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#21

October 22, 2012



**Via U.S. Mail and E-Mail**

Ms. Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: **Comment Letter – Draft Industrial Storm Water NPDES General Permit issued July 16, 2012**

Dear Ms. Townsend and Members of the Board:

The Paper, Glass, and Plastic Recyclers Monitoring Group (“PGPRMG”) appreciates this opportunity to present its comments to the State Water Resources Control Board (“State Board”) on the Draft Industrial Storm Water ND PES General Permit issued July 16, 2012.

PGPRMG is a State Board approved monitoring group in good standing and has been operating under the provisions of the Industrial General Permit since 1992.

PGPRMG consists of over twenty facilities that operate within the jurisdictions of the Los Angeles, San Francisco Bay, Santa Ana, Central Valley, and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Boards. PGPRMG participants primarily operate under the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code 5093. The industrial activities conducted by PGPRMG participants are those typically associated with the scrap paper, plastic, and glass recycling industry and the participants are primarily engaged in the processing, breaking up, sorting, and wholesale distribution of scrap paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum cans.

As an approved monitoring group, in good standing, since 1992, PGPRMG's comments are submitted with the group members' desire to meet their compliance obligations in a manner that will result in protection of California's waters without placing unrealistic and arbitrary compliance burdens on industrial dischargers.

While we are supportive of the comments being submitted by the California Stormwater Quality Association ("CASQA"), PGPRMG would like to elaborate on some of CASQA's comments as follows:

### 1. Compliance Groups

1 1 As one of the first approved monitoring groups under the 1992 general permit, PGPRMG has unique, institutional knowledge of the paper, glass and plastic recycling industry and its processes. PGPRMG supports the Compliance Group option for its members and would like to continue playing a role in developing industry specific data and BMPs.

### 2. Numeric Action Levels/Numeric Effluent Limits

PGPRMG strongly supports the State Board's elimination of numeric effluent limits. PGPRMG supports use of numeric action levels as outlined in the CASQA comments.

### 3. Receiving Water Limitations

2 2 PGPRMG members continue to have concerns about the misuse of the provisions in the general permit stating that dischargers shall not "cause or contribute to a violation of a receiving water quality standard". This provision provides no certainty of an ascertainable compliance standard for group members. PGPRMG members strongly support the CASQA proposed revisions to this provisions which tie compliance to the exceedance response actions under the general permit.

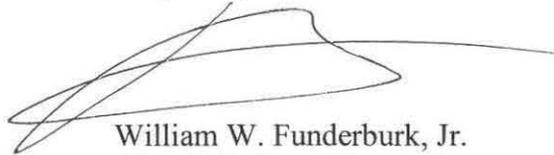
### 4. Qualifying Storm Events

3 3 PGPRMG members are located in diverse climactic regions throughout the state. Storm water discharges are highly variable and episodic. Although PGPRMG would like the State Water Board to continue with group specific sampling exemptions, PGPRMG believes it would be beneficial to relax the qualifying storm event requirements so that there is no antecedent dry weather period required. The most important element to capturing a representative storm is that business operations have commenced recently in the drainage area from the sample is being taken. These are the activities that originally resulted in the regulations of permitted entities when EPA originally passed its storm water rule in 1990. PGPRMG suggests that the qualifying storm event requirement be relaxed to allow for additional opportunities to capture storm water samples.

Ms. Jeanine Townsend  
State Water Resources Control Board  
October 22, 2012  
Page 3

We appreciate the opportunity to present these comments. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "William W. Funderburk, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

William W. Funderburk, Jr.  
Alastair F. Hamblin

cc: Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board