
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: MS4 Permittees in the Los Angeles Region and Interested Persons

FROM: Renee Purdy
Executive Officer

DATE: August 24, 2020

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE TENTATIVE REGIONAL PHASE I MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) PERMIT (NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004004; ORDER NO. R4-20XX-XXXX)

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board or Board) is transmitting to you the tentative Regional Phase I MS4 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (Tentative Regional MS4 Permit).

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Counties of Los Angeles and Ventura, and 95 incorporated cities therein¹ (Permittees) discharge pollutants from their MS4s, also called storm drain systems. Storm water and non-storm water enter and are conveyed through the MS4 and discharged to surface water bodies within the Los Angeles Region. These discharges are currently regulated by Order Numbers R4-2010-0108 (for Ventura County and incorporated cities therein), R4-2012-0175 (for Los Angeles County and incorporated cities therein except the City of Long Beach), and R4-2014-0024 (for the City of Long Beach), adopted by this Board on July 8, 2010, November 8, 2012, and February 6, 2014, respectively. These Orders serve as NPDES permits for MS4 discharges. Each of these permits has expired but remains in effect until the Los Angeles Water Board adopts a new permit. The Los Angeles Water Board therefore proposes to issue the Tentative Regional MS4 Permit. If adopted, the Tentative Regional MS4 Permit would supersede Order Numbers R4-2010-0108, R4-2012-0175, and R4-2014-0024, except for purposes of enforcement.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT PERMIT

The Tentative Regional MS4 Permit is a draft permit pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section 124.6(d), and opportunity for public comment is provided pursuant to 40 CFR section 124.10 and California Water Code section 13167.5.

¹ Excluding Lancaster, Palmdale, and Avalon.

The Tentative Regional MS4 Permit is available under “Regional Permit (*in development*)” on the Los Angeles Water Board’s website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/index.html

Persons wishing to comment on the Tentative Regional MS4 Permit Order, are invited to submit comments in writing for the Los Angeles Water Board to consider. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Los Angeles Water Board staff is primarily telecommuting. The Board therefore requests that, whenever feasible, persons wishing to comment on the Tentative Regional MS4 Permit submit comments electronically as a PDF file to: MS4StormwaterRB4@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line “Comments on the Tentative Regional MS4 Permit.” Comments that are not provided electronically will still be accepted provided they are postmarked by the comment deadline.

To be evaluated and considered by staff and the Los Angeles Water Board, all written comments must be received by the Board no later than 5:00 pm on October 23, 2020. Late submittal of written comments will not be allowed. Please contact Mr. Ivar Ridgeway at Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov for any questions regarding these documents.

FUTURE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS AND HEARINGS

The Board hearing on the Tentative Regional MS4 Permit will be scheduled at a later date. Prior to this hearing, the Los Angeles Water Board is planning to host workshops on the Tentative Regional MS4 Permit. Prior notice will be provided separately for dates of future workshops and the Board hearing to consider permit adoption.

EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS PROHIBITED

Parties and interested persons are forbidden from engaging in ex parte communications regarding this matter with members of the Los Angeles Water Board. An ex parte communication is a communication not authorized in the California Government Code, to a Los Angeles Water Board member from any person, about a pending matter, that occurs in the absence of other parties and without notice and opportunity for the parties to respond. The California Government Code generally prohibits the board members from engaging in ex parte communications during permitting, enforcement, or other “quasi-adjudicatory” matters. As a permitting proceeding, Los Angeles Water Board members may not discuss the Tentative Regional MS4 Permit with any person, except during the public hearing or other publicly noticed workshop or meeting.