

Comments of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Receiving Water Limitations Workshop

November 20, 2012

Comments of Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

- Who are we?
 - Independent District Established in 1945
 - Our Mission Statement: “to protect people, property and watersheds from damage or destruction from flood and storm waters and to conserve, reclaim and save such waters for beneficial use.”

Comments of Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

- Principal Permittee in Three Permits (including 32 Co-Permittees):
 - Santa Ana Regional Water Board Permit (Covering Santa Ana River Watershed)
 - San Diego Regional Water Board Permit (Covering Santa Margarita Region Watershed)
 - Colorado River Regional Water Board Permit (Covering Whitewater River Region Watershed in Coachella Valley)

Comments of Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

- We Support Alternative 5 as the Only Viable Alternative
- Alternative 5 Maintains Goal of Working to Achieve WQS While Reinforcing State Water Board's Iterative Process
- Why?

Comments of Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

- Requiring Immediate Compliance with WQS does not Make MS4 Permits “More Protective” or “More Enforceable”
- Our Three Permits Already Contain Numerous Program Requirements Enforceable by the Water Boards or Citizen-Plaintiffs

Comments of Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

- We Are Not Looking for a “Safe Harbor”
- We Want RWL Language that Does Not Force the District, and Every Other Co-Permittee, into *Unavoidable Non-Compliance* with Clean Water Act
 - We Cannot Choose to Disregard Runoff
 - The District and Municipalities Cannot Guarantee that Pollutants from MS4s Will Not Exceed Water Quality Standards
 - The Causes of Urban Runoff Pollution Are Complex

Comments of Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

- Requiring Immediate Compliance with WQS Impedes, Not Improves, Water Quality Efforts
 - Stifles Innovation in Permit Implementation
 - Affects Budgeting, Since Compliance is Impossible
 - Most Important MS₄ Decision Makers Are Lawyers, not Engineers and Scientists

Comments of Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

- Conflicts with TMDLs
- Watershed approaches become pointless
 - Requires “Chasing” of Every Pollutant Instead of Prioritization on Most Important Pollutants

Comments of Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

- Simply Providing That WQS Must Be Achieved
Neither Achieves That Compliance nor Represents
Good Public Policy
- Support CASQA's recommendations



Thank You