
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 15, 2014

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City of Calabasas
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Mr. Steve Freedland, Mayor
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Mr. Raymond B. Taylor; City Manger
City of Westlake Village
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Ms. Gail Farber, Director
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Watershed Management Division, 11th Floor
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Ms. Gail Farber, Chief Engineer
Los Angeles County Flood Control District
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APPROVAL OF REVISED NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO DEVELOP AN ENHANCED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE MALIBU CREEK WATERSHED, PURSUANT TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) PERMIT (NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004001; ORDER NO. R4-2012-0175)

Dear Permittees participating in the Malibu Creek Watershed:

In a letter dated November 26, 2013, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Water Board or Board) provided its review of the Malibu Creek Watershed agencies' notification of intent (NOI) to develop an enhanced watershed management program (EWMP). As part of their NOI, Permittees pursuing an EWMP are required to identify, and commit to fully implement by June 28, 2015, a structural best management practice (BMP) or suite of BMPs at a scale that provides meaningful water quality improvement within each watershed covered by the EWMP. The structural BMP(s) must be in addition to BMPs that are required to meet interim or final trash TMDL effluent limitations or other final effluent limitations applicable in the watershed with deadlines prior to April 28, 2016. The structural BMP(s) identified in the NOI are subject to Executive Officer approval. The NOI identified the Citywide Smart Irrigation Control System project and the Lindero Parkway Improvement project in the Malibu Creek Watershed as the structural BMPs to meet the above mentioned requirement.

In its letter, the Board requested additional information about these two projects and the water quality improvements to be achieved by the projects. Specifically, for the Board to fully evaluate the projects, Permittees needed to provide an estimate of the reduction in irrigation runoff and the volume of storm water and urban runoff to be treated by the Lindero Parkway project.

On December 12, 2013, the Regional Water Board received a revised NOI for the Malibu Creek Watershed EWMP. Board staff has reviewed the revised NOI for compliance with all notification requirements of Part VI.C of Order No. R4-2012-0175 and has determined that all the notification requirements, of Part VI.C of Order No. R4-2012-0175, have been met.

Pursuant to section VI.C.4.b.iii.(5) of the Order, the proposed structural best management practices (BMPs) are subject to approval by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer. The City of Calabasas proposes to implement the Citywide Smart Irrigation Control System project; and the City of Westlake Village proposes to implement the Lindero Parkway Improvement project. During Board staff review of these proposed “early action” BMPs, staff identified questions regarding the water quality benefits to be achieved by these projects. As a result, on April 4, 2014, the Permittees proposed a third project – the Agoura Road Green Space project.

The Citywide Smart Irrigation Control System project consists of the installation or replacement of 51 irrigation controllers and 819 sprinkler valves, and installing moisture sensors throughout the City of Calabasas’ public lands including City owned facilities, parks, street medians and parkways. The City of Calabasas uses 66,431 gallons of water annually for landscape irrigation. Approximately 90% of the water used for irrigation is reclaimed water. It is anticipated that with the new irrigation system the City of Calabasas will save between 13,300 to 16,600 gallons of water per year. This translates to an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 gallon reduction in irrigation runoff per year or approximately 14 to 19 gallons per day throughout the City of Calabasas.

The Lindero Parkway Improvement project is 30 feet wide by over a mile long along Lindero Canyon Road. The newly renovated area will drain to bioswales throughout the length of the project. The bioswales will eliminate dry weather runoff caused by irrigation utilizing reclaimed water and treat a volume of 1,750 cubic feet of stormwater runoff, which addresses the net increase in runoff from the newly constructed concrete pedestrian pathway generated by the 85th percentile 24-hour storm. The Lindero Parkway Improvement project is part of the City of Westlake Village streetscape improvement project that creates infiltration opportunities for irrigation runoff along the arterial medians and parkways.

The Agoura Road Green Space project proposes to remove approximately 11,700 square feet of impervious surface on east bound Agoura Road within the City of Westlake Village. The project extent is from approximately 500 feet east of Knightsgate Road to Lakeview Canyon Road, which is approximately 3,500 linear feet. The project consists of removing a variable width of three to four feet of existing roadway and curb and gutter, and installing a new curb and gutter. The area behind the new curb and gutter will be backfilled with soil. This project will remove a lane on Agoura Road and the newly created pervious area will be added to an existing variable width landscaped area. The existing grass will be removed and the widened landscape area will include a permeable meandering pedestrian and bicycle path, smart irrigation controls, and xeriscaping. Board staff recommend that curb cutouts be installed as part of the new curb and gutter alignment, in order to take advantage of the pervious area adjacent to the street to address street runoff.

Due to their scope and design, each individual project does not meet the intent of the permit requirement that the structural BMP provide meaningful water quality improvements. However, the Board has concluded that **collectively** these three projects will provide meaningful water quality improvements within the Malibu Creek Watershed. Therefore, the proposed Citywide Smart Irrigation Control System project; the Lindero Parkway Improvement project; and the Agoura Road Green Space project are approved as a **suite of BMPs** that must **all** be completed by June 28, 2015.

The work plan for development of the Malibu Creek Watershed EWMP is due by June 28, 2014. Please submit the work plan to losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "LA County MS4 Permit – Enhanced Watershed Management Program Work Plan" with copies to Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov and Rebecca.Christmann@waterboards.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ivar Ridgeway, Storm Water Permitting, at (213) 620-2150 or Ms. Rebecca Christmann at (213) 576-6786.

Sincerely,



Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

- cc: Kelly Fisher, City of Agoura Hills
Alex Farassati, City of Calabasas
Joe Bellomo, Cities of Hidden Hills and Westlake Village
Angela George, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
Gary Hildebrand, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
David Smith, NPDES Program, USEPA Region IX
Jennifer Fordyce, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Board