



C L E A N W A T E R A C T I O N

March 8, 2007

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (Sent via electronic mail c/o Dale Bower and Shin-Roei Lee

Dear Chairman Muller and Board Members Bruce, Eliahu, Peacock, Waldeck, Warren, and Young,

I am writing on behalf of Clean Water Action and our 20,000 California members to commend your staff for working with the NGO and regulated communities to develop a draft regional permit that begins to remedy the current permits' extensive problems. While there is still work to be done, we believe that the current draft is a promising step toward bringing stormwater control in the San Francisco Bay Region on a par with efforts in Southern California and the Northwest. We are pleased to see requirements for thorough reporting and provisions that will reduce the negative impacts of large new construction projects on water quality. We expect, as the regional permit evolves through its development process, that further improvements will be added to ensure that it implements the legal MEP standard and requires actual storm water monitoring. We will also look for increased trash provisions to reduce specific levels of trash in our waterways over a specified number of years. These provisions should include the employment of structural controls/capture devices that lead to measurable, enforceable reductions in trash discharge.

We are very disappointed by the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association's (BASMAA) efforts to undermine the good work that this collaborative process has produced, especially by pressuring Regional Board staff to adopt a BASMAA drafted permit. While the regulated community is welcome at the table to develop the regional permit, they certainly should not be in a position to regulate themselves and unduly influence the final permit to meet their own needs over that of our local waters. We and our members call on the Regional Board to stand up to permittee pressure and continue the truly collaborative development of the regional permit so that it prioritizes the real water quality needs of the Bay Area.

Sincerely,

Andria Ventura

Andria Ventura
Program Manager

CALIFORNIA OFFICE

www.CleanWaterAction.org/ca
cwasf@cleanwater.org

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