FY 2025-26 Benefit Assessment to be levied on each parcel of property in the WWBAA. The Assessment Roll is identified as Appendix D and incorporated herein by this reference. This Engineer's Report along with the WWBAA Assessment Roll will be placed at the following locations for review by the public:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
4080 Lemon Street, 1st floor
Riverside, CA 92501

Riverside County Flood Control
and Water Conservation District
1995 Market Street
Riverside, CA 92501

City of Banning
99 E. Ramsey Street
Banning, CA 92220

City of Palm Springs
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

This Engineer's Report may also be viewed or downloaded at
<https://rcwatershed.org/watersheds/whitewater-river-watershed/>

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (FY 2024-25)

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following tasks were accomplished in compliance with the Permit:

- A. The District continued complying with the local and regional components of the Permit, including administering the regional Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), the Public Education and Outreach Program, the Permittee Implementation and Cost-Sharing Agreement (IA), and assisting the Co-Permittees with implementing the SWMP. The Permit and associated compliance documents are available on the District's NPDES website at <https://rcwatershed.org/watersheds/whitewater-river-watershed/>.
- B. The District submitted its Annual Progress Report and the Watershed Annual Progress Report to the Regional Board and USEPA. This effort requires the District to coordinate the submittal of each Permittee's individual annual progress report to the District and combine these reports with the District's into the Watershed Annual Progress Report. The purpose for the Watershed Annual Progress Report is to provide metrics for assessing the effectiveness of the compliance programs prescribed in the NPDES permits issued by the Regional Board.
- C. The District continued surveying its channels and outfalls for Illicit Connections and Illegal Discharges (IC/ID) to ensure that these facilities are not transporting pollutants that may impact the beneficial uses of the Whitewater River.
- D. The District continued identifying and tracking proposed policies and regulations from USEPA and SWRCB and informed the County and Co-Permittees of potential impacts to the Permit program or to any of its specific components.
- E. The District and Co-Permittees, as stakeholders, continued collaborating with the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG) in support of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and Stormwater Resources Plan (SWRP). This effort enables the Coachella Valley stakeholders (including the Whitewater Region [WWR] Permittees) to apply for grants from the Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and Bureau of Reclamation.
- F. The District continued organizing and chairing the Desert Task Force (DTF) meetings. The DTF is a task force consisting of the Permittees, staff from the Regional Board, and other stakeholders. These meetings provide a forum to effectively disseminate information, discuss state and federal regulations, and coordinate efforts to achieve compliance with the Permit.
- G. The District continued administering interagency cooperative agreements with County agencies that allowed regional components of the Permit to be implemented. These cooperative agreements were administered to maintain collection centers for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), Antifreeze, Battery, Oil and Latex Paint (ABOP), and waste from Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG).
- H. The District, in collaboration with the Coachella Valley Water District, continued collecting and analyzing water quality samples in accordance with the Permit's MRP and the relevant volumes of the District's November 2020 Consolidated Monitoring Program (CMP) on behalf of the Co-Permittees. The District's CMP includes a WWR Monitoring Plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), detailing the specific procedures for collecting and analyzing water quality samples at MS4 outfalls and from the receiving water station within

the Whitewater Watershed during dry and wet weather events. These procedures encompass the requirements for sample handling, managing stormwater data, implementing and ensuring data quality control, laboratory and contractor obligations, and maintaining accurate reporting. Through the implementation of the procedures and standards described in the WWR Monitoring Plan and QAPP, the District successfully facilitates a monitoring program to comply with the Permit's MRP.

- I. The District continued participating in the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC) on behalf of the Co-Permittees. The SMC is a multi-regional monitoring consortium of southern California agency members. The overall goal of the SMC is to develop effective and meaningful stormwater monitoring techniques, increase the effectiveness of the existing monitoring program, and integrate information among agencies to achieve a large-scale assessment of the watershed condition. Recognizing that collaboration is foundational to the SMC's enduring success, the original SMC master agreement was signed in 2000 and has been renewed three times since (i.e., 2009, 2015, and 2019), providing the formal framework for the coalition's interactions and the ability to add a long-term research perspective to management needs. SMC member agencies received the benefit of shared resources as collaborative projects can reduce costs by more than 90% relative to financing alone for the large-scale region-wide efforts. In addition, most projects often have non-member agency cost matching. SMC member agencies have leveraged over 70% of this cost by cost sharing in-kind services or outside grants. The coalition has funded more than 30 research projects valued at \$18 million, underscoring the value of collaborative research. The current master agreement was signed in November 2023, effective July 2024, and spans five years. Under this agreement, the SMC executive steering committee developed a forward-looking research agenda to guide the SMC's priorities and directions through June 2029. To date, the District has served as SMC Chair, Vice-chair, as the Project Manager for the SMC's Streamline Annual Reporting Project, on the Executive Steering Committee, on the SMC California LID Evaluation and Analysis Network Technical Subcommittee, on the Special Study Technical Workgroup for the SMC Regional BMP Monitoring Network Technical Subcommittee. Additionally, the District has conducted monitoring in 2022-23 to help pilot the SMC's Special Study for Quantifying Human Fecal Sources in Wet Weather to support the development of the report finalized in 2025.
- J. The District continued participating in the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA). On behalf of California stormwater permittees, CASQA advances sustainable stormwater management protective of California water resources. It is made possible by the network of highly engaged professionals, which make up its member association dedicated to the CASQA Strategic Plan and organization goals. CASQA Members participate through subject-specific subcommittee collaboration, education, development of implementation guidance, shared expertise, regulatory review, and scientific assessment. CASQA assists California's stormwater permittees in developing, implementing, and maintaining effective stormwater quality management programs. To date, District staff has served on its Board of Directors, Executive Program Committee, Legislative Subcommittee, Monitoring and Science Subcommittee, Policy and Permitting Subcommittee, Best Management Practices (BMPs) Subcommittee, and True Source Control Subcommittee.
- K. The District continued administering municipal employee stormwater training programs. These training classes provide municipal staff with the requisite knowledge to comply with the Permit. These courses review the NPDES regulations, proper BMP implementation, identification of violations, etc., and provide overviews of the state's General Permits for industrial and construction activities. The District has implemented an online training program for Regionwide Industrial/Commercial Inspections, Construction Site Inspections,

Whitewater Region WQMP, and Municipal Facilities & Activities. The District is also developing selected in-person training sessions for summer 2025.

- L. The District continued providing stormwater pollution prevention education and outreach by conducting educational presentations in local elementary schools throughout the County and conducting outreach at regionwide events, including the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival. BMP Materials for horse/barn care facilities, homeowner associations, and overwatering were updated and are available to be downloaded at the rwatershed.org website.
- M. The District continued operating and maintaining the Riverside County Watershed Protection website (www.rwatershed.org) which provides information, resources, and important links for the Permittees, regulators, developers, business owners, the public, and in-house staff regarding the Permit, its compliance programs, compliance documents, monitoring and sampling, and more. The District regularly updates the contents to be more effective at providing usable and on demand information that ultimately enhances the quality of educational materials.
- N. The District continued to utilize its LID research campus to test and demonstrate stormwater capture, management, and treatment using various LID BMPs. The centralized location of the District's LID research campus has served to educate residents, regulators, developers, municipal employees, engineers, local and foreign delegates, and other interested stakeholders from throughout Southern California. Since its completion, District staff have provided numerous informational project tours and have retrofitted its bioretention basin BMP.
- O. The District continued to provide compliance assistance for regulatory audits performed by the Regional Board. In April, the District assisted the City of Coachella and attended their audit on April 23, 2025. The District supplied reports, presentations, training records, outreach materials, and other information as required by the Regional Board.

PROGRAM WORK ITEMS (FY 2025-26)

The principal work proposed in the Whitewater Watershed for FY 2025-26 will continue to focus on the Permit renewal, including negotiation of a fifth-term municipal Permit, and updating the Program's compliance documents to address any new Permit requirements. Execution of an amendment to the Implementation Agreement that enables collaboration and cost sharing by the Permittees will also be necessary to implement the new Permit. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, the following tasks are proposed:

Permit Renewal

In collaboration with the County and Co-Permittees, the District will continue to assist the Regional Board through the renewal process of the impending fifth-term Permit. Review of the Permit language and the renewal process continues with a goal for adoption set for the fourth quarter of 2025. When the process resumes, the Permittees will ensure that the information contained in the new Permit is accurate and applicable to the desert region. Compounding this effort, the Regional Board is proposing inclusion of requirements for cost reporting, asset management planning for stormwater systems, integrated pest management and a shift to e-reporting. Concurrently, the incorporation of the SWRCB approved trash amendments will be integrated into this permit with all Permittees needing to meet the December 2, 2030 compliance deadline.

Permit Implementation

The District will continue coordinating all responsibilities assigned to the Co-Principal Permittees in the impending fifth-term Permit, as well as assisting Co-Permittees with their jurisdictional requirements upon request.

Program Management

The District will continue coordinating the regional requirements of the Permit. These activities include chairing DTF meetings, administering area-wide programs (e.g., public education, household hazardous waste collections, hazardous material spill response, stormwater sample collection and analysis), continuing ongoing program development, and preparing and submitting annual progress reports and watershed annual progress reports to the Regional Board and USEPA.

The District will also continue focusing its efforts on identifying and commenting on statewide issues that affect local stormwater programs.

When requested, the District will continue assisting the Permittees in preparing for their respective program audits and accompanying them in navigating through the audit process.

Program Development

The District will coordinate updates to the SWMP to reflect any new Permit requirements. The District will also update and further enhance its Stormwater and Water Conservation Tracking Tool geodatabase and participate in basin plan and water quality standard public reviews as they become available by the Regional Board.

Area-Wide Program Funding

The District will continue administering and/or supporting the following "area-wide" BMP programs implemented on behalf of the Permittees:

Public Education and Outreach

The District provides coordination and oversight of the area-wide public education and outreach efforts, including public outreach events, school presentations, promotional items, printed brochures, and commercial media campaigns. This includes continued development and distribution of focused educational outreach materials for specific industries and businesses such as restaurants, auto repair shops, mobile cleaning businesses, and other industrial and commercial activities that are potential sources of stormwater pollution.

Training for Municipal Staff

Municipal training programs are provided to improve staff's understanding of the Permit requirements and stormwater BMPs. The classes focus on methods to identify violations, reduce and/or eliminate sources of stormwater pollution from public agency facilities and activities, implement Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) requirements, and the state-wide General Permit requirements for construction and industrial activities. Training is conducted specifically for construction inspection staff, municipal facilities maintenance staff, and staff responsible for new development/redevelopment project review. The District will continue implementation of online training courses, providing for a more convenient and cost-effective training program.

Household Hazardous Waste and ABOP Collection

The District and Permittees provide financial support to the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources to support the permanent HHW collection site in the City of Palm Springs, ongoing mobile HHW collection events, and operation of the ABOP program, all of which provide local residents with opportunities to properly dispose of HHW.

Water Quality Monitoring

In collaboration with the CVWD, the District will continue conducting wet weather and dry weather water quality sample collection and analysis in accordance with the Permit's Monitoring and Reporting Program and the Permittee's CMP. As applicable, the District will also continue implementing improvements to the water quality monitoring activities and monitoring program reporting.

Aquatic Weed Control Permit Compliance

The District will continue complying with the requirements of the Aquatic Weed Control Permit in order to control vegetative growth at District facilities. Weed abatement will continue to be an essential part of the District's routine maintenance activities to ensure continued flood protection and prevention of loss of life and property. Compliance with the Aquatic Weed Control Permit will include, when necessary, updates to the Application Plan, BMP implementation, monitoring water quality, and submitting annual reports to the Regional Board.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Stormwater Management Program for the Whitewater Watershed has been implemented in an efficient, cost-effective manner through the ongoing cooperative efforts of the District, County, the Co-Permittees, the Regional Board, the Riverside County Fire Department, and the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources. The District's NPDES Program activities, which are funded by these WWBAA assessments, are required to comply with the current Permit as well as with enforceable provisions of the California Water Code and the CWA, which regulate the discharge of stormwater from municipally owned storm drains and flood control facilities. These mandatory activities are an essential component of the District's continuing operation and maintenance of its critical public safety facilities; therefore, the following action is recommended:

Levy a Flood Control Benefit Assessment in the Whitewater Watershed Benefit Assessment Area at an unchanged rate of \$3.63 per benefit assessment unit for the FY 2025-26.

GLOSSARY

ABOP – Anti-freeze, Batteries, Oil, and Paint

BAU – Benefit Assessment Unit

BMP – Best Management Practice

CASQA - California Stormwater Quality Association

CMP – Consolidated Monitoring Program

CRWQCB - California Regional Water Quality Control Board

CVRWVG – Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group

CVWD - Coachella Valley Water District

CWA – Clean Water Act

District – Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

DTF – Desert Task Force

FY – Fiscal Year

HHW – Household Hazardous Waste

IA – Implementation Agreement

IC/ID – Illicit Connection/Illegal Discharge

IRWMP - Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan

LID – Low Impact Development

MRP – Monitoring and Reporting Program

MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Order R7-2013-0011 – Colorado River Basin Regional Board Order adopted on June 20, 2013

Regional Board - California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Colorado River Region

ROWD – Report of Waste Discharge

SMC – Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition

GLOSSARY

SWMP – Stormwater Management Plan

SWRP – Stormwater Resources Plan

WWBAA – Whitewater Watershed Benefit Assessment Area

SWRCB – California State Water Resources Control Board

USEPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency

VSQG – Very Small Quantity Generators

WQMP – Water Quality Management Plan

APPENDIX A

Proposed NPDES Program Budget (FY 2025-26)

APPENDIX A

**WHITEWATER WATERSHED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA
PROPOSED NPDES PROGRAM BUDGET FOR FY 2025-26**

STAFFING

Salaries, Overtime and Benefits **\$518,950.00**

OVERHEAD

Administration Support 90,269.00

Computer Workstation Usage 40,000.00

Bad Debt Expense (Recovery) 1,000.00

Subtotal **\$131,269.00**

CONSULTANT SERVICES

NPDES Permit Administration 265,000.00

Public Education & Outreach – Community Outreach 28,820.00

NPDES Stormwater Training Program 5,000.00

Water Quality Monitoring 100,000.00

District Permit Compliance 3,369.00

IC/ID Program 30,000

Subtotal **\$432,189.00**

OTHER MS4 PROGRAM EXPENSES

County Counsel/Legal Services 9,000.00

Vehicle Usage 2,200.00

Public Education & Outreach: Event Sponsorships/Materials/Printing 14,700.00

Photocopying/Duplicating 2,500.00

Water Quality Monitoring Equipment 3,300.00

Utilities, Communication Services, Supplies, Materials 300.00

Licenses, Permits, Books, Publications 300.00

Subtotal **\$32,300.00**

REGIONAL PROGRAMS AND MEMBERSHIPS

NPDES Permit Administration: CASQA Membership 6,669.00

NPDES Permit Administration: HHW Program, SMC 46,000.00

Subtotal **\$52,669.00**

PROGRAM SUBTOTAL

\$1,167,377.00

CONTINGENCY (10%) 116,737.70

Assessor's/Treasurer's Office Line-Item Charges (\$0.36/parcel) * 21,021.84

County Fee for Annual Submittal * 87.23

TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR WHITEWATER RIVER WATERSHED

\$1,305,223.07

* Based on County's FY 2024-25 collection charges. The County's FY 2025-26 collection charges are not yet available.

APPENDIX B

**RCFC&WCD Ordinance No. 14
(May 14, 1991)**

APPENDIX C

Map of Whitewater Watershed Benefit Assessment Area (WWBAA)

APPENDIX D

WWBAA Assessment Roll (FY 2025-26)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT ON THE NPDES BENEFIT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR
THE WHITEWATER WATERSHED BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing, at which all interested persons will be heard, will be held before the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County, California, acting as the governing board of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California, on July 1, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. or soon thereafter, relative to the District's Engineer's Report on the NPDES Program for the Whitewater Watershed Benefit Assessment Area. The Board will hear and consider all protests with regard to the program, if any, including protests with regard to the amount of the proposed assessment to be levied. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board may adopt, revise, change, reduce, or modify any assessment and shall make its determination upon each assessment described in the report for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, pursuant to statutory authorization, a written report by the Chief Engineer of the District describing the Benefit Assessment Program has been filed with the Clerk of the District's Board. The report contains a description of each parcel of property within the boundaries of the Whitewater Watershed Benefit Assessment Area of the District on which a benefit assessment is proposed to be levied and sets forth the amount of the proposed benefit assessment for each such parcel. The report contains a schedule of the benefit assessment rates for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year. Copies of the report, together with copies of the assessment rolls for the Whitewater Watershed Benefit Assessment Area and the official Riverside County Assessor's Map Books, are on file and available for review by the public at the office of the Clerk of the District's Board at the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California; the District's office at 1995 Market Street, Riverside, California; the City of Banning, 99 E. Ramsey Street, Banning, California; and the City of Palm Springs, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California. By reference to the Chief Engineer's report, the assessment rolls, and the map books, each property owner may verify the area of his or her parcel, its land use, and the amount of the 2025-26 Benefit Assessment.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT the proposed benefit assessment rate for Fiscal Year 2025-26 is the same benefit assessment rate as Fiscal Year 1996-97 and all subsequent years.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Dated: 6/10/2025

KIMBERLY RECTOR
Clerk of the District's Board

By: 
Deputy