



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams
Agency Secretary

Recipient of the 2001 Environmental Leadership Award from Keep California Beautiful

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

March 4, 2008

Mr. Paul Arevalo
City Manager
City of West Hollywood
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069-4314

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 4B190219001)

Dear Mr. Arevalo:

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 West Hollywood 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.

California Environmental Protection Agency



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Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

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 West Hollywood is hereby notified that technical staff has concluded that West Hollywood 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 one shoreline monitoring site located along Santa Monica Bay beaches to which the City of West Hollywood discharges via the MS4, on 119 days, which included 209 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 attachment, and incorporated herein by reference. The City of West Hollywood is jointly responsible for violations at this monitoring site along with the other Permittees with land area within the watershed draining to this site.

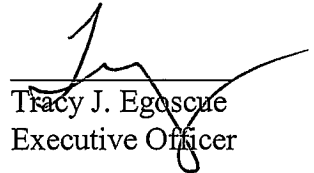
CIVIL LIABILITY

Pursuant to CWC § 13385, the City of West Hollywood 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 West Hollywood 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 West Hollywood 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.

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
Attachment 40
Order Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13383, dated March 4, 2008

cc: Jan Harmon, Environmental Program Coordinator, West Hollywood
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

**WEST HOLLYWOOD
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 BC-01	30	15	7	8	113	36	0	209	119

ATTACHMENT

**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-BC-01, BALLONA CREEK

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
9/14/2006					1452		
9/15/2006					1225		
9/16/2006					1176		
9/17/2006					1186		
9/18/2006					1180		
9/19/2006					1137		
9/20/2006					1020		
4/24/2007	>13000	4400	190	>13000			
6/15/2007				1900			
6/22/2007	11000						
6/28/2007	11000						
6/30/2007			140		1092		
7/1/2007					1096		
7/2/2007					1191		
7/3/2007					1315		
7/4/2007					1259		
7/5/2007					1423		
7/6/2007					1516		
7/7/2007					1587		
7/8/2007					1512		
7/9/2007					1536		
7/10/2007					1505		
7/11/2007					1307		
7/12/2007					1513		
7/13/2007	13000				1755		
7/14/2007					1817		
7/15/2007					1813		
7/16/2007					1814		
7/17/2007	>13000				1992		
7/18/2007	>13000				2170		
7/19/2007	>13000				2675		
7/20/2007					2161		
7/21/2007	>13000				2746		
7/22/2007					2570		
7/23/2007					2531		
7/24/2007					2599		
7/25/2007					2427		
7/26/2007	13000				2612		
7/27/2007	>13000				2910		
7/28/2007					2650		
7/29/2007					2602		
7/30/2007					2563		
7/31/2007					2482		
8/1/2007	13000				2676		

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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
8/2/2007	>13000				2713		
8/3/2007	>13000	500			3146		
8/4/2007	>13000				3535		
8/5/2007					3427		
8/6/2007					3255		
8/7/2007	13000				3477		
8/8/2007	13000				3691		
8/9/2007					4001		
8/10/2007	>13000				5084		
8/11/2007					5039		
8/12/2007					4817		
8/13/2007					5553		
8/14/2007	11000	1300		11000	5737		
8/15/2007	>13000	6800		>13000	5955		
8/16/2007	>13000	11000		>13000	5955		
8/17/2007	11000	5500		11000	5909	235	
8/18/2007	>13000	13000		>13000	5909	299	
8/19/2007					7315	321	
8/20/2007					7107	336	
8/21/2007					6983	337	
8/22/2007			590		6837	329	
8/23/2007	>13000	1100			7183	374	
8/24/2007	13000				8273	403	
8/25/2007					7647	391	
8/26/2007					7456	426	
8/27/2007					8106	467	
8/28/2007					7618	426	
8/29/2007					6888	391	
8/30/2007					7316	403	
8/31/2007	>13000	1300			7316	461	
9/1/2007		830			7216	502	
9/2/2007					7017	502	
9/3/2007					6803	524	
9/4/2007		500			6852	523	
9/5/2007					6958	491	
9/6/2007	13000	500			6958	499	
9/7/2007					6041	468	
9/8/2007					5723	454	
9/9/2007					5504	460	
9/10/2007					5894	506	
9/11/2007					5679	460	
9/12/2007	>13000	430			5897	458	
9/13/2007	>13000	1800		>13000	5942	465	
9/14/2007	>13000	830			5942	423	

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	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
9/15/2007					5598	335	
9/16/2007					5421	293	
9/17/2007					5189	243	
9/18/2007					5220	241	
9/19/2007					4822	227	
9/20/2007					3967	211	
9/21/2007					3948	211	
9/22/2007					3719		
9/23/2007					3482		
9/24/2007					3563		
9/25/2007					3543		
9/26/2007	13000				3781		
9/27/2007					3722		
9/28/2007			140		3879		
9/29/2007			150		3785		
9/30/2007					3547		
10/1/2007					3356		
10/2/2007					3036		
10/3/2007					2753		
10/4/2007					2594		
10/5/2007					2143		
10/6/2007					1821		
10/7/2007					1934		
10/8/2007					1941		
10/9/2007					1753		
10/10/2007					1577		
10/11/2007					1355		
10/12/2007					1203		
10/13/2007					1054		
10/23/2007			110				
10/25/2007			320				
Total Violations	30	15	7	8	113	36	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.