



CITY OF SALINAS

Public Works Department • 200 Lincoln Avenue • Salinas, California 93901 • (831) 758-7241

April 23, 2012

Via Electronic Mail and U.S. Mail

Jeffrey S. Young, Chair
Roger Briggs, Executive Officer
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
805 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906

Re: City of Salinas Municipal Storm Water Permit CA 0049981; Draft Order No. R3-2012-0005

Dear Mr. Young and Mr. Briggs:

The City of Salinas appreciates the extension of time for our permit approval that was created when the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (“Regional Board”) continued approval of Draft Municipal Storm Water Order No. R3-2012-0005 (“Draft Permit”) at their February 2, 2012 meeting. We recognize that the Draft permit represents over a year’s worth of significant and ambitious effort by Regional Board staff, however, the extra time provided by the continuance allowed us to address and ameliorate most of our concerns with the draft permit.

In the time between meetings, City of Salinas staff participated in nine teleconferences with the Regional Board staff. During these meetings we worked through issues, opened lines of communication and built working relationships that will serve our mutual need for the City of Salinas to remain in compliance with the terms of the permit.

Since February, City of Salinas Staff, began submitting materials required for conformance under the new Permit, continued our participation in the Joint Effort for Hydromodification, and entered two employees into the Qualified SWPPP Practitioner and Qualified SWPPP Designer certification program. We also met with representatives of the Monterey Regional Storm Water Program and are in the process of reorganizing Stormwater functions by moving reporting requirements into the administrative core of Public Works. We also also convened one public information meeting and have begun to revise the invitation and information process to increase attendance.

We still have concerns about some areas of the permit and believe that the cost and consequences of some requirements will not be fully understood by City or Board staff until implementation actually occurs. However, we also believe that we have established a foundation of processes and procedures that will allow us to work through these issues with Regional Board staff as they arise.

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We sincerely believe that we have made very good use of the period of grace that was granted to us and would like to extend our appreciation for the hard work and commitment of Regional Board staff in working with us through our many meetings. We believe that the revisions to the permit are substantial and meaningful and that a fair exchange of learning took place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GEP', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Gary E. Petersen
Public Works Director

cc: Mayor and City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
City Engineer