

Dear Interested Parties:

On January 9, 2002, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted an NPDES permit to control the discharge of pollutants from the Orange County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), Order No. R8-2002-0010, NPDES No. CAS 618030, Areawide Urban Storm Water Runoff Permit for Orange County and the Incorporated Cities ([MS4 Permit](#)). Section XII of the MS4 Permit addressed the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce the effects of new development and significant redevelopment on water quality and required the permittees to develop a Model Water Quality Management Plan ([WQMP](#)) that would identify site design, source control and structural treatment BMPs that would be required to address post-construction flows from future development. On September 30, 2003, after a Public Hearing, the Regional Board Executive Officer (EO) approved the Model WQMP at the direction of the Regional Board

Both the MS4 Permit (Section XII.B.2) and the Model WQMP (Section 7.II-3.3.3) encourage the use of regional or watershed management programs to address runoff from new development and significant re-development. The Model WQMP states that before a regional or watershed treatment control BMP can be approved, the EO must make the following determinations:

1. The regional or watershed treatment BMP exceeds the water quality solution provided by the onsite structural BMPs otherwise required by Section XII.B.3 of the MS4 Permit;
2. The regional or watershed treatment BMP is otherwise consistent with the MS4 Permit; and,
3. The regional or watershed treatment BMP is consistent with the Clean Water Act.

The City of Irvine has submitted a request for the EO to make a consistency determination that the Irvine Ranch Water District's Natural Treatment System (NTS) can be used as a "regional program" for storm water and urban runoff pollution prevention within the San Diego Creek Watershed ([Proposal](#)).

Prior to the EO making an official determination, notice of the proposed regional or watershed treatment control BMP must be made to interested parties and comments received from the public must be considered. Therefore, there will be a 30-day public review and comment period on this proposal. **All comments must be received at the Regional Board office no later than 5:00 P.M., August 6, 2004.** Please forward comments to Mark Smythe, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, 3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501. If after consideration of all received comments, any significant issues remain unresolved, the item will be scheduled for a public hearing at a future Regional Board meeting prior to approval by the EO.

In order to facilitate notifying interested parties, Regional Board staff established an [e-mail list](#) shortly after the adoption of the MS4 Permit. Interested parties are responsible for signing up to the email list and for maintaining their current email address on the list. If you know of any individuals who may be interested in this issue and have not signed up to the interested parties e-mail list, please send them a copy of this notice.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Smythe at (909) 782-4998 or msmythe@rb8.swrcb.ca.gov.