



CITY OF FILLMORE

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June 3, 2008

Ms. Tracy Egoscue
Executive Officer
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE VENTURA COUNTY MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM PERMIT (NPDES No. CAS004002) FOR THE VENTURA COUNTY WATERSHED PROTECTION DISTRICT, COUNTY OF VENTURA AND THE INCORPORATED CITIES

Dear Ms. Egoscue:

With this permit the LA Board is taking a dramatic step in the storm water program establishing Municipal Action Levels (MAL's) that will require the installation of storm water treatment in existing communities. The L.A. Board is the first in the Nation to establish such a requirement. This huge step causes at least a \$600/year per household cost compared to voter opinion surveys showing acceptance of \$20/year for storm water quality. If communities don't comply with the new permit we could be subject to about \$27,000 per day Mandatory Minimum Penalties per storm drain outlet.

THIS IS AN INSURMOUNTABLE GRAND CANYON OF A DIVIDE THAT CANNOT BE RESOLVED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

The only way treatment can be provided in existing communities is if there is State funding and State legislation changing Proposition 218 and granting local elected bodies authority to establish fees for storm water treatment. State participation is not going to occur if local Regional Boards piecemeal, county by county, the requirement to provide treatment for existing communities.

However if treatment for existing communities is implemented simultaneously state wide then every city and county in the state will face the challenge together and there will be the political will to create a State sanctioned funding mechanism to make the treatment a reality. Any other approach will fail to achieve the L.A. Board's objective because there is no money of this magnitude for installation or maintenance of treatment devises in existing communities.

Therefore in the interest of achieving an implementable storm water program the Board must eliminate the MAL provisions in the draft permit and pursue these requirements through the State Board for State wide, simultaneous, implementation.

There are other issues of concern to Fillmore but they have been addressed in prior comment letters and in the joint comment letter by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District on behalf of the Co-Permittees.

Very Truly Yours,

CITY OF FILLMORE


Steve Conway, Mayor

Cc: Ventura County Board of Supervisors
Mayors of Ventura County Cities
State Senators
State Assembly Members