

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 4, 2015

Mr. Gerhardt Hubner
Deputy Director
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

RESPONSE TO REQUEST TO CONFIRM LEVEL of EFFORT PRESCRIBED IN ORDER NO. R4-2010-0108, ATTACHMENT F, SECTION I.1.a.1.a.i, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEW FIVE YEAR STUDY DESIGN FOR SMC REGIONAL BIOASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Hubner:

We have received your request to confirm the level of effort required by the Ventura Countywide MS4 Permit Order No. R4-2010-0108 (Ventura County MS4 Permit) for bioassessment that will be met by implementing the new five-year study design for the Regional Bioassessment Program (Regional Program).

Attachment F, Section 1, of the Ventura County MS4 Permit, requires Permittees to participate in the Southern California Municipal Storm Water Monitoring Coalition's (SMC) Regional Bioassessment Program, which requires Permittees to conduct bioassessment monitoring at specified sites in Ventura County as part of the Regional Program. The Regional Program study, that was in effect at the time of the Ventura MS4 Permit issuance, was completed in 2013.

Ventura County Watershed Protection District's participation in the Regional Program was required to provide a level of effort that would fully support the Regional Program to prevent any data gaps in Ventura County. Understanding that the original Regional Program five-year study design (2009-2013) has been completed, and the Regional Program has been modified for 2015-2020, the specific level of effort described per watershed Attachment F, Section 1, of the Ventura County MS4 Permit, no longer reflects the current SMC Regional Program.

In your letter, requesting confirmation of bioassessment efforts required of the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, you note that 15 sites will be monitored but the location of the sites will be revised in accordance with the Regional Program design. As noted, this does not change the overall sampling effort, nor does it reduce the required effort at integrator sites.

The Regional Water Board Executive Officer or the Regional Board, consistent with 40 CFR 122.41, may approve changes to the Monitoring Program, after providing the opportunity for public comment, either:

- (a) By petition of the Principal Permittee or by petition of interested parties after submittal of the Monitoring Report. Such petition shall be filed not later than 60 days after the Monitoring Report submittal date, or
- (b) As deemed necessary by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer following notice to the Principal Permittee.

Pursuant to Part 7.C.2 of the Ventura County MS4 Permit, a 30-day public comment period is required prior to the Executive Officer's approval of the revised bioassessment monitoring sites. The public comment period will begin when the public notice is published on the Water Board's website. Your staff will be notified immediately prior to opening of the public comment period and the web posting of your letter requesting confirmation of your revised participation in the Regional Program:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/index.shtml#ventura

If you should have any questions regarding this letter please feel free to call me at (213) 576-6605 or your staff may contact Ivar Ridgeway at (213) 620-2150.

Sincerely,



Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

cc: Ventura County MS4 Co-Permittees