



July 2, 2015

Mr. Bruce Wolfe
Executive Officer
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Comments on the Tentative Order for the Reissued NPDES Stormwater Municipal Regional Permit

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

The City of San Mateo appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Tentative Order for the reissued NPDES stormwater municipal regional permit ("MRP 2.0") that was recently released by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) staff. Our comments reflect the importance of developing permit requirements that are flexible, practical, and cost-effective while meeting the challenges of continuing to protect water quality in our local creeks and San Francisco Bay. Our intent is for these comments to contribute to a constructive dialog that will result in additional permit revisions.

Please note that this letter focuses on our highest priority areas of concern for the City of San Mateo specifically, which are Provisions C.3 (New Development and Redevelopment, especially the Green Infrastructure provision), C.10 (Trash Load Reduction), and C.11/12 (Mercury and PCBs Controls). Of particular concern is that Provision C.12 (PCBs Controls) continues to fall well short of providing Permittees with a clear and feasible pathway to attaining compliance. Please see the below sections for more details.

For detailed comments on other sections of the permit, please refer to the comment letter submitted separately by the San Mateo Countywide Clean Water Program (SMCWPPP). We concur with and support all of SMCWPPP's comments and incorporate them here by reference.

For each high priority issue that we have identified, a corresponding recommended revision to the Tentative Order is presented below, organized by each provision for which we are providing comments.

C.3 - NEW DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

C.3.b.i - Regulated Projects

Provision C.3.b requires that any Regulated Project that was approved before any C.3 requirements were in effect (i.e., does not have a stormwater control plan) and has not begun construction before MRP 2.0 takes effect must comply with provisions C.3.c and C.3.d (LID treatment and sizing requirements).

- **Issue:** Permittees do not have the legal authority to impose new requirements on projects with approved Vesting Tentative Maps and/or development agreements, and therefore will face non-compliance with this requirement. Furthermore, it may be difficult for a project to change its site design and layout to accommodate LID treatment measures required by C.3.c and C.3.d.

Requested Revision: Delete this requirement. It would have minimal water quality benefit and will likely lead to legal battles with developers. Only a small number of projects and a small percentage of impervious surface created/replaced would be subject to this requirement. However, if the requirement remains, then at a minimum include language to allow flexibility in implementation (for example, “provide treatment to the extent feasible” and allow use of media filters) for projects that have prior approval.

C.3.c.i.(2)- LID Site Design

Permittees are required to collectively develop and adopt design specifications for pervious pavement systems, subject to Executive Officer approval. Countywide program guidance manuals already include pervious pavement specifications.

- **Issue:** The process for compliance with this provision is unclear (i.e., whether and what type of submittal is required, and by when). In addition, the definition of pervious pavement systems does not include grid pavements (e.g., turf block or plastic grid systems).

Requested Revision: Allow Permittees to reference a regional or countywide pervious paving specification in their annual reports (including a web link to the document) that meets the intent of this provision. Expand the definition of pervious pavement systems to include grid pavements.

C.3.e.ii - Special Projects

The Special Projects criteria for LID treatment reduction credits include criteria for density expressed as Floor Area Ratio (FAR)¹ or Dwelling Units (DU) per acre. Both criteria are computed based on the size of the project site. The current permit allows jurisdictions to define FAR and calculate DU/acre consistent with their standard practices. MRP 2.0 prescribes specific definitions for each and requires that they be computed based on the total area of the site (e.g., DU/ac based on gross density²). The Permittees requested changes to the definitions as part of early input on the Administrative Draft and the changes were not incorporated.

- **Issue:** Permittees typically use a definition of gross density that excludes public rights-of-way. Using gross density as defined in the Tentative Order will result in a lower density value that may prevent some valuable high density projects from qualifying for LID treatment reduction credits. Similarly, Permittees would like to exclude public rights-of-way and public plaza areas from the computation of FAR.

¹ Floor area ratio is defined as the ratio of the total floor area on all floors of all buildings at a project site (except structures, floors, or floor areas dedicated to parking) to the total project area.

² Gross density is defined as the total number of residential units divided by the acreage of the entire site area, including land occupied by public rights-of-way, recreational, civic, commercial and other non-residential uses.

Requested Revision: Change the definitions of FAR and gross density to exclude public plazas, public rights-of-way, and civic areas.

C.3.g.iv - Hydromodification Management (HM) Standard – Methodology for Direct Simulation of Erosion Potential

The Tentative Order contains similar HM standards and requirements for Permittees to those in the current permit. In addition, the Tentative Order allows the Permittees to collectively propose a method for sizing of HM facilities based on direct simulation of erosion potential, which may allow more efficient facility sizing.

- **Issue:** The method must be submitted to the Regional Water Board for review and adopted as a permit amendment before it can be applied. This administrative hurdle is unnecessary, as the method is consistent with the current HM standard (and it is the only requirement in the Tentative Order requiring an amendment), and will cause delay and uncertainty as to when the methodology can be used. Also, the provision contains several typos that make the requirements somewhat confusing.

Requested Revision: Allow Executive Officer approval of the sizing methodology.

C.3.h - Operation and Maintenance of Stormwater Treatment Systems

- **Issue:** C.3.h.ii.(7) contains requirements for O&M Enforcement Response Plans. Section (c) requires that corrective actions for identified O&M problems with pervious pavement, treatment, and HM systems be implemented within 30 days of identification, and if more than 30 days are required, a rationale must be recorded in the Permittee's inspection tracking database. The process of contacting and educating the property owner, allowing the property owner to arrange for maintenance work to be completed, and following up with a re-inspection typically takes more than 30 days. In the Phase I Manager's early input on the Administrative Draft, a correction period of 90 days was requested, consistent with current practice by some Permittees and some existing maintenance agreements.

Requested Revision: Allow 90 days for completion of permanent corrective actions.

- **Issue:** Changes were made to allow Permittee to track inspections by the number of sites instead of numbers of treatment/HM facilities, which was an improvement, but inspection of at least 20% of the total number of Regulated Projects is required each year. Permittees have requested more flexibility around that number while still meeting the requirement of inspection of each site at least once every five years.

Requested Revision: Change language to require inspection of "approximately 20%" of sites per year.

C.3.j - Green Infrastructure Planning and Implementation

Provision C.3.j.i requires each Permittee to develop a GI Plan. The GI Plan must include: mechanism to prioritize and map potential GI project areas; maps and lists generated by this mechanism, for implementation within 2, 7, and 12 years of the Permit effective date; targets for amounts of retrofitted impervious surface within 2, 7, 12, 27, and 52 years; tracking and mapping of installed GI

systems; streetscape design and construction details and standards; a list of updates and modifications to existing related Permittee planning documents; and reporting on all of the above elements. Permittees must also prepare and submit annually a list of planned and potential GI projects, based on a review of capital improvement projects, and a summary of how each project will include GI to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) or why it was impracticable to implement GI.

- **Issue:** The language in Provision C.3.j needs to be more consistent with the expectations in Provisions C.11 and C.12 for achieving PCB and mercury load reductions with GI. Discussions with Regional Water Board staff on C.11 and C.12 have suggested that load reductions required by GI over the MRP 2.0 permit term can be accomplished by private development and redevelopment, whereas C.3.j only refers to public retrofits.

Requested Revision: Make more explicit in C.3.j (as well as in C.11/12) that private development and redevelopment as well as public projects will count toward meeting PCB and mercury load reductions, and that constructed public GI projects within the permit term are not required for compliance with GI pollutant load reductions.

- **Issue:** Additional flexibility in approaches to mapping and prioritization is needed. In addition, the time intervals for planning should be aligned with fiscal years, and made consistent with the time intervals for load reductions in C.11/12.

Requested Revision: The mechanisms used to develop the GI Plan and priorities should include other less complex tools in addition to the GreenPlan-IT tool. The time intervals should be changed to FY 19-20, FY 24-25, and FY 29-30 (to align with C.11/12 load reduction reporting intervals of 2020 and 2030).

- **Issue:** Provision C.3.j.i(1)(c) requires Green Infrastructure Plans to include “targets for the amount of impervious surface within the Permittee’s jurisdiction to be retrofitted” within 2, 7, 12, 27, and 52 years of the Permit effective date. It is unclear how these “targets” are to be established by each Permittee. In addition, the timeframes for establishing “targets” (we would prefer the term “projections”) for the amount of impervious surface retrofitted do not line up with the C.11/12 load reduction timeframes, making it difficult to calculate projected load reductions.

Requested Revision: Allow the development of “projections” instead of “targets”, and allow Permittees to include projected private development as well as public projects. Allow projections to be developed for the years 2020, 2030, 2040, and 2065, consistent with C.11/12 and with other municipal planning documents.

- **Issue:** Provision C.3.j.ii requires early implementation of GI, focused on identifying and implementing public projects that have potential for GI measures (including LID treatment) within the permit term. It is unclear how compliance with this section will be determined. The process for review of planned capital projects needs to be more defined and objective, in order to avoid disagreements with Regional Water Board staff as to what are “missed opportunities”. There also needs to be the recognition that while it may be technically feasible to add LID features to a capital project, the funding for the additional features and the ongoing maintenance of the LID features may not be available. Implementation (i.e., design and construction) during the Permit term of GI projects that are not already planned and funded will be very challenging.

Requested Revision: Efforts during the MRP 2.0 term should focus on development of long-term GI Plans and opportunistic implementation of GI projects where feasible and where funding is available. Add language proposed by the Permittees as early input to the Administrative Draft Permit (as shown in the footnote below³) that would allow for consistent review of capital projects for GI opportunities, based on specified criteria.

C.10 - TRASH LOAD REDUCTION

C.10.a.i – Trash Reduction Requirement Schedule

- **Issue:** Reductions become increasingly more challenging the closer Permittees move towards the trash reduction goal of “no adverse impacts”. Provision C.10.a.i (Schedule) requires a 70% load reduction by 2017. This schedule is too rigorous and should be extended to allow for more time to develop/implement sustainable control measures. Most of the areas remaining to address are moderate trash generating areas and willing likely require more innovative controls that will have to be piloted.

Requested Revision: We request that the 70% load reduction time schedule, set for 2017 in the Tentative Order, be extended at least to 2018.

C.10.a.ii.b – Trash Generation Area Management (Private Drainage Areas)

- **Issue:** Provision C.10.a.ii.b (Trash Generation Area Management) requires Permittees to map and assess ALL private drainages 5,000 ft² and greater, determine the level of trash present in these areas, and ensure that no further actions are needed. The intent of mapping these drainages is unclear. Mapping would require a significant undertaking that would result in minimal water quality benefit. Ensuring that private drainages are at a “low” trash generation level does not require mapping. Areas can be identified by modifying existing municipal inspection programs already in place.

Requested Revision: We request that the mapping requirement be removed from this provision. As an alternative, Permittees should be required to: 1) identify high priority areas that generate moderate, high or very high levels of trash and are plumbed directly to their storm drain systems, and 2) cause these areas to be managed to a level equivalent to the performance of a full capture system or to a low trash generation level.

- **Issue:** Throughout the Bay Area thousands of Green Infrastructure (C.3 compliant) facilities have been constructed on properties over the last 10+ years, including dozens of facilities and at least 35 acres in San Mateo. These facilities were designed consistent with the new and redevelopment requirements and perform at a level similar to typical trash full capture systems. These systems have been designed to prevent flooding and effectively remove pollutants from stormwater. Provision C.10.a.iii (Mandatory Minimum Full Trash Capture Systems) currently requires Permittees to install a screen (5mm) to the overflow pipes of all

³ Proposed language: “Permittees shall review and analyze appropriate projects within the Permittee’s capital improvement program, and for each project, assess the opportunities and associated costs of incorporating LID into the project. The analysis shall consider factors such as grading and drainage, pollutant loading associated with adjacent land uses, uses of available space with the project area, condition of existing infrastructure, opportunities to achieve multiple benefits such as providing aesthetic and recreational resources, and potential availability of incremental funding to support LID elements along with other relevant factors... Permittees will collectively evaluate and develop guidance on the criteria for determining practicability of incorporating green infrastructure measures into planned projects.”

Green Infrastructure facilities before these devices can be considered full capture systems. Screening the overflow pipes would be out of the scope of the municipality's authority, as nearly all treatment facilities are privately owned and maintained. Additionally, adding screens to existing facilities would have unknown effects to the performance of these systems and would likely increase the maintenance and flooding if retrofitted with screens. The requirements for the sizing and design of green infrastructure facilities are now well established. Requiring modifications to these designs for trash just doesn't make sense. The Water Board established provisions requiring these facilities based on their ability to remove pollutants attached to small particles less 0.1mm in size, but is now requiring modifications for trash items that are at least 20 times greater in size. Trash items ARE effectively removed by these facilities without modification.

Requested Revision: We request that the Water Board remove the requirement for "screening" all Green Infrastructure treatment facilities installed and maintained consistent with provision C.3 and in the Permit deem that these facilities are equivalent to full capture systems.

C.10.b.iv - Source Controls

The most important actions that can be taken by Permittees are those that eliminate the generation of litter prone items in perpetuity. Bay Area Permittees have been national leaders on taking actions to eliminate the sale or distribution of litter prone items. Nearly every Permittee in the Bay Area has adopted an ordinance focused at eliminating certain types of trash in our creeks and the Bay. These actions took significant political support, public resources and were done in partnership with environmental NGOs.

- **Issue:** Permittees to-date have focused on instituting a number of different types of source control actions. The City of San Mateo implemented a single use plastic bag ban, and an expanded polystyrene bans; and accounted for 7% and 5% respective reductions for each of these in the 2013/2014 Annual Report. 13/14 Annual Report included assessment methods and accounting/supporting evidence. The Regional Water Board essentially accepted this reduction, in their review of our annual report and assertion/assumption of our compliant status. It will be very difficult to justify less of an overall reduction claimed thus far, in particular because the reduction of 12%, by these two source control methods, is now being disputed after already being accepted. In fact, this would greatly affect the potential for implementing future source control efforts.

The maximum of 5% reduction for all source control actions is arbitrary and inconsistent with our currently knowledge of the percentage of trash in stormwater associated with specific litter-prone items associated with source control actions. The programs put into place to address these litter prone items are effective and directly impact stormwater quality.

Requested Revision: We request that the TO be revised to increase the maximum reduction value for all source control actions combined to 25%. Supporting evidence would be required to claim reductions associated with source controls.

C.10.b.iv - Receiving Water Observations

- **Issue:** The TO requires the Permittees conduct receiving water observations downstream from trash generation areas converted to “low” trash generation. By requiring Permittees to focus on areas downstream of control actions, appears that receiving water observations could be used to judge compliance with reductions associated with municipal stormwater. Confusing, because the process to judge compliance with stormwater reductions is outlined in the TO – full capture, visual assessments, source control values, and offsets associated with cleanups.

We are supportive of an ambient monitoring program that would continue to evaluate trash conditions or levels in local creeks and rivers using a cost-effective and practical protocol. This protocol, however, has not yet been developed.

Requested Revision: We request that the TO language be revised to state that purpose of receiving water observations is “...to evaluate the level of trash present in receiving waters over time, and to the extent possible determine whether there are ongoing sources outside of the Permittee’s jurisdiction that are causing or contributing to adverse trash impacts in the receiving water(s).” Additionally, we are willing to be a partner with the Water Board and NGOs in developing and pilot-testing a protocol during the permit term to achieve this purpose.

C.10.e.i – Optional Trash Load Reduction Offset Opportunities - Creek and Shoreline Cleanups

Creek and shoreline cleanups are important actions that promote community involvement, create awareness of trash issues, and improve water quality. These actions have water quality value, are supported by the community and environmental NGOs, and should be accounted for accordingly in the load reduction accounting method.

- **Issue:** While we appreciate the inclusion of load reduction benefits associated with creek and shoreline cleanups, the 5% maximum offset for these important actions is too small and inconsistent with the environmental benefit. Additionally, the arbitrary 10:1 ratio of trash removed to offset value is too large and under values the benefits of these actions.

The requirement for a minimum cleanup frequency of 2x/year at each specific site creates inflexibility and is too constraining. What’s important is that trash is being removed from creeks and shorelines, not how many times at a specific site. San Mateo Creek/shoreline cleanups include the Bayfront Cleanup, which occurs annually as a single day event. September 2014 was the 30th Anniversary of the event in San Mateo.

The 2014 event drew 957 volunteers and removed 597 gallons of material for recycling and 4682 gallons of debris as trash from our waterways. San Mateo staff and volunteers cleaned 4 miles of shoreline including portions of San Mateo Creek, surrounding the Bayfront Levee system from Coyote Park, Ryder Park, and Seal Point Park. The existing language would disincentivize this event, which is one of the largest in the Bay Area.

Requested Revision: We request that the TO be revised to:

- Increase the maximum offset for creek and shoreline cleanups to 10%;
- Reduce the ratio of trash removed to reduction value to 3:1, similar to other types of mitigation programs; and,

- Remove the requirement that a site be cleaned up at least 2x/year before claiming an offset.

C.10.e.i – Optional Trash Load Reduction Offset Opportunities – Direct Discharge Trash Controls

This offset is intended to address trash impacts associated with non-stormwater pathways to creeks and rivers such as illegal dumping directly into water bodies. These pathways directly impact water bodies and at some sites serve as the dominant source of trash. Programs that address trash from direct discharges should be accounted for accordingly in the load reduction accounting method.

- **Issue:** While we appreciate the inclusion of load reduction benefits associated with direct dumping, the 10% maximum offset for these important programs is too low and inconsistent with the environmental benefit of these programs. Additionally, the arbitrary 10:1 ratio of trash removed to offset value is too large and under values the benefits of these actions. Lastly, Permittees post-2016 may identify direct discharges as an important source of trash to receiving waters and therefore the 2016 Annual Report should not be the only timeframe when Permittees can submit a plan to address these sources.

Requested Revision: We request that the TO be revised to:

- Increase the maximum offset for programs addressing direct discharges to 25%; and,
- Reduce the ratio of trash removed to reduction value to 3:1, similar to other types of mitigation programs.
- Allow for submittals of plans to control direct discharges post-2016.

C.10.f - Reporting

- **Issue:** Compliance with NPDES permits is determined by the Water Board. Provision C10.f.v.b requires the Permittees to “submit a report of non-compliance” if it cannot demonstrate the attainment of 70% reduction, which therefore assumes that compliance determinations are made by the Permittee.

Requested Revision: We request that the Water Board revise this provision to require that a Permittee that cannot demonstrate a 70% reduction, “submit a report and updated Long-term Trash Load Reduction Plan that describes actions to comply with the mandatory deadlines in a timely manner...”

C.11 - MERCURY CONTROLS

Provisions C.11.a – c in the Tentative Order generally parallel C.12.a – c. Therefore, the below comments on those provisions for C.12 (PCBs Controls) also generally apply to C.11 (Mercury Controls).

C.12 - PCBs CONTROLS

C.12.a – Implement Control Measures to Achieve Load Reductions

The Tentative Order appears to require Permittees to reduce PCBs loads to the Bay by 3 kg/year by the end of the permit term. The approach includes developing an accounting system for Executive

Officer approval early in the permit term that would form the basis for the load reductions credited to the various PCBs controls.

- **Issue:** There is a lack of a clear and feasible pathway for Permittees to attain compliance with the load reduction requirements. Most factors that would be key to meeting the criteria are uncertain and many are not within Permittee control (e.g., extent of source properties that will be found, building demolition rates, and redevelopment rates), making achievement of compliance uncertain.

Requested Revision: Load reduction performance criteria should not be the point of compliance. Compliance should be based upon implementing PCBs control programs designed to achieve a load reduction target (such as a Numeric Action Level or similar mechanism for triggering requirements for additional action and reporting), based on an interim accounting method (see next section). The target would be informed by what the BMP programs could achieve, based on the accounting system, which would be agreed upon upfront and incorporated into the permit.

- **Issue:** The schedule for the following reporting requirements in Provision C.12.a. is unrealistic.
 - Provision C.12.a.iii.(1) - February 1, 2016 report providing "a list of watersheds (or portions therein) where PCBs control measures are currently being implemented and those in which control measures will be implemented (C.12.a.ii.(1)) during the term of this permit as well as the monitoring data and other information used to select the watersheds."
 - Provision C.12.a.iii.(2) - 2016 Annual Report providing "the specific control measures (C.12.a.ii.(2)) that are currently being implemented and those that will be implemented in watersheds identified under C.12.a.iii.(1) and an implementation schedule (C.12.a.ii.(3)) for these control measures. This report shall include: [scope, start dates, progress milestones, schedules, roles and responsibilities of Permittees, etc...]....".

Requested Revision: Extend the deadlines for the above reports to the 2017 Annual Report.

C.12.b. Assess Load Reductions from Stormwater

SMCWPPP, other countywide stormwater programs, and Regional Water Board staff recently worked together to develop an interim accounting method. It was intended to provide a basis for stipulated load reduction benefits for implementation of the primary PCBs control programs that Permittees anticipate implementing during the MRP 2.0 permit term (this interim accounting method would be revised before the next permit term). We appreciate that Regional Water Board staff included much of the information developed for the interim accounting method in the fact sheet.

- **Issue:** Values for certain key accounting parameters for managing PCBs-containing materials and wastes during building demolition activities were left out.

Requested Revision: Include in the interim accounting method values for all parameters to allow for scrutiny during the public permit review process, given the uncertainty in these values. It is especially important to include values for all parameters associated with

managing PCBs-containing materials and wastes during building demolition activities, including the fraction of PCBs mass in a building that enters the MS4 during demolition in the absence of enhanced controls, which is particularly uncertain. Stormwater programs can also provide similar values for mercury to include in the fact sheet as well.

- **Issue:** Requirement to formally submit load reduction assessment methodology early in the permit term for Executive Officer approval creates uncertainty in the load reduction benefit for each PCBs control program.

Requested Revision: Omit the requirement to submit load reduction accounting method early in the permit term. Instead, the interim accounting method should be finalized, incorporated into the permit, and then used to calculate PCBs load reductions during Permittee annual reporting.

- **Issue:** Water Board staff has acknowledged that load reduction performance criteria are not numeric effluent limits. This should be made clear in the permit. In addition, further clarity is needed regarding the legal definition of the performance criteria and implications with regard to enforcement and potential third party lawsuits.

Requested Revision: PCBs load reduction performance criteria should be in the form of Numeric Action Levels or a similar mechanism for triggering requirements for additional action and reporting. In addition, the permit should include contingency language that would allow for achieving compliance if a good-faith demonstration of efforts and actions by Permittees consistent with permit requirements falls short of achieving the load reduction performance criteria.

- **Issue:** Provision C.12.b.iii requires that Permittees submit Permittee-specific proportions of load reduction responsibilities and supporting data to the Water Board by April 1, 2016 – four months after the effective date of the permit. Although Permittees and the RMP have spent considerable time and resources towards identifying PCB hot spots and watersheds producing greater levels of PCBs to the Bay, data have not been collected at a level to which proportions of load reduction responsibilities could confidently be assigned to Permittees. Furthermore, assigning Permittee-specific responsibilities with high levels of uncertainty upon which compliance could be based is not good public policy and could inadvertently unduly place responsibilities upon certain Permittees requiring the spending of public resources towards fictitious goals not based in reality.

Requested Revision: Delete requirement to develop and submit Permittee-specific proportions of load reduction responsibilities.

C.12.c. Plan and Implement Green Infrastructure to Reduce PCBs Loads

Provision C.12.c of the Tentative Order requires Permittees to implement Green Infrastructure projects during the term of the permit to achieve PCBs load reductions of 120 g/year over the final three years of the permit term. Additionally, Permittees are required to prepare a reasonable assurance analysis to demonstrate quantitatively that PCB load reductions of at least 3 kg/yr throughout the Permit area will be achieved by 2040 through implementation of Green Infrastructure plans required by Provision C.3.j.

- **Issue:** It is unnecessary to include performance criteria for PCBs load reductions through implementation of GI over the reissued permit term. PCBs load reductions will not be the

driver for GI implementation during the reissued permit term. Regional Water Board staff has noted that based on extrapolation of data from the current permit term, the proposed metrics should be met via redevelopment in old industrial areas. Thus the proposed criteria would not influence GI implementation during the reissued permit term and meeting them would instead be dependent upon an activity that is not under Permittee's control. While we expect to learn valuable lessons via opportunistic early implementation of GI retrofit projects through Provision C.3.j.ii, the pollutant load reductions associated with these retrofits implemented over MRP 2.0 is anticipated to be relatively small.

Requested Revision: Provision C.12.c should be deleted.

- **Issue:** It does not make sense to prejudge that PCBs load reductions of at least 3 kg/yr throughout the Permit area should be achieved by 2040 through implementation of Green Infrastructure plans. The actual load reductions that Permittees expect to achieve via Green Infrastructure will be determined during the planning and reasonable assurance analysis required by Provision C.12.d., as part of planning for achieving the overall PCBs TMDL allocations.

Requested Revision: Provision C.12.c should be deleted.

C.12.f. Manage PCB-containing Materials and Wastes during Building Demolition

Provision C.12.f requires development of a program to manage PCBs in building materials and wastes during demolition. Given the large standing stock of PCBs known to be present in certain buildings in the Bay Area, there could potentially be significant benefits to implementing the proposed control program. However, we are not aware that any data exist regarding the amount of PCBs-containing materials that are released to the ground during demolition and then mobilized into the MS4 by urban runoff, making it challenging to project with any certainty the actual water quality benefit of the proposed control program. Cost-effectiveness relative to other PCBs controls is also highly uncertain at this time.

- **Issue:** The various potential problems associated with PCBs in building materials (i.e., water quality, human exposure at the site, and disposal) should be addressed holistically on a statewide or federal basis rather than focusing on water quality controls in the Bay Area only. Meeting the Tentative Order's three year timeframe to develop a program to manage PCBs in building materials and wastes during demolition would likely require administration at the local level. This inappropriate and rushed approach would result in highly inefficient use of scarce public funds and likely be ineffective at comprehensively addressing the problems. It would also likely result in inconsistent programs across the Bay Area.

Recommended Solution: Allow at a minimum the entire permit term for Permittees to work with the State, USEPA, the building industry, and other stakeholders to attempt to develop a comprehensive statewide or federal program analogous to current programs for asbestos and lead paint. Given the multiple environmental and public health issues in play, USEPA should play a large role in development of this program.

C.15 - CONDITIONALLY EXEMPTED DISCHARGES

C.15.b – Conditionally Exempted Non-Stormwater Discharges

- **Issue:** In responding to public comments, the SWRCB directed all Regional Water Boards to continue to specify potable discharge requirements in municipal stormwater permits and, on a going-forward basis, it left it up to them as to how best to craft such requirements: “Regional Water Boards adopting such permits are charged with determining appropriate requirements to protect water quality and address the needs of both the MS4 and drinking water discharges on a system-specific basis.”

In addition, there is still a grey area relating to planned potable discharges from “non-water purveyor” types of discharges, such as water system testing/flushing for new developments (not subject to the General Construction Permit), and private property fire hydrant flushing/testing. These are not covered in the new permit, and were vague in MRP 1.0, as the BMPs were only required by “purveyors”, implying that planned potable discharges by developers (not covered by the GCP), were conditionally exempt and did not require additional BMPs. These non-water purveyor discharges are not currently covered in the proposed State Potables Permit, which is unlikely to extend coverage to these smaller entities. By leaving these types of discharges out, it implies that they are prohibited entirely. Clarification is needed.

Requested Revision: The Water Board should either restore Provisions C.15.b.iii (1) and (2) from the current MRP or craft new sub provisions that would specify that “Potable water discharges that meet the Discharge Specifications set forth in Section IV.A or the Multiple Uses or Beneficial Reuse terms set forth in Section VI of the Statewide General NPDES Permit for Drinking Water Systems Discharges, Order WQ 2014-0194-DWQ shall be deemed to be conditionally exempt provided that the Permittees maintain records of these discharges, BMPs implemented, and any monitoring data collected.”

If C.15.b.iii (1 and (2) are restored, Planned Potable Discharges from “non-water purveyors” should be added to MRP 2.0 to allow municipalities to approve these smaller potable water discharges from “non-purveyors”, that aren’t captured anywhere else.

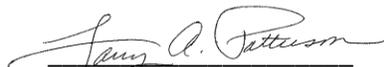
We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to resolve the issues described in this letter. Please contact me at 650-522-7002 or lpatterson@cityofsanmateo.org if you have any questions or would like to further discuss any of our comments.

Sincerely,



Mayor Maureen Freschet
City of San Mateo

7/2/2015
Date



Larry A. Patterson
City Manager
City of San Mateo

7/2/2015
Date