



## Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 4, 2014

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### **APPROVAL OF REVISED NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO DEVELOP AN ENHANCED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE SANTA MONICA BAY SUBWATERSHEDS J2 AND J3, 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 Santa Monica Bay Subwatersheds J2 and J3:

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 Santa Monica Bay (SMB) Subwatersheds Jurisdictional Groups 2 and 3 (J2 and J3) 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 Phase II of the Penmar Water Quality Improvement project as the structural BMP to meet the above mentioned requirement.

In its letter, the Board requested additional information about the water quality improvements to be achieved by Phase II of the Penmar Water Quality Improvement project. Specifically, for the Board to fully evaluate the project, Permittees needed to quantify the water quality improvements to be achieved by implementing Phase II of the project.

On December 16, 2013, the Regional Water Board received the revised NOI for the Santa Monica Bay Subwatersheds J2 and J3 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 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 Cities of Los Angeles and Santa Monica propose to implement Phase II of the Penmar Water Quality Improvement project. Phase II of the project will include an on-site treatment system to disinfect and treat the captured storm water to the required water quality standards for irrigation and reuse application. Currently the dry weather flows and first flush during rain events are diverted into a detention tank at 11,000 gallons per minute for 4 hours where it is held for 72 hours prior to discharge into the sewer system. The implementation of Phase II of the project will allow the flows held in the detention tank to be used in lieu of potable water. Phase II of the project is expected to remove 34.7 million gallons per year of storm water and the pollutants in the storm water runoff, which includes bacteria, metals and toxic pollutants.

The Board has concluded that Phase II of the project will result in a meaningful improvement in water quality by reusing and infiltrating the treated storm water runoff instead of discharging into Santa Monica Bay; therefore, the proposed Phase II of the Penmar Water Quality Improvement project is approved.

The work plan for development of the Santa Monica Bay Subwatersheds J2 and J3 EWMP is due by June 28, 2014. Please submit the work plan to [losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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](mailto:Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov) and [Rebecca.Christmann@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto: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: Hubertus Cox, City of Los Angeles  
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