

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 4, 2013

Mr. Robb Whitaker, General Manager
Water Replenishment District of Southern California
4040 Paramount Blvd
Lakewood, CA 90712

Ms. Grace Chan
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Joint Outfall System
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Ms. Gail Farber, Director
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
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APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN COMPLIANCE AVERAGING PERIOD FOR RECYCLED WATER CONTRIBUTION, WATER RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUNDWATER RECHARGE IN MONTEBELLO FOREBAY AREA (ORDERS NO. 91-100 AND NO. R4-2009-0048, FILE NO. 71-67, CI 5728)

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Water Board) staff has completed our review of your letter dated April 23, 2013, requesting that the Regional Water Board increase the compliance averaging period from 5 years to 10 years for determining the recycled water contribution, pursuant to the requirements of the Water Reclamation Requirements for Groundwater Recharge Orders No. 91-100 and No. R4-2009-0048.

As co-permittees to the Permit, Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD), County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (CSDLAC), and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) have partnered to accomplish groundwater recharge using recycled water at Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River Spreading Grounds since 1962. The Montebello Forebay is located in the northerly portion of the Central Basin immediately below the Whittier Narrows. The Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River Coastal Spreading Grounds are located in the Montebello Forebay and are major groundwater replenishment facilities for the Central Basin and West Coast Basin.

According to your letter, seven of the last ten years in the Los Angeles Basin have been below normal rainfall, resulting in lower than expected stormwater capture for recharge and diluent credits for recycled water. Additionally, your letter mentions that if next year is also dry, this may place the co-permittees in a position of possibly having to waste recycled water in an attempt to not exceed the 5-year average limit for recycled water contribution of 35%.

In a letter dated May 1, 2013, to the Regional Water Board, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) expressed its support of the WRD's request to increase the recycled water contribution averaging period from 60 to 120 months (5 years to 10 years), indicating that the requested change is consistent with the CDPH's draft Groundwater Replenishment Reuse Regulation.

Approval of an increase in the compliance averaging period of the recycled water contribution to 10 years would allow the continued recharge of recycled water at the current rate in the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River Spreading Grounds without the near-term risk of having to waste recycled water in order to meet permit requirements. This action is consistent with the statewide goals of increasing recycled water use to increase local supply reliability as outlined in the Recycled Water Policy adopted in 2009 (and subsequently amended in 2013) by the State Water Resources Control Board.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order No. 91-100 (as amended by Order No. R4-2009-0048), adopted by this Regional Water Board on September 9, 1991, and April 2, 2009, respectively, is hereby amended as follows (additions are underlined, deletions are lined through):

1. On page 4 of Order R4-2009-0048, replace the requirement under section 1 with the following:

The maximum quantity of recycled water spread in any ~~5-year~~ 10-year period shall not exceed 35 percent of the total inflow from all sources into Montebello Forebay during that period.

All other Requirements, Limitations, and Provisions of Order No. 91-100 and Order No. R4-2009-0048 not affected by the foregoing amendment shall remain in full force and effect.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Raul Medina at 213-620-2160 or Brandi Outwin-Beals at 213-576-6664.

Sincerely,



Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

Enclosure: CDPH May 1, 2013 letter of support

cc: See Mailing List

Mailing List

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Source Water Protection (WTR-9) – Michele Dermer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Drinking Water (WTR-6) – Corine Li
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Southern California Area Office – William Steele
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel – Jennifer Fordyce
California Department of Public Health, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental
Management
California Department of Public Health, Recycled Water Coordinator - Jeffrey Stone
California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Field Operations Branch - Kurt
Souza
California Department of Water Resources, Water Recycling Program – Nancy King
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County - Ann Heil
Water Replenishment District of Southern California - Ted Johnson,
West Basin Municipal Water District - Uzi Daniel
Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster – Carol Williams