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To: <seconddraftVCMS4@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Mon, Oct 15, 2007 1:36 PM
Subject: draft MS4 permit comments

October 15, 2007

Regional Board Members

Regional Water Quality Control Board

ATT: Dr. Xavier Swamikannu

RE: Proposed Ventura County Stormwater Permit

Dear Regional Board Members:

Portions of the proposed Ventura County Permit currently under consideration are extremely detrimental to business growth and will put a very onerous strain on the construction industry. Some of the exceptionally stringent requirements (based on national & state data rather than local data) would limit business growth and very probably put some companies out of business completely. As a contractor, I am very concerned with protecting our environment, but also recognize that the rules must be practical or they won't be followed by many contractors. What we need are reasonable rules and regulations that will work over time, not draconian rules that will only polarize the different factions.

The extreme grading restrictions will drive up costs and add months if not years to project schedules that would not only make the project financially unfeasible, but in the end, could cause a harmful impact on the environment. Hundreds of jobs will be impacted. While work sites lay idle, jobs will be lost when companies are unable to support their workforce or go out of business and workers must leave the county to find work elsewhere. Ventura County cannot afford this unnecessary setback to its economy.

Current BMPs are working and we request that the regional board work hand-in-hand with the local construction business community to modify the draft permit's overreaching requirements to support not only our environment, but the practical needs of the community and business as well.

We appreciate your consideration in this very serious matter.

Thank you,

Steve Blois

Blois Construction, Inc.