



December 8, 2006

Mr. Bruce Wolfe
Executive Officer
San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, California 94612

Dale Bowyer
Stormwater Program Coordinator
San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board
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**Subject: Comments on Preliminary Staff Draft Municipal Regional NDPES
Permit dated October 16, 2006**

Dear Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Bowyer:


The City of Orinda (City) would like to take this opportunity to provide comments on the staff draft Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) dated October 16, 2006. City of Orinda staff have attended Board meetings and reviewed technical work group products over the last year.

The short turn-around time and with limited City staff availability have not allowed us to develop a complete set of comments. Rather, the City would like to make two key points: (1) the draft MRP needs significant work and coordination between requirements; and (2) the BASMAA document is a significant accomplishment and resource that the Water Board should recognize and utilize.

Regarding the first point, Water Board staff needs to identify and complete a review of all MRP proposed requirements in order to effectively coordinate and optimize the numerous requirements. As currently written, the staff's draft MRP is a disparate mix of non-prioritized, individual perspectives of what should be in the permit. In the recent workshops, Water Board staff has suggested that our collective objectives for the first MRP are very similar. However, the requirements in the various sections of staff draft RP do not reflect the existence of shared objectives among staff, or even among the co-permittees or stakeholders.

This leads into the second point that the design, organization, and content of the BASMAA document are based on the co-permittees' collective objectives for the first MRP. A permit based on the BASMAA document will advance stormwater management by optimizing local stormwater programs on the key issues of concern to co-permittees, stakeholders, and the San Francisco Board: new development and redevelopment, including hydromodification (C.3); monitoring; and pollutants of concern (TMDL implementation). The BASMAA document represents the collective thinking of all 76 Phase I co-permittees in the Bay Area and provides a well thought-out comprehensive, integrated, and optimized document that provides the municipal Bay Area local government perspective on practicable and realistic stormwater management. The BASMAA document contains a single set of enhanced Bay-wide performance standards that effectively address the key stormwater management issues facing municipalities during the next five-year period. Accordingly, the Water Board management should recognize the BASMAA document for the significant resource that it is and utilize the BASMAA document as the foundation for future MRP discussions.

Sincerely,


Cathy Terentieff
Assistant Engineer

cc: Don Freitas, Contra Costa Clean Water Program