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January 11, 2013

Mr. Wayne Chiu, P.E.
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
9174 Sky Park Court, # 100
San Diego, CA 92123

Re: Comment - Draft Regional MS4 Permit - Tentative Order No.R9-2013-0001

Dear Mr. Chiu:

The San Diego County Taxpayers Association urges you and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board to amend Tentative Order No.R9-2013-0001, the Draft Regional MS4 Permit, so that it encompasses reasonable, cost effective and scientifically based water quality improvement standards.

While we recognize the importance of clean and safe beaches and creeks, and place significant value in protecting water quality, it is critical that taxpayer investments be made based on demonstrated scientific methods. Appropriate thresholds of bacteria should be supported with well documented scientific evidence.

Currently, approximately \$120 million of public money is spent annually to comply with the current Municipal Storm Water Permit. County of San Diego staff estimates the costs of attempting to comply with the proposed Bacteria TMDL requirements at between \$2.6 billion and \$4.9 billion over the next 18 years which raises serious concerns regarding the feasibility of achieving the draft compliance requirements. Requiring exorbitant spending to chase goals that may be unattainable is irresponsible. Until it can be stated with reasonable certainty that the Bacteria TMDL requirement can be met, it should not be incorporated into the MS4 Permit. In this time of fiscal challenge, the cost of complying with new unfunded mandates will no doubt come at the expense of core government services.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (619) 234-6423 or lanil@sdcta.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lani Lutar", written in a cursive style.

Lani Lutar
President and CEO

LL/sdk

CC: Members, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
David Gibson, CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region Executive Officer