



# City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

September 10, 2010

NO. 2 PORTUGUESE BEND ROAD  
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## VIA E-MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Los Angeles Region  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Attn: Stefanie Hada

Subject: Proposed amendment to Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) to incorporate a Total Maximum Daily Load for Debris in the nearshore and offshore of Santa Monica Bay (Marine Debris TMDL)

Dear Mr. Unger, Ms. Hada and Dr. Wu:

The City of Rolling Hills is a private, entirely low-density single-family residential community, consisting of large parcels with estate-size, one-story ranch style homes (minimum one-acre lots). There are 684 single family residences in the City and the total population is less than 2,000. There are no sidewalks, curbed streets or alleys within the City. The roadways are private, deeded to the Rolling Hills Community Association (RHCA) which maintains the roadways and 23 miles of equestrian trails. Entry and exit to the City is gated and restricted to residents and guests only. The City of Rolling Hills prohibits littering through its nuisance ordinance. The RHCA building regulations also require trash enclosures at each residence. There is no industrial or commercial land use within the City. The City of Rolling Hills is already implementing a Trash Monitoring and Reporting Plan in accordance with the Machado Lake Trash TMDL.

Stormwater run-off is conveyed through the City via natural drainage courses/canyons that are located on privately owned land. There are no City-owned drainage outlets. Stormwater carried through the natural drainage system typically exits the City and then enters culverts that are owned by others (County of Los Angeles or other municipalities). There are short sections of storm drains in the City of Rolling Hills which are owned by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. These storm drains primarily consist of culverts crossing under private roads that discharge storm water into canyons which are located on private property. Because the City of Rolling Hills does not have a storm drain system that is amenable to the installation of full capture devices or partial capture devices, the City is implementing a Trash Monitoring and Reporting Plan (TMRP) including a Minimum Frequency of Assessment and Collection Program (MFAC) in conjunction with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Machado Lake Trash TMDL that has been approved by the Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. The City of Rolling Hills will of necessity utilize the same approach in order to comply with the Santa Monica Bay Nearshore and

Offshore Debris TMDL. The proposed Basin Plan Amendment for the Marine Debris TMDL should be clarified to state that agencies responsible for compliance with waste load allocations may utilize the MFAC/BMP approach to demonstrate compliance. The City of Rolling Hills shares the concern of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board that trash and debris in the Santa Monica Bay, whether in near shore or offshore areas, or on the beach are a nuisance and a hazard to human health and marine life. However, the City does have some concerns with certain requirements in the proposed Marine Debris TMDL. Municipalities are already burdened with administration, monitoring and reporting associated with multiple TMDLs and MS4 Permit requirements. Additional monitoring and reporting when it is inappropriate or unnecessary puts an undue burden on municipalities' already strained budgets. Thus while we are supportive of measures that are effective in controlling and limiting pollutants discharged to the Santa Monica Bay, we urge you to consider whether all of the requirements in this TMDL are reasonable, appropriate and practical way for achieving the objectives of the TMDL.

The City is particularly concerned with the Marine Debris TMDL requirement that all municipalities must prepare not only a Trash Monitoring and Reporting Plan, but also a Plastic Pellet Monitoring and Reporting Plan which includes monitoring the amount of plastic pellets discharged from the MS4 regardless of whether there is any industrial activity involving plastic pellets conducted within the jurisdiction. For the City of Rolling Hills, a Plastic Pellet Monitoring and Reporting Plan is entirely unnecessary as is monitoring stormwater discharge for said pellets – there is no industrial or commercial zoning or land use within the City and gate guards control entrance to the City so that no commercial trucks could enter without advance permission. This is an unreasonable and inappropriate requirement to impose on a private, entirely low-density, single-family residential city. There is no evidence to suggest that plastic pellets would originate from or travel through Rolling Hills, and we respectfully request that the plastic pellet requirements not be applied to the City of Rolling Hills.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Anton Dahlerbruch  
City Manager

AD:hl

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cc: Mayor and City Council  
Michael Jenkins, City Attorney  
Kathleen McGowan