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## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

**TO:** Los Angeles County MS4 Permittees and Interested Persons

**FROM:** Renee Purdy  
Regional Programs Section Chief

**DATE:** July 27, 2017

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE BIOFILTRATION DESIGN SPECIFICATION (FILTERRA) PURSUANT TO PART VI.D.7.c.iii(1)(b)(i) OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) PERMIT (NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004001; ORDER NO. R4-2012-0175)**

The County of Los Angeles and the City of Industry each submitted letters to the Los Angeles Water Board requesting approval for the use of Filterra systems (manufactured by Contech Engineered Solutions LLC) as an alternative biofiltration design specification for project sites in their respective jurisdictions. The County of Los Angeles' request was received on January 17, 2017, and is for a project site in the South Whittier unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The City of Industry's request was received on March 20, 2017, and is for the 12851 Crossroads Parkway South project.

Both requests include an attachment ("Filterra Equivalency Analysis and Design Criteria" dated August 2015) that details a proposed design approach and equivalency criteria for Filterra systems to achieve equivalent performance to the conventional biofiltration design specifications defined in the Los Angeles County MS4 Permit.

Pursuant to Part VI.D.7.c.iii(1)(b)(i) of the Los Angeles County MS4 Permit, projects using biofiltration as an alternative compliance measure may use alternative design specifications for on-site biofiltration systems if approved by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer.

### Planning and Land Development Program / Biofiltration Background

Pursuant to Part VI.D.7 of the Los Angeles County MS4 Permit, Permittees must implement a Planning and Land Development Program. As part of this program, each Permittee shall require all New Development and Redevelopment projects identified in Part VI.D.7.b (hereinafter "new projects") to control pollutants, pollutant loads, and runoff volume emanating from the project site. Except as provided in Part VI.D.7.c.ii (Technical Infeasibility or Opportunity for Regional Ground Water Replenishment), Part VI.D.7.d.i (Local Ordinance Equivalence), or Part VI.D.7.c.v (Hydromodification), each Permittee shall require new projects to retain on-site the Stormwater Quality Design Volume (SWQDv).

Pursuant to the Planning and Land Development Program requirements outlined in Part VI.D.7.c.iii.(1) of the Los Angeles County MS4 Permit, Permittees may allow new projects to use

on-site biofiltration when the project applicant has demonstrated that it is technically infeasible to retain 100 percent of the Stormwater Quality Design Volume (SWQDv) on-site. If using biofiltration due to demonstrated technical infeasibility, then the new project must biofiltrate 1.5 times the portion of the SWQDv that is not reliably retained on-site, as calculated by the following equation:

$$Bv = 1.5 [SWQDv - Rv]$$

Where: *Bv = biofiltration volume*  
*SWQDv = the stormwater runoff from a 0.75 inch, 24-hour storm or the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile storm, whichever is greater*  
*Rv = volume reliably retained on-site.*

As a condition for on-site biofiltration, bioretention/biofiltration systems shall meet the design specifications provided in Attachment H of the Los Angeles County MS4 Permit unless otherwise approved by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer.

### Public Review

Concurrent with the review by Los Angeles Water Board staff, the Board is soliciting public comment on the proposed use of the Filterra system and its corresponding alternative biofiltration design specification by Permittees for new development and redevelopment projects using on-site biofiltration as an alternative compliance measure. The requests and supporting documentation submitted by the County of Los Angeles and the City of Industry may be found on the Board's website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/losangeles.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/losangeles.shtml)

Persons wishing to comment are invited to submit comments electronically as a PDF file to: [losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov) with the subject line "LA County MS4 Permit - Comments on Filterra Biofiltration Design Specification" with a copy to [Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov). **To be evaluated and considered by the Los Angeles Water Board Executive Officer, all written comments must be received by the Board by 5:00 p.m. on August 28, 2017.** Late submittal of written comments will not be accepted or considered.

Please contact Mr. Ivar Ridgeway at (213) 620-2150 or [Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov) with any questions regarding this matter.