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Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 21, 2016

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Ms. Gail Farber, Chief Engineer
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APPROVAL, WITH CONDITIONS, OF THE PALOS VERDES PENINSULA WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP COORDINATED INTEGRATED MONITORING PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO ATTACHMENT E, PART IV.B OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) PERMIT (NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004001; ORDER NO. R4-2012-0175)

Dear Permittees of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Watershed Management Group:

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board or Board) has reviewed the revised monitoring program submitted May 21, 2015 by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Watershed Management Group (PV Peninsula Group). This monitoring program was submitted pursuant to the provisions of NPDES Permit No. CAS004001 (Order No. R4-2012-0175), which authorizes discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) operated by 86 municipal Permittees within Los Angeles County (hereafter, LA County MS4 Permit). The LA County MS4 Permit allows Permittees the option to develop and implement a coordinated integrated monitoring program (CIMP) that achieves the five Primary Objectives set forth in Part II.A of Attachment E and includes the elements set forth in Part II.E of Attachment E. These programs must be approved by the Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Water Board.

The Los Angeles Water Board has reviewed the PV Peninsula Group's revised CIMP and has determined that the CIMP includes the elements set forth in Part II.E of Attachment E and will achieve the Primary Objectives set forth in Part II.A of Attachment E of the LA County MS4 Permit.

Public Review and Comment

On July 3, 2014, the Board provided public notice and a 46-day period to allow for public review and comment on the PV Peninsula Group's draft CIMP. A separate notice of availability regarding the draft CIMPs, including the PV Peninsula Group's CIMP, was directed to State Senators and Assembly Members within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County. The Board received two comment letters that had comments applicable to the PV Peninsula Group's draft CIMP. One letter was from the Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality (CICWQ) and the other was from a private citizen, Joyce Dillard. During the review of the draft and revised CIMP, the Los Angeles Water Board considered those comments applicable to the PV Peninsula Group's proposed CIMP.

Los Angeles Water Board Review

Concurrent with the public review, the Los Angeles Water Board, along with U.S. EPA Region IX staff, reviewed the draft CIMPs. On February 23, 2015, the Los Angeles Water Board sent a letter to the PV Peninsula Group detailing the Board's comments on the draft CIMP and identifying the revisions that needed to be addressed prior to the Board's approval of the PV Peninsula Group's CIMP. The letter directed the PV Peninsula Group to submit a revised CIMP addressing the Los Angeles Water Board's comments. The PV Peninsula Group submitted its revised CIMP on May 21, 2015 for Los Angeles Water Board review and approval.

The Los Angeles Water Board hereby approves, subject to the following condition, the PV Peninsula Group's May 21, 2015 revised CIMP. The Board may rescind this approval if the following condition is not met to the satisfaction of the Board within the timeframe provided below.

1. Revise the last sentence of the last paragraph of section "1.4.1.1 TMDL Receiving Water Monitoring" of the CIMP to omit the strike out portion of the following sentence:

~~"Accordingly, no inference should be drawn from the submission of this CIMP or from any action or implementation taken pursuant to it that the Peninsula CIMP Group is obligated to implement the Dominguez Channel and Greater LA and LB Harbor Waters Toxics TMDL (Toxics TMDL), including this CIMP or any of the Toxics TMDL's other obligations or plans, or that the Peninsula CIMP Group has waived any rights under the Amended Consent Decree."~~

The PV Peninsula Group shall submit a final CIMP to the Los Angeles Water Board that satisfies all of the above conditions no later than **February 5, 2016**. Pursuant to Attachment E, Part IV.C.6 of the LA County MS4 Permit, the PV Peninsula Group must commence implementing its monitoring program within 90 days after this approval of the final CIMP (i.e. no later than April 20, 2016). Please note that the PV Peninsula Group is responsible for complying with all reporting provisions included in Attachment E, Part XIV – XVIII, Section B of Part XIX, "Reporting Requirements for Santa Monica Bay WMA TMDLs," Section C of Part XIX, "Reporting Requirements for Dominguez Channel and Greater Harbors Waters WMA TMDLs," and Attachment D, Sections IV, V, and VII.A of the LA County MS4 Permit. Additionally, the PV Peninsula Group is also responsible for complying with the following requirements under Annual Reporting and Adaptive Management.

Annual Reporting

In addition, the Annual Report shall provide an Integrated Monitoring Report that summarizes all identified exceedances of:

- outfall-based stormwater monitoring data,
- wet weather receiving water monitoring data,
- dry weather receiving water monitoring data, and
- non-storm water outfall monitoring data

against all applicable receiving water limitations, water quality-based effluent limitations, non-storm water action levels, and aquatic toxicity thresholds as defined in Sections XII.F and G of this MRP. All sample results that exceeded one or more applicable thresholds shall be readily identified.

The Annual Report shall also include a Municipal Action Level (MAL) Assessment Report, which shall present the stormwater outfall monitoring data in comparison to the applicable MALs, and identify those subwatersheds with a running average of twenty percent or greater of exceedances of the MALs in discharges of stormwater from the MS4. Please note that beginning in Year 3 after the effective date of the LA County MS4 Permit, each Permittee or group of Permittees shall submit a MAL Action Plan with the Annual Report to the Regional Water Board Executive Officer, for those subwatersheds with a running average of twenty percent or greater of exceedances of the MALs in any discharge of storm water from the MS4. Please note that implementation of an approved Watershed Management Program (WMP) or Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) per Part VI.C of the LA County MS4 Permit fulfills all requirements related to the development and implementation of the MAL Action Plan, as per Attachment G of the LA County MS4 Permit, for those pollutants addressed by the WMP or EWMP.

Adaptive Management

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

1. By request of the PV Peninsula Group or by an interested person after submittal of the Monitoring Report. Such request shall be in writing and filed not later than 60 days after the Monitoring Report submittal date, or
2. As deemed necessary by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer, following notice to the PV Peninsula Group.

As part of the adaptive management process, any modifications to the CIMP must be submitted to the Los Angeles Water Board for review and approval. The PV Peninsula Group must implement any modifications to the CIMP upon approval by the Los Angeles Water Board or its Executive Officer, or within 60 days of submittal of modifications if the Los Angeles Water Board or its Executive Officer expresses no objections. Note that the PV Peninsula Group's Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) is due no later than July 1, 2017. To align any modifications to the CIMP proposed through the adaptive management process with permit reissuance, results of the first adaptive management cycle should be submitted in conjunction with the PV Peninsula Group's ROWD.

The Regional Water Board appreciates the participation and cooperation of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Watershed Management Group in the implementation of the LA County MS4 Permit. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Rebecca Christmann of the Storm Water Permitting Unit by electronic mail at Rebecca.Christmann@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (213) 576-5734. Alternatively, you may also contact Mr. Ivar Ridgeway, Chief of the Storm Water Permitting Unit, by electronic mail at Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (213) 620-2150.

Sincerely,



Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

cc: Andy Winje, City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Sheri Repp Loadsman, City of Palos Verdes Estates
Yolanta Schwartz, City of Rolling Hills
Greg Grammer, City of Rolling Hills Estates
Angela George, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
William Johnson, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works