



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



Recipient of the 2001 *Environmental Leadership Award* from Keep California Beautiful

Linda S. Adams
Agency Secretary

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

March 4, 2008

Mr. LeRoy Jackson
City Manager
City of Torrance
3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503-5059

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

NOTICE OF VIOLATION (ORDER NO. 01-182 AS AMENDED BY ORDER NO. R4-2006-0074 AND ORDER NO. R4-2007-0042, NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004001, WDID 4B190215001)

Dear Mr. Jackson:

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) is the state regulatory agency responsible for protecting water quality in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. To accomplish this, the Regional Board issues permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) as authorized by the federal Clean Water Act. On December 13, 2001, this Regional Board adopted the Los Angeles County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit, NPDES Permit No. CAS004001, Order No. 01-182 (LA MS4 Permit), under which the City of Torrance is a Permittee.

BACKGROUND

The LA MS4 Permit includes Discharge Prohibitions, Receiving Water Limitations, and a Monitoring and Reporting Program, among other requirements. Under Part 1, Discharge Prohibitions, the LA MS4 Permit requires that the Permittees "effectively prohibit non-storm water discharges into the MS4 [municipal separate storm sewer system] and watercourses," except under limited circumstances, as specified in Part 1. Under Part 2, Receiving Water Limitations, the LA MS4 Permit prohibits "discharges from the MS4 that cause or contribute to the violation of Water Quality Standards or water quality objectives."

The LA MS4 Permit was subsequently amended on September 14, 2006 by Order No. R4-2006-0074 and on August 9, 2007 by Order No. R4-2007-0042 to implement the summer dry weather waste load allocations established in the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria Dry Weather Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins Bacteria TMDL. The summer dry weather requirements were incorporated in the LA MS4 Permit as specific Receiving Water Limitations (RWLs) for fecal indicator bacteria in Parts 2.5 and 2.6, and a supporting specific prohibition on discharges from the MS4 that cause or contribute to exceedances of the bacteria RWLs.

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The Permittees collectively discharge urban runoff and storm water from the MS4 to the Santa Monica Bay, a navigable water of the United States, under the provisions and requirements of the LA MS4 Permit. These discharges, as demonstrated via shoreline water quality monitoring, contain total coliform, fecal coliform, enterococcus and other pollutants, which degrade water quality and impact beneficial uses of the receiving waters at beaches along Santa Monica Bay. These bacterial indicators are defined as wastes under the California Water Code (CWC § 13000 et seq.).

VIOLATIONS OF RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS

The City of Torrance is hereby notified that technical staff has concluded that Torrance is in violation of waste discharge requirements established in Board Order No. 01-182 as amended by Order No. R4-2006-0074 and Order No. R4-2007-0042, and has therefore violated CWC § 13376, and is subject to liability pursuant to CWC § 13385.

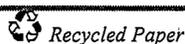
The data submitted in the Permittees' shoreline monitoring reports for the summer dry weather compliance periods, beginning on September 14, 2006 through October 31, 2006 and April 1, 2007 through October 31, 2007, reveal violations of the RWLs set forth in Part 2.5 of Order No. 01-182 as amended by Order No. R4-2006-0074 and Order No. R4-2007-0042. These violations occurred at two shoreline monitoring sites located along Santa Monica Bay beaches to which the City of Torrance discharges via the MS4, on 7 days, which included 11 instances where the bacteria water quality objectives set to protect water contact recreation were exceeded. These violations are summarized in Table 1, detailed in the attachments, and incorporated herein by reference. The City of Torrance is jointly responsible for violations at these monitoring sites along with the other Permittees with land area within the watersheds draining to these sites.

CIVIL LIABILITY

Pursuant to CWC § 13385, the City of Torrance is subject to penalties of up to \$10,000 for each day in which a violation of RWLs occurs. These civil liabilities may be assessed by the Regional Board beginning with the date that the violations first occurred, and without further warning. The Regional Board may also request that the State Attorney General seek judicially imposed civil liabilities of up to \$25,000 for each day in which a violation occurs, or injunctive relief, pursuant to CWC §§ 13385 and 13386. The City of Torrance may also be subject to penalties pursuant to other sections, and other forms of enforcement proceedings, in addition to those described above.

To ensure that the causes of the violations are identified and abated, enclosed herewith, please find an Order directing the City of Torrance to submit a variety of reports pursuant to CWC § 13383. Specifically, these reports shall provide an evaluation and documentation of the causes of these violations, remedial actions to date, and the City's plans for additional corrective and preventative actions to bring discharges from the MS4 into prompt compliance with the bacteria RWLs applicable to the Santa Monica Bay.

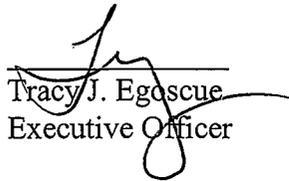
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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (213) 576-6605, or alternatively, your staff may contact Mr. Carlos Urrunaga at (213) 620-2083.

Sincerely,


Tracy J. Egoscue
Executive Officer

Enclosures: Table 1
Attachments 37-38
Order Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13383, dated March 4, 2008

cc: Mr. John Dettle, Project Manager, Torrance
Mr. Michael Levy, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board
Mr. Bruce Fujimoto, Storm Water Section, State Water Resources Control Board
Mr. Eugene Bromley, U.S. EPA, Region 9

TABLE 1

TORRANCE
SUMMARY OF VIOLATIONS OF BACTERIA
RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS FOR SUMMER DRY WEATHER
ORDER NO. 01-182 AS AMENDED BY ORDERS R4-2006-0074 AND R4-2007-0042

Site ID	Single Sample RWL Violations				30-day Geometric Mean RWL Violations			Total RWL Violations by Site	Total Days of Violations by Site
	Total Coliform	Fecal Coliform	Enterococcus	Total Coliform (Fecal:Total Coliform Ratio > 0.1)	Total Coliform	Fecal Coliform	Enterococcus		
SMB 6-01	0	2	4	2	0	0	0	8	4
SMB 6-05	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	3
Totals	1	3	4	3	0	0	0	11	7

ATTACHMENTS

**VIOLATIONS OF BACTERIA RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS BY
SHORELINE MONITORING SITE**

**VIOLATIONS OF RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS FOR SUMMER DRY WEATHER PERIODS
 SEPTEMBER 14, 2006 - OCTOBER 31, 2006 AND APRIL 1, 2007 - OCTOBER 31, 2007
 ORDER 01-182 AS AMENDED BY R4-2006-0074 AND R4-2007-0042
 SITE ID SMB 6-01, HERONDO SD**

Date of Violation(s)	Single Sample Result (MPN/100 ml)				30-day Geometric Mean Result* (MPN/100 ml)		
	Total Coliform	Fecal Coliform	Enterococcus	Total Coliform (Fecal:Total Coliform Ratio > 0.1)	Total Coliform	Fecal Coliform	Enterococcus
Basin Plan Limit	10000	400	104	1000	1000	200	35
10/31/2006			140				
6/4/2007			146				
10/25/2007		1700	1400	2700			
10/26/2007		1800	480	2600			
Total Violations	0	2	4	2	0	0	0

Notes: Site ID refers to sites identified in the "Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacterial TMDLs Coordinated Shoreline Monitoring Plan," dated April 7, 2004.

* Regional Board staff calculated the rolling 30-day geometric mean values presented.

VIOLATIONS OF RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS FOR SUMMER DRY WEATHER PERIODS
 SEPTEMBER 14, 2006 - OCTOBER 31, 2006 AND APRIL 1, 2007 - OCTOBER 31, 2007
 ORDER 01-182 AS AMENDED BY R4-2006-0074 AND R4-2007-0042
 SITE ID SMB 6-05, AVENUE I SD

Date of Violation(s)	Single Sample Result (MPN/100 ml)				30-day Geometric Mean Result* (MPN/100 ml)		
	Total Coliform	Fecal Coliform	Enterococcus	Total Coliform (Fecal:Total Coliform Ratio > 0.1)	Total Coliform	Fecal Coliform	Enterococcus
Basin Plan Limit	10000	400	104	1000	1000	200	35
10/30/2006		601					
6/25/2007	24912						
8/13/2007				1240			
Total Violations	1	1	0	1	0	0	0

Notes: Site ID refers to sites identified in the "Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacterial TMDLs Coordinated Shoreline Monitoring Plan," dated April 7, 2004.

* Regional Board staff calculated the rolling 30-day geometric mean values presented.