



CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS

January 11, 2013

Wayne Chiu, P.E.
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego region
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

SUBJECT: COMMENT – TENTATIVE ORDER NO. R9-2013-0001, REGIONAL MS4 PERMIT, PLACE ID: 786088WCHIU.

Dear Mr. Chiu:

The City of Laguna Hills appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on Tentative Order No. R9-2013-0001, which is intended by the Regional Board to serve as the basis for stormwater regulation in the City following the expiration of current Order R9-2009-0002. The City has been actively involved in the development of the comprehensive set of comments submitted by the County of Orange. The City of Laguna Hills supports those comments and incorporates them herein by reference.

The City appreciates the efforts put forth by the Regional Board staff to revise certain provisions of the prior Administrative Draft. However, there is a need to implement further significant changes in the Permit to make it feasible to implement. These changes are included in redline format in the County submitted comments. A number of key issues have been extensively discussed in the focus meetings and Board workshops and, despite some changes, still remain a significant concern to the City. These include:

- The Receiving Water Limitations provisions in the Tentative Order could expose the City to Clean Water Act liabilities for discharges that cause or contribute to an exceedance of a water quality standard. A clear linkage between the compliance provisions and prohibitions, receiving water limitations, and effluent limitations must be established.
- The provisions dealing with Land Development, Low Impact Development (LID) and Hydromodification control have been arbitrarily tightened even while existing

permit programs are only just being implemented and/or are pending approval and have not been able to be evaluated for success. The City is particularly concerned with the elimination of all exemptions for the hydromodification control requirements, including for discharges to channels that have been engineered to prevent erosion. Exemptions for hydromodification management should include discharges to certain types of receiving waters and certain types of projects.

- The provisions implementing the Beaches and Creeks Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) bacteria requirements are inconsistent with the TMDL as it was developed and pose additional significant liabilities. Permit provisions must be consistent with the corresponding Basin Plan amendments.
- The provisions requiring the development and implementation of a Water Quality Improvement Plan need to be aligned with the Jurisdictional Runoff Management Program requirements so that the programs are complimentary and prioritized instead of additive.

Thank you, for the opportunity to provide comments. The City would like to request the opportunity to meet with you, other Regional Board staff and the County of Orange to review the changes requested in the County letter.

Sincerely,



Kenneth H. Rosenfield, P.E.
Director of Public Services