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MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Los Angeles County MS4 Permittees and other Interested Persons

FROM: Renee A. Purdy 
Regional Programs Section Chief

DATE: July 3, 2014

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND MONITORING PROGRAM DELIVERABLES PURSUANT TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) PERMIT (NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004001; ORDER NO. R4-2012-0175)

By June 30, 2014, Permittees who elected to develop a Watershed Management Program (WMP) and complied with early action requirements were required to submit their draft Watershed Management Program and draft integrated monitoring program or coordinated integrated monitoring program to the Regional Water Board. By June 30, 2014, Permittees who elected to develop an enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) were required to submit their EWMP workplan and draft coordinated integrated monitoring program to the Regional Water Board.

Pursuant to Part VI.A.5.b, the above-referenced documents are available on the Regional Water Board's web site at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/watershed_management/index.shtml

Persons wishing to comment on the draft Watershed Management Programs, EWMP workplans, and draft integrated monitoring programs and coordinated integrated monitoring programs are invited to submit them in writing to Ivar Ridgeway, Chief, Storm Water Permitting, at:

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

or send them electronically as a PDF file to: losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "LA County MS4 Permit – Comments on XXXXX EWMP/WMP" or "LA County MS4 Permit – Comments on XXXXX Monitoring Program."

To be evaluated and considered by staff and the Regional Water Board, all written comments must be received by the Board by 5:00 p.m. on August 18, 2014. Late submittal of written comments will not be allowed. Please contact Mr. Ivar Ridgeway at (213) 620-2150 or Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov with any questions regarding these documents.

CHARLES STRINGER, CHAIR | SAMUEL UNGER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

320 West 4th St., Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles

RB-AR1934

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: State Senators and Assembly Members within Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County

FROM: Samuel Unger 
Executive Officer

DATE: August 6, 2014

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND MONITORING PROGRAM DELIVERABLES PURSUANT TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) PERMIT (NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004001; ORDER NO. R4-2012-0175)

This letter is to notify you that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Water Board) is seeking public input on draft documents developed by Permittees under Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharges within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County, except those Discharges Originating from the City of Long Beach (hereafter, LA County MS4 Permit).

BACKGROUND

On November 8, 2012, the Regional Water Board issued the LA County MS4 Permit (Order No. R4-2012-0175). The LA County MS4 Permit allows Permittees the option to develop Watershed Management Programs (WMPs) to implement many of the permit's requirements on a watershed scale through customized strategies, control measures, and best management practices (BMPs). This is the first watershed-based MS4 permit in the State and allows Cities and other stakeholders to plan for cost-effective compliance. Participation in a WMP is voluntary and allows a Permittee to address the highest watershed priorities, including complying with the requirements of Part V.A (Receiving Water Limitations) and Part VI.E and Attachments L through R (Total Maximum Daily Load Provisions), by customizing the control measures in Parts III.A (Prohibitions – Non-Storm Water Discharges) and VI.D (Minimum Control Measures) of the LA County MS4 Permit.

The LA County MS4 Permit also allows Permittees the alternative to collaboratively develop an *Enhanced* Watershed Management Program (EWMP). A EWMP is also a watershed-based program, but it emphasizes an approach that comprehensively evaluates opportunities, within the participating Permittees' watershed, for collaboration among Permittees and other partners such as water suppliers on multi-benefit regional stormwater retention projects. The objective of these projects is to, wherever feasible, retain all non-stormwater runoff and retain a specified volume of stormwater runoff for the drainage areas to the projects. These projects have the potential to also achieve other benefits including local water supply augmentation, flood control, and increased recreational opportunities, among others.

Both the WMP and EWMP alternatives are driven by strategic planning and implementation, which will ultimately result in more cost effective permit execution. The alternatives will provide Permittees with the flexibility to prioritize and customize stormwater control measures to address the water quality issues specific to the watershed, consistent with federal law. Focusing on watershed implementation does not mean that the Permittees must expend funds outside of their jurisdictions. Rather, the Permittees within each watershed are expected to collaborate to develop a watershed strategy to address the high priority water quality problems within each watershed. They have the option of implementing the strategy in the manner they find to be most effective. Each Permittee can implement the strategy individually within its jurisdiction, or the Permittees can group together to implement the strategy throughout the watershed.

By June 30, 2014, Permittees who elected to develop a WMP and complied with early action requirements related to developing local low impact development ordinances and green streets policies were required to submit their draft WMP and draft Integrated Monitoring Program (IMP) or Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program (CIMP) to the Regional Water Board. By June 30, 2014, Permittees who elected to develop an EWMP were required to submit their EWMP workplan and draft CIMP to the Regional Water Board.

On July 3, 2014, the above-referenced submitted documents were made available on the Regional Water Board's website and a public notice was sent to the Board's e-mail list of interested persons informing them of the availability of the documents for public review and comment. The documents are available at the following website address:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/watershed_management/index.shtml

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

You or your staff may have already subscribed to the Board's "Storm Water - LA County MS4" e-mail subscription list and, therefore, received the July 3, 2014 public notice.

The Board is soliciting written comments on the draft WMPs, EWMP workplans, and draft IMPs and CIMPs. Written comments may be submitted in writing to Ivar Ridgeway, Chief, Storm Water Permitting, at:

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

or may be sent electronically as a PDF file to: losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "LA County MS4 Permit – Comments on XXXXX EWMP/WMP" or "LA County MS4 Permit – Comments on XXXXX Monitoring Program." The XXXXX should indicate either the name of the Watershed Group or the individual Permittee that submitted the EWMP workplan or draft WMP.

Following are the deadlines for submitting written comments:

Draft WMPs and Companion IMPs or CIMPs

To be evaluated and considered by the Regional Water Board, all written comments on draft WMPs and their companion monitoring programs (IMPs or CIMPs) must be received by the Board by **5:00 p.m. on August 18, 2014.**

EWMP Workplans and Companion CIMPs

To be evaluated and considered by the Regional Water Board, all written comments on EWMP workplans and their companion CIMPs must be received by the Board by **5:00 p.m. on September 16, 2014**.

Please feel free to contact me at (213) 576-6605 or Samuel.Unger@waterboards.ca.gov, or Renee Purdy, Chief of the Regional Programs Section, at (213) 576-6622 or Renee.Purdy@waterboards.ca.gov with any questions regarding these documents.

If you have not subscribed to the Regional Water Board's e-mail list and you would like to receive future e-mail communication regarding the LA County MS4 Permit, we encourage you to subscribe to the "Storm Water - LA County MS4" e-mail list at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg4_subscribe.shtml

Please also note that the Board periodically updates its website with newly available documents, including documents related to the LA County MS4 Permit; we encourage you or your staff to periodically check our website for updates.