

January 28, 2011

VIA E-Mail: Dale Bowyer [dbowyer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dbowyer@waterboards.ca.gov)

Bruce Wolf, Executive Director  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Francisco Bay Region  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Comment Special Projects Proposal/LID Treatment Reduction Credits MRP Provision C.3.e.ii.(2)

Dear Mr. Wolf,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed BASMAA Special Projects Proposal/LID Treatment Reduction Credits for MRP Provision C.3.e.ii(2). We greatly appreciate the time and care with which the seventy-six (76) Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) permittees have worked together and with your staff to define the proposed Special Projects categories that will apply regionally to encourage infill project development where institutional barriers and site-specific constraints may limit the application of the LID treatment measures allowed by the Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) Provision C.3.

We are living in a new economic reality from when the MRP was adopted in 2009, at that time we could not have foreseen the depth of this extended recession or the toll it would take on state funding, local governments, regional jobs and programs. The BASMAA Proposal is a first step to encourage and support sustainable growth strategies across the Bay Area. Areas served by member municipalities ranging from rural rangeland, to suburban and mid size cities, to high density urban areas – all communities with a shared struggle to revitalize. Projects as defined in the Special Project categories will support smart growth development patterns appropriate to push the boundaries of sustainable development in each of the individual community types.

The many environmental benefits that compact, infill, and redevelopment projects can yield should be encouraged by allowing greater flexibility in the treatment of stormwater runoff. The use of tree well, sand filter, and mechanical vault filtration systems in development projects that meet local or regional sustainable growth objectives can offer a critical balance between water quality benefits and achieving other beneficial environmental objectives by creating less accessory impervious areas and auto-related pollutant impacts. Incentivizing LID treatment reduction credits should be applied to these types of Special Projects, without these important considerations the MRP will encourage low density development where bioretention, infiltration, and evapotranspiration are feasible.

We ask that you please adopt the BASMAA proposal as an important first step to modify the MRP and bring Water Board policy in line with the Federal, State, and regional emphasis on smart growth.

We appreciate your time and consideration, and look forward to working with your staff and Board Members to further our mutual understanding of this Proposal.

Sincerely,

John A. Coleman  
Executive Director