
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 3, 2014

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APPROVAL OF REVISED NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO DEVELOP AN ENHANCED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, 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 Marina del Rey Watershed EWMP:

In a letter dated December 2, 2013, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Water Board or Board) provided its review of the Marina del Rey (MdR) Watershed 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 Oxford Retention Basin Multi-Use Enhancement Project as the structural BMP to meet the abovementioned requirement.

In its letter, the Board requested additional information about the water quality improvements to be achieved by the Oxford Retention Basin Multi-Use Enhancement Project and the feasibility of retaining stormwater runoff from the 85th percentile, 24-hour storm event through infiltration or capture and reuse.

On January 7, 2014, the Regional Water Board received an amended NOI for the Marina del Rey 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 Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) plans to construct the Oxford Retention Basin Multi-Use Enhancement (Oxford Basin) project. The Oxford Basin project seeks to reduce bacterial pathogens, chlordane, copper, lead, zinc, and polychlorinated biphenyls with the assumption that pollutant reductions achieved by implementing the Oxford Basin project will result in less pollutants discharged to Marina del Rey Harbor Basin E. The project involves removing approximately 3,000 cubic yards of accumulated contaminated sediment from the bottom of Oxford Basin, constructing a berm within Oxford Basin to enhance water quality through circulation, planting new native or drought-resistant plants, and installing new bioswales.

The Oxford Basin project is scheduled to be completed between August and December of 2015, which is beyond the 30 month implementation deadline of June 28, 2015. On March 24, 2014, the Board received a second amended NOI that stated, "Barring any unforeseen circumstance, the LACFCD expects sediment removal within Oxford Basin to be completed by June 2015." The removal of 3,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment will provide meaningful water quality improvements to Marina del Rey Harbor by eliminating the source of heavy metals and toxics to the harbor.

The Regional Water Board understands that a legal challenge to the LACFCD's Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Oxford Basin project was filed in January 2014. In the event that the Oxford Basin project does not proceed as expected due to this legal challenge, the MdR Watershed EWMP agencies proposed substituting the Oxford Basin project with the Parking Lots 5 and 7 BMP Retrofit projects as the required structural BMP project. The Parking Lot projects will treat approximately three acres of parking lot runoff with bioretention and biofiltration BMPs to reduce contaminants discharging into the adjacent MdR Harbor. The BMPs will include components such as planter boxes and native vegetation for infiltration or treatment of the 90th percentile 24-hour storm. These projects are expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

The proposed Oxford Retention Basin Multi-Use Enhancement project is approved with the caveat that the contaminated sediment removal is completed by June 28, 2015. In the event the Oxford Basin project is delayed due to the above mentioned legal challenge then the Permittees may substitute the Parking Lot projects in lieu of the Oxford Basin project. This substitution only applies in the event the Oxford Basin project does not proceed as expected due to the above mentioned legal challenge.

The work plan for development of the Marina del Rey 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: Gary Hildebrand, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Angela George, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
Frank Wu, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
Bruce Hamamoto, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
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