

From: [Tom Gable](#)
To: [Chiu, Wayne@Waterboards](mailto:Chiu.Wayne@Waterboards)
Subject: Public Participation in Water Quality Control Regulation Development, Measurement, Accountability
Date: Friday, January 11, 2013 4:49:54 PM
Attachments: [29A587CE-9A0C-489F-86E3-03B425129930\[61\].png](#)

Mr. Gary Strawn

Vice Chairman

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100

San Diego, CA 92123-4340

Re: Comment—Tentative Order No. R9-2013-001, Regional MS4 Permit,

Place ID: 786088Wchiu

Dear Vice Chair Strawn:

As a native San Diegan and businessman, I am concerned that implementing the permit outlined in Board's Tentative Order R9-2012-0011 ("Permit") dated October 31, 2012, we be detrimental to the clients of our public relations firm in the life science, biotech, clean tech and technology industries.

We all want clean, safe water to the region. But in participating in several committee meetings and reviewing documents related to the permit, indicators are the costs will be debilitating to many, particularly in those industries which have significant water usage requirements.

To echo concerns raised by others, the three primary areas of concern include: 1) the strict liability for exceeding water quality objectives; 2) the preemption of WQIPs by new and changing regulatory requirements prior to allowing the WQIPs to be developed and implemented; and 3) the lack of reliable funding sources to implement these regulatory changes.

It is necessary to hold individuals, businesses and governments accountable. But what are the accountability measures that would be practical and have a demonstrable, positive effects on water quality?

Because of these concerns, I respectfully request that the Permit focus on the timely development of effective and enforceable WQIPs, and that each of the WQIPs be developed through a process that ensures public participation. I ask also that the designation of appropriate Best Management Practices in each watershed be determined through the WQIP process rather than the one size fits all strategy currently being proposed in the Permit. I ask further that until the Board adopts a WQIP for a watershed that the provisions of the existing Permit remain in place for that watershed. Finally, in order to avoid unnecessary litigation I request that the Board adopt the WQIPs as Orders implementing the proposed Permit.

I urge you to adopt final permit language that is evidence-based and both environmentally and economically sustainable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Gable

CEO



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