

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 20-22, 2019**  
Prepared on February 8, 2019

**ITEM NUMBER:** 14

**SUBJECT:** Status Report on City of Salinas Municipal Stormwater Permit Reissuance, Order No. R3-2012-0005

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**ACTION:** Discussion/Informational

**SUMMARY**

This staff report summarizes Central Coast Water Board staff's current work to revise and reissue the City of Salinas' (City) Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit, Order No. R3-2012-0005, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, adopted on May 3, 2012 (2012 Permit). NPDES permits are limited to five-year terms, and the 2012 Permit expired on May 2, 2017. Per the requirements of the 2012 Permit, the City must continue implementation until a new Order is adopted (2012 Permit, Provision U.1).

The Central Coast Water Board adopted the City's first Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit in October 1999 and reissued the permit in March 2005 and again in May 2012. Central Coast Water Board staff developed the current 2012 Permit based on previous iterations of the permit, but substantially increased the specificity of provisions in the 2012 Permit to address challenges that arose while implementing and enforcing the 1999 and 2005 permits. The more prescriptive 2012 Permit required the City to develop and implement detailed programs and procedures to manage urban runoff and to complete rigorous annual reporting with the goal of increasing the City's effectiveness and accountability. The City has made significant progress in many areas to improve its stormwater program and compliance with permit requirements.

Central Coast Water Board staff previously reported on its oversight of the 2012 Permit and the City's stormwater program implementation at the September 24, 2015<sup>1</sup> and May 12, 2016<sup>2</sup> Board meetings. This item describes the information and findings staff will use as the basis for proposed modifications, as well as some of the modifications staff intends to propose at the September 2019 Board hearing for permit reissuance. Central Coast Water Board staff will coordinate with the City to draft proposed permit modifications that build upon the existing effective implementation efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2015/september/item12/index.shtml](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2015/september/item12/index.shtml)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2016/may/item9/index.shtml](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2016/may/item9/index.shtml)

## DISCUSSION

### Evolution in Municipal Stormwater Permitting

Water Boards have been issuing Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) NPDES permits since the 1990s. In the time since, the permits and the stormwater programs they require have continued to evolve. The federal Clean Water Act generally requires NPDES permits to include technology-based effluent limitations and any more stringent limitations necessary to meet water quality standards. However, the Clean Water Act does not explicitly reference requirements to meet water quality standards for MS4 NPDES permits. “MS4 discharges must meet a technology-based standard of prohibiting non-stormwater discharges and reducing pollutants in the discharge to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) in all cases, but requiring strict compliance with water quality standards (e.g., by imposing numeric effluent limitations) is at the discretion of the Water Board issuing the permit.”<sup>3</sup>

Water Board MS4 NPDES permits specify that stormwater and non-stormwater discharges must not cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality standards in the waters of the United States that receive those discharges. Each of the MS4 permits the Central Coast Water Board has issued to the City include these *receiving water limitations*. Water Board MS4 permits have historically provided an *iterative approach* to program implementation whereby compliance with the MEP standard is achieved over time through improving Best Management Practices (BMPs). But, as municipalities’ stormwater management programs have matured, an increasing body of monitoring data indicates that many water quality standards are in fact not being met by many MS4s. This is also the case in the City of Salinas. Urban runoff is causing and contributing to receiving water impacts and the impairment of beneficial uses throughout the State. If municipal runoff continues to cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality standards, many of our urban waterways may never attain water quality standards and fully support beneficial uses. Further, in order to effectively achieve water quality standards in watersheds with mixed-land uses, the Water Boards must effectively regulate all types of discharges (e.g., urban and agricultural).

The iterative approach has been ineffective in bringing MS4 discharges into compliance with receiving water limitations. In 2012, the State Water Board evaluated the MS4 permit iterative approach and concluded the implementation of the iterative process does not constitute compliance with receiving water limitations. Subsequently, in issuing precedential order WQO 2015-0075, the State Board re-asserted that compliance with water quality standards is and should remain the goal of any MS4 permit and determined that provisions requiring compliance with receiving water limitations are appropriate for the control of pollutants addressed in MS4 permits and consistent with Water Board authority under the Clean Water Act.<sup>4</sup>

The assignment of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) wasteload allocations<sup>5</sup> to MS4 permittees has contributed to a shift toward a water quality-based effluent limitations approach

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<sup>3</sup> Order WQ 2015-0075, p.10. In the Matter of Review of Order No. R4-2012-0175, NPDES Permit No. CAS004001 Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharges Within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County, except those Discharges Originating from the City of Long Beach MS4 Issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p. 14

<sup>5</sup> A TMDL is the amount of a particular material a waterbody can assimilate on a regular basis and still remain at levels that protect beneficial uses. It establishes an allowable amount of a pollutant; numeric indicators of water quality; proportional responsibility for controlling a pollutant (wasteload allocations for point sources, load allocations for nonpoint sources); and implementation to achieve allowable amounts of pollutant loading. The CWA requires regional boards to develop TMDLs for waters of the United States that are impaired by a specific pollutant.

in NPDES MS4 permitting. As with other current Water Board Phase I MS4 permits, Central Coast Water Board staff will incorporate additional TMDL Wasteload Allocations in the 2019 Permit as water quality-based effluent limitations.

### **Alternative Compliance Pathways**

The City of Salinas' MS4 program, like most other Phase I MS4 programs in the State, is inherently complex for multiple reasons, including its large geographic area, numerous pollutant sources, a broad mix of stormwater program activities and BMPs, and conveyance of flows above and below ground in natural and manmade systems. Further, local programs' ability to carry out MS4 program requirements is often resource-constrained, thus making it increasingly vital to prioritize activities with outcomes that serve the community and environment.<sup>6</sup>

Water Boards acknowledge that receiving water limitation provisions required by MS4 permits may result in many years of permit noncompliance because it may take years of technical efforts to achieve compliance with the receiving water limitations, especially for wet weather discharges. Accordingly, MS4 permits should incorporate a well-defined, transparent, and finite alternative path to permit compliance that allows MS4 dischargers the flexibility to pursue significant actions beyond the iterative process that result in compliance with receiving water limitations. The complexity associated with achieving water quality standards in the context of climate change, diffuse/nonpoint source emissions, and the potentially significant structural measure costs, requires that future MS4 permits provide municipalities increased implementation flexibility. MS4 permits can provide this flexibility via alternative compliance pathways. Alternative compliance pathways are intended to allow MS4 permittees the flexibility to pursue significant actions beyond the iterative process, (e.g., long-range green infrastructure programs, catchment-scale infrastructure projects for stormwater capture and use) over defined planning timescales (e.g., 20 years) expanding beyond the NPDES five-year permit cycle. They should be well-defined and transparent adaptive management strategies applied at watershed scales.

Allowing for alternative compliance pathways represents a newer approach to permitting stormwater programs. Alternative compliance options are now provided in MS4 permits issued by Regional Boards 4, 5, 6, and 9, and in draft orders in Regions 7 and 8. Central Coast Water Board staff intends to propose an alternative compliance pathway in the City's forthcoming 2019 Municipal Stormwater Permit.

#### Groundwork for Alternative Compliance Pathway

The City's 2012 Permit lays the groundwork for an alternative compliance pathway. It requires a spatially-explicit, urban catchment (watershed-based) approach to prioritizing stormwater program implementation; introduces pollutant load estimates as a criterion for prioritizing program implementation; and requires low impact development. The 2019 Permit will require the City to build on this foundation to improve tracking of structural BMP conditions and maintenance; use that information to ensure that the BMPs are effective in reducing pollutant loads in each catchment; and measure progress toward attainment of water quality standards, including wasteload allocations in adopted TMDLs.

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<sup>6</sup> "Improving Stormwater Program Monitoring, Evaluation, Tracking, and Reporting, Workshop Report and Recommendations," October 12, 2018, p. 1. *Prepared for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 by PG Environmental.*

## CHANGES TO 2012 PERMIT UNDER CONSIDERATION

### Basis for Modifications to Permit

Generally, Water Board staff finds the City has made significant improvements to its Stormwater Program during the 2012 Permit term, and staff will coordinate with the City to draft proposed permit modifications that build upon the existing effective implementation efforts. Water Board staff are considering modifications that will allow the City greater flexibility in how it pursues and achieves compliance, compared to the more prescriptive approach in the 2012 Permit.

As a basis for identifying modifications to the 2012 Permit, Water Board staff reviewed the City's Report of Waste Discharge and Annual Reports, conducted stormwater inspections of facilities and sites in the City, and reviewed water quality monitoring data. In addition to these sources of information, Water Board staff and City staff maintain extensive interaction over a broad range of matters supporting permit compliance. This interaction provides additional insight into implementation challenges associated with various permit requirements as well as opportunities to address those challenges. Additionally, Water Board staff tracks other Water Board Phase I Permits and State Board guidance to inform current standards and permit improvements. Together these sources of information provide the basis for anticipated changes to the City's permit.

### Annual Report Review

Since the effective date of the 2012 Permit, the City has renewed its efforts to comply and demonstrated progress at controlling stormwater discharges through program improvements. The May 12, 2016 staff report to the Water Board reported on many changes the City made by Year 4 of the permit cycle, including its restructuring of the public works organization, hiring of new staff dedicated to implementing the permit requirements, and improved procedures to correct deficiencies and potential violations identified during inspections. Water Board staff review of annual reports indicates the City continues to make progress in improving its stormwater program. Notable achievements include:

- Improved integration of field data reporting, tracking, and mapping functions resulting in more comprehensive compliance reporting.
- Records from industrial and commercial inspection programs are clearly presented; of the 1,250 total businesses identified in the Year 1 Annual Report, the City inspected all industrial businesses and half of commercial businesses.
- Completed dry weather screening and inspection of the entire MS4 in 2016; issued four notices of violations at dry weather screening locations.
- Conducted trash assessments at four stream monitoring locations showing long-term trash reduction improvements.
- Revised construction site inspection procedures and checklists; began comprehensive field and classroom training on construction site inspection, and revised construction site inspection tracking and reporting procedures.
- Developed new construction site prioritization and inspection manual, with clearly presented inspection instructions, forms, and tiered enforcement response procedures.
- Revised Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Guidance Manual that clearly defines the City's response to a report of a spill; clarifies the City's link with Monterey County fire and police support; and includes field forms allowing for comprehensive entries to assist tracking by field personnel.
- Pursued illicit discharges, improved the process used to identify them, issued follow-up letters with property owners, and resolved them.

### Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) Review

The City's November 2016 ROWD serves as the application for its next permit and includes the City's recommendations for program improvement. Water Board staff will consider the recommendations in developing the 2019 Draft Permit.

### Water Quality Monitoring Data Review

The City's Stormwater Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) began with the 2005 Permit requiring monitoring of receiving waters and stormwater discharges. Water Board staff restructured the 2012 Permit MRP to include monitoring for urban catchment action level pilot projects, stormwater discharge trends, and receiving waters. During the 2012 Permit term, the City conducted additional monitoring to support its plan to decrease pollutant loads discharged from the Salinas River Outfall, and its Wasteload Allocation Attainment Plan for the Lower Salinas River Pathogen TMDL.

### *Water Quality Monitoring Results*

Toxicity sampling had variable results over time for test organism survival, growth, and reproduction, but generally shows toxicity in both sediment and receiving water. Receiving water bioassessment results indicate a decline in habitat quality over the past eight years. Monitoring data for nutrients at urban catchment action level pilot project locations show action levels<sup>7</sup> are exceeded about 30 percent of the time, and pathogens are exceeded about 25 percent of the time. Monitoring for the Salinas River Outfall Pollutant Load Reduction Plan occurs at the pump station at the southern edge of town, and at the terminus of the 66-inch diameter pipe flowing from the pump station to the Salinas River. Data from the pump station and the Salinas River outfall show concentrations of nitrate increase between the pump station and the outfall and exceed water quality goals 60 percent of the time.

The data from the Salinas Outfall monitoring illustrates the key challenge of differentiating the urban stormwater contribution from other sources, particularly agricultural sources associated with the City's urban-agricultural interface. The increase in nitrate loading between the City's pump station, where urban stormwater runoff is pumped into the 66-inch pipe, and the pipe's river outfall to the River indicates a non-urban stormwater pollutant source (i.e., infiltration of shallow groundwater from irrigated agricultural areas). Similarly, waterways flowing through the City, such as the Reclamation Canal and related tributaries, convey non-urban runoff, primarily associated with irrigated agricultural areas upstream and within the City limits (Carr Lake), comingled with urban runoff. To most effectively target stormwater program management activities aimed at reducing urban runoff pollutant loading, the City needs to emphasize outfall monitoring in urbanized catchments.

### 2017 Monitoring and Reporting Program Revision

Upon review of monitoring data, and in consideration of operational factors relating to implementation of the 2012 Permit MRP, the City proposed modifications to the MRP in its annual reports for permit years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. Water Board staff evaluated monitoring data and Annual Reports and found the proposed modifications to the MRP were appropriate. On July 18, 2017, Water Board staff revised the MRP for the 2012 Permit after receiving comments during the 30-day public comment period. The 2017 MRP will serve as the basis for the MRP developed with the 2019 Permit.

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<sup>7</sup> Action Levels for turbidity, orthophosphate, copper, zinc and fecal coliform are set at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of levels contained in data from the National Stormwater Quality Database.

The 2017 revisions to the City's stormwater monitoring program were designed to improve the precision of the City's pollutant loading and runoff volume measurements. The revisions include implementation of high precision urban catchment flow monitoring and pollutant loading, and improved coordination with local receiving water monitoring programs.

#### 2018 Water Year Results from 2017 MRP

Results from the first year of implementing the 2017 MRP indicate continuing exceedances of water quality standards in receiving waters. From the 11 water quality samples collected at background receiving water sites, 73 percent exceeded the orthophosphate Water Quality Objective (WQO) and 75 percent exceeded the fecal coliform WQO. Of the 34 urban outfall water quality samples submitted for analysis, 9 percent exceeded the WQO for fecal coliform, 56 percent exceeded the turbidity WQO, and 38 percent exceeded the target<sup>8</sup> for Total Suspended Solids. A total of six outfall samples were submitted for metal analysis and 50 percent exceeded the WQO for zinc.

### **Considerations for New Requirements in 2019 Permit**

#### TMDLs and Related Water Quality Limitations

Water Board staff will incorporate into the 2019 Permit the following two TMDLs that became effective since the 2012 Permit was adopted:

*Nutrient TMDL* for Nitrogen Compounds and Orthophosphate in the Lower Salinas River and Reclamation Canal Basin, and the Moro Cojo Slough Subwatershed, effective May 7, 2014. The City must attain Wasteload Allocations no later than May 7, 2044. Staff recommends incorporating this TMDL's Wasteload Allocations in the 2019 Permit as TMDL-specific water quality limitations for:

- Nitrate as N
- Orthophosphate as P
- Unionized ammonia as N

*Toxicity TMDL* for Sediment Toxicity and Pyrethroid Pesticides in Sediment in the Lower Salinas River Watershed, effective June 28, 2018. The City must attain Wasteload Allocations no later than June 28, 2023. Staff recommends incorporating this TMDL's Wasteload Allocations in the 2019 Permit as TMDL-specific water quality imitations for:

- Sediment toxicity and pyrethroid concentration in water
- Pyrethroid sediment concentration toxicity unit

Water Board staff recommends retaining the TMDL-specific water quality limitations for the TMDL approved prior to the 2012 Permit adoption, which are included in the 2012 Permit: *Fecal Coliform TMDL* for Fecal Coliform in the Lower Salinas River, effective December 20, 2011. The City must attain Wasteload Allocations no later than December 20, 2024.

#### City's Opportunity to Pursue Alternative Compliance Pathway to Meet Receiving Water Limitations and TMDL-Specific Limitations

As described above, Water Board staff plans to include an option in the permit for the City to pursue a watershed-based alternative compliance pathway for complying with its receiving water limitations and the above TMDL-specific water quality limitations. The City's participation in the Pure Water Monterey project presents a unique opportunity for the City in pursuing an

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<sup>8</sup> Where no Basin Plan water quality objectives are available, the MRP uses alternative water quality criteria from various sources as benchmark values.

alternative compliance pathway. The Pure Water Monterey project will divert urban stormwater from the City to the Monterey One Water regional wastewater and reclamation facility where the stormwater will be treated and included in the facility's reclaimed water flows. Upon completion, the Pure Water Monterey project will divert stormwater from the Reclamation Canal, the Salinas Pump Station, and the City's Industrial Wastewater facility south of the town. As a multi-benefit project that captures, treats, infiltrates, and reuses the City's stormwater to support a local sustainable water supply, the Pure Water Monterey project achieves one of the key principles for Water Boards to consider in providing alternative compliance pathways.<sup>9</sup>

The City also has an opportunity to integrate its existing low impact development program and potential future green infrastructure projects into a watershed-based approach that provides an alternative compliance pathway. Also, the City is continuing to evaluate plans for Carr Lake that could allow the Lake to serve as a keystone of a larger green infrastructure watershed-based approach.

#### *Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience*

Both the Pure Water Monterey and the Carr Lake Restoration<sup>10</sup> projects would offer potential value for climate change adaptation. The Carr Lake project would promote climate change resiliency through wetland and floodplain restoration while Pure Water Monterey helps diversify water supply portfolios and provide drought protection.

#### Trash Amendments

On April 7, 2015, the State Water Board adopted a statewide water quality objective for trash aimed at reducing the amount of trash that finds its way into rivers, lakes and the ocean, threatening aquatic life and public health. Known as the Trash Amendments because they are contained in amendments to state-wide Water Quality Control Plans,<sup>11</sup> they include requirements for municipal stormwater permits. The 2019 Permit will include trash requirements for the City that incorporate the Trash Amendments and build on existing robust 2012 Permit requirements.

The 2012 Permit requires the City to implement several programs to reduce littering rates and to remove trash from the MS4 and receiving waters, including: public education and outreach programs, municipal ordinances<sup>12</sup>, trash clean-up events at priority locations, signage, street sweeping, and removing trash from downstream waterbodies. Results of the City's field-based assessments and load reduction modeling indicate the City's actions to reduce trash are effective.

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<sup>9</sup> The State Water Board identified seven principles for Regional Water Boards to follow in considering the watershed-based approach to receiving water limitations compliance when issuing Phase I MS4 Permits. See p. 51 at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2015/wqo2015\\_0075.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2015/wqo2015_0075.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> The Big Sur Land Trust, the city of Salinas, community partners and residents are working to establish a long-term plan that will include the outcomes of scientific and engineering studies for floodplain and habitat improvements for portions of the 480-acre seasonally dry (largely cultivated) Carr Lake Basin in the heart of the City. A goal of the project is to transform the property into an asset for the community that will help address the lack of parks and open space within the city.

<sup>11</sup> Water Quality Control Plan for the Ocean Waters of California, and Part 1 Trash Provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California.

<sup>12</sup> The City adopted a municipal ordinance that became effective on April 1, 2015 that bans certain types of retail establishments from using thin-film plastic single-use carryout bags. During the 2005 Permit term, the City also enacted a polystyrene ban for food takeout containers by all food service vendors that became effective February 19, 2012.

### Reporting Requirements and Information Management

Information in the City's annual report has been the main record of permit compliance since the first 1999 Permit. Due to the complexity of the City's program and comprehensive nature of permit reporting requirements, each year the annual report has increased in length/volume. Year 1 of the 2012 Permit required 42 document submittals and 52 reporting elements. In Years 2 through 4, the permit required 26 additional documents submittals, and 140 ongoing and new reporting elements. Water Board staff has collaborated with its counterparts at other Regional Boards and with USEPA to identify ways to reduce the effort required for permittees, including the City, to generate this large amount of information and resulting documentation, and the effort by Water Board staff to review it.

The advent of information management systems and cloud-based data storage present opportunities for improving efficiencies in stormwater program annual reporting. The City has availed itself of these opportunities and is developing robust spatially-based information management systems to help it manage and inform its stormwater program and improve program efficiencies. Water Board staff anticipates the City can build upon its existing information management systems to meet future permit information management system requirements and support aspects of an asset management program.

### Asset Management and Program Funding

Asset management has been defined as an integrated optimization process of "managing infrastructure assets to minimize the total cost of owning and operating them, while continuously delivering the service levels customers desire, at an acceptable level of risk."<sup>13</sup>

The City's use of modernized data collection tools has improved information collection and tracking efficiencies and improved its understanding of the condition and performance of its stormwater assets. Water Board staff plans to incorporate asset management provisions in the 2019 Permit to incentivize the City to continue its current efforts to manage its stormwater assets. An important benefit of asset management plans is their identification of cost factors that support more accurate forecasting and budget development. Additionally, asset management planning will forecast relevant needs and costs associated with climate change-related impacts. The City is already moving in this direction, and the proposed permit provisions are intended to introduce clear milestones for the development of an Asset Management Plan.

### **Post-Construction Stormwater Management Requirements**

The 2019 Permit post-construction stormwater requirements will include modest revisions to be consistent with the Central Coast Water Board Post-Construction Stormwater Management Requirements applicable to Central Coast Phase II Stormwater permittees.<sup>14</sup>

## **PROCESS OF PERMIT REISSUANCE**

### **Key Milestones and Schedule**

Water Board staff began work on permit reissuance in early 2017 and met with the City multiple times. Permit reissuance was then delayed because of a temporary reduction in Water Board stormwater staff and to await the outcome of key decisions on claims by other California

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<sup>13</sup> AMSA et al. 2002.

<sup>14</sup> California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region, 2013. *Resolution No. R3-2013-0032, Approving Post-Construction Stormwater Management Requirements for Development Projects in the Central Coast Region*, 12 July.

municipal stormwater permittees concerning unfunded State mandates.<sup>15</sup> In 2018, with Water Board stormwater staffing back at previous levels, and with some outcomes of the State mandate cases known, Water Board staff continued the process to reissue the permit. The table below presents the key milestones and dates for the reissuance process.

<b>MILESTONE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
	<b>2016</b>
City submits Report of Waste Discharge	November 15
	<b>2017</b>
Staff from Water Board and City meet to discuss reissuance	February
2012 Permit expires	May
	<b>2018</b>
Staff from Water Board and City meet to discuss reissuance	November 8
	<b>2019</b>
Public workshop #1	February 26
Central Coast Water Board meeting - update on reissuance	March 22
Draft Permit available for public comment	June 5
Public workshop #2	June/July
Public comments due	July 19
Notice of public hearing	September 4
Board hearing to reissue permit	September 19

### **Stakeholder Involvement**

Water Board staff conducted one public workshop on February 26, 2019 and plans to conduct a second workshop in the City in June or July, after releasing the draft permit and commencing the public comment period. Water Board staff has identified key stakeholders, updated the Interested Parties List from the 2012 Permit proceedings, and notified stakeholders of the opportunity for involvement and participation in the permit reissuance process.

Many areas of the City are identified as disadvantaged communities<sup>16</sup> and staff will coordinate with City staff to ensure that stakeholders from these areas are informed about the process to update the permit and provided a meaningful opportunity to provide input.

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<sup>15</sup> Several municipalities to which other Regional Boards have issued MS4 permits have filed claims with the Commission on State Mandates arguing that certain permit requirements exceed those necessary to comply with federal law and thus constitute an unfunded state mandate. These permit requirements include those specifying the frequency of street sweeping; requirements for maintaining and inspecting the storm drain system and removing accumulated trash; low impact development requirements; the requirement that public education programs produce measurable results and include specific topics; and various associated reporting requirements. The State Water Board Office of Chief Counsel continues to evaluate the effect of the litigation and will provide Regional Board staff additional guidance on how best to move forward on MS4 permit renewals.

<sup>16</sup> Disadvantaged Community (DAC) is defined as “a community with a median household income (MHI) less than 80% of the Statewide average.”

**CONCLUSION**

The City of Salinas's Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit has grown in complexity and maturity since the first permit was adopted in 1999, and the City has made significant progress in many areas to improve its stormwater program and compliance with permit requirements. In September 2019, Water Board staff will recommend issuing the fourth iteration of the permit. Staff anticipates retaining most of the 2012 Permit requirements, while incorporating new TMDLs and Trash Amendments, and providing an alternative compliance pathway for achieving receiving water limits, consistent with State Water Board's 2015 precedential decision on the matter. The City of Salinas will also present information on its stormwater program as part of this informational item.

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