July 16, 2004

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Dear Sirs:

SUBJECT: TENTATIVE ORDER NO. R9-2004-001 (NPDES No. CAS0108766), Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Urban Runoff from the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) Draining the County of Riverside, the City of Murrieta, the City of Temecula and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District within the San Diego Region

Enclosed is a copy of Order No. R9-2004-001 as adopted by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) on July 14, 2004. The Order requires the Riverside County Permittees to implement improved programs to manage urban runoff within their jurisdictions and the Santa Margarita Watershed.

Based on deliberations at the July 14 meeting, the Regional Board made the following two changes to the Receiving Waters Monitoring, Section II.A of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP):

1. The requirement to collect composite samples and to determine mass loadings at four tributary stations has been changed to allow the collection of grab samples at these stations. Instead of analyzing all grab samples for the short list of constituents contained in Table 1 of the MRP, Permittees are required to select appropriate constituents for analysis based on data from previous monitoring, triad stations, and Illicit Discharge Monitoring stations that indicates potential problems in each respective tributary area. To make this change, the tributary monitoring requirements were deleted from Section II.A.1. and a new Tributary Monitoring section has been added as Section II.A.5 of the MRP.

2. The Special Study in Section II.A.III of the MRP has been modified to provide the option to implement existing numeric criteria for controlling the volume, velocity, duration, and peak discharge rate of runoff. Various studies similar to that required in the MRP are occurring in Southern California. If the Permittees can demonstrate to the Regional Board that criteria developed in other areas of Southern California are applicable to and protective of the conditions in the Upper...
Santa Margarita Watershed, then they may implement the applicable criteria instead of conducting a separate study.

As a result of the changes to the tributary monitoring requirement, it is necessary for the Permittees to identify the sampling parameters and the rationale for the selection of the parameters, the sampling protocol, and the methods of data analysis, including criteria that will trigger further source identification and criteria that will determine the addition or elimination of sampling parameters. Pursuant to California Water Code section 13267, you are hereby directed to submit a report to the Regional Board by September 15, 2004 detailing your sampling and analysis design for the tributary stations. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the information described above. Please note that we expect the Permittees to analyze tributary samples for all previously-detected pollutants that could potentially come from each respective tributary. We look forward to reviewing your plan prior to the implementation of the Receiving Waters Monitoring Program in October 2004.

During deliberations, the Regional Board also discussed the inclusion of Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) areas in the environmentally sensitive area (ESA) definition. No change resulted from their discussion. However, based upon the interest of the Regional Board in this topic, we will by future correspondence clarify the intent of including the MSHCP in the ESA definition to address your concerns.

In conclusion, we look forward to working with you to develop and implement your new and/or improved urban runoff management programs. We will be available during the next 365 days if you would like assistance on the development of your Storm Water Management Plans.

Please take the time to fill out the attached customer service survey to provide feedback regarding staff’s performance during the permit renewal process. The form can also be filled out online at http://www.arb.ca.gov/calepa/cepacsur.htm.

Order No. R9-2004-001 and related documents are available on the Regional Board web site at http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/programs/rsd_stormwater.html, or by mail by providing a name and address. If you have any questions concerning Order No. R9-2004-001, please contact Megan Quigley of my staff at (858) 268-5363 or mquigley@rb9.swrcb.ca.gov.

Respectfully,

JOHN H ROBERTUS  
Executive Officer  
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board