

November 13, 2012

County of San Diego
City of Carlsbad
City of Chula Vista
City of Coronado
City of Del Mar
City of El Cajon
City of Encinitas
City of Escondido
City of Imperial Beach
City of Lemon Grove
City of National City
City of Oceanside
City of Poway
City of San Diego
City of San Marcos
City of Santee
City of Solana Beach
City of Vista
S.D. Unified Port District

Mr. Grant Destache
Chairman
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

Re: Regional Municipal Storm Water Permit

Dear Chairman Destache:

As representatives of the jurisdictions in San Diego County that are regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), we share deep concerns over proposed regulations in the new Regional Municipal Storm Water Permit. While we strongly believe in the mission of achieving clean water, the proposed regulations are without sound scientific merit and, if implemented, will have catastrophic negative impacts on the fiscal health of local governments and private industry.

Collectively, we are committed to the goal of improving water quality through the storm water management programs that have been developed in conjunction with the Regional Board. Current compliance efforts to reduce storm water pollution are significant and cost regional agencies more than \$100 million annually. As stewards of public tax dollars and governments that are faced with having to do more with less, we are concerned that with each permit renewal cycle, the stringency and cost of the unfunded mandates continue to go beyond any practical standards of attainment and what is required by the Clean Water Act.

The Draft Regional Municipal Storm Water Permit released by the Regional Board continues to include the far-reaching Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and other additional impractical and unattainable requirements for development projects. It is estimated that the proposed Bacteria TMDL standards alone would cost between \$2.2 billion and \$4.2 billion for those jurisdictions that share responsibility in six of the watersheds included in the permit. The cost to private industry is unknown but it is clear that any additional costs will be passed on to already struggling and financially burdened families.

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Taxpayers will be gravely impacted if this unilateral regulatory practice is allowed to move forward. Governing bodies will be forced to shift public funds away from existing programs, increase taxes or assessments, or face regulatory fines resulting from non-compliance. The Bacteria TMDL, along with the many other proposed regulations, should not be incorporated into the next Regional Municipal Storm Water Permit until we are certain that they are founded on verifiable scientific data, achievable standards, and until sufficient resources are available.

On behalf of our respective constituencies, we are requesting that the Regional Water Quality Control Board direct staff to work collaboratively with all the co-permittees and various stakeholders to draft language that makes practical sense from an environmental and economic standpoint.

Sincerely,



Chairman Ron Roberts
County of San Diego



Vice Chairman Greg Cox
County of San Diego



Mayor Matt Hall
City of Carlsbad



Mayor Cheryl Cox
City of Chula Vista



Mayor Casey Tanaka
City of Coronado



Mayor Carl Hilliard
City of Del Mar



Mayor Mark Lewis
City of El Cajon



Mayor Jerome Stocks
City of Encinitas



Mayor Sam Abed
City of Escondido



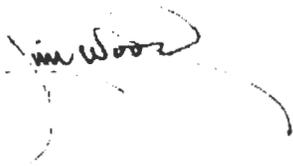
Mayor Jim Janney
City of Imperial Beach



Mayor Mary Teresa Sessom
City of Lemon Grove



Mayor Ron Morrison
City of National City



Mayor Jim Wood
City of Oceanside



Mayor Don Higginson
City of Poway

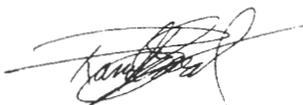


Mayor Jerry Sanders
City of San Diego

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Mayor Jim Desmond
City of San Marcos



Mayor Randy Voepel
City of Santee



Mayor Joe Kellejian
City of Solana Beach



Mayor Judy Ritter
City of Vista



Admiral Lou Smith
Chairman
S.D. Unified Port District