



CITY OF LOMPOC

September 19, 2013



Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board

Subject: Proposed Stormwater Permit Fee Increase

Dear Ms. Marcus and Members of the Board:

The City of Lompoc, is seriously concerned about the State Water Board staff's proposal to substantially raise stormwater permit fees again. Staff is proposing a 27.5% increase in all stormwater permit fees for the current fiscal year – FY 13-14. An increase of that size on top of the almost 35% increase two years ago, would mean fees increasing more than 62% over three years. The State Water Board also charges a 21% premium on top of the base fee for the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) (so as the base fee increases so does the SWAMP fee). This is a significant financial burden on smaller MS4s and those who qualify as California Disadvantaged Communities, such as Lompoc. State Water Board records¹ show the stormwater program is the only program with a positive balance over the last 9 fiscal years – by a wide margin, the rest of the programs are in the red.

Program	Balance (2004/05 – 2012/13)
Stormwater	\$18,475,000
Land Disposal	(\$493,000)
401 Certification	(\$1,541,000)
Confined Animal Facilities	(\$4,277,000)
NPDES (Wastewater)	(\$12,297,000)
WDR	(\$14,213,000)

There has been no increase in the level of service provided for the significantly increased fees. Service levels have dropped. Despite this, staff is proposing a 32.5% increase in the stormwater program budget for the current fiscal year over last year – where is the money going? Increases of this size are unheard of in the public sector – especially in the current economy and should be recognized as unconscionable, particularly given that commensurate fee increases in other State Board programs are not being requested.

Sincerely,

Stacy L. Lawson
Senior Environmental Coordinator,
City of Lompoc

c: Laurel Barcelona, City Administrator
Lompoc City Council

¹ September 24, 2013 State Water Board Meeting: Agenda Item 8, Attachment 3 - Revenues and Expenditures by Program for FY 2004-05 through FY 2012-13
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