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California Council for **Environmental** and **Economic Balance**

Receiving Water Limitations Language Deadline: 11/13/12 by 12 noon

100 Spear Street, Suite 805, San Francisco, CA 94105 • (415) 512-7890 • FAX (415) 512-7897

November 13, 2012



Chairman Charlie Hoppin Members of the State Water Resources Control Board State Water Resources Control Board 1001 | Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: Comments Regarding Receiving Water Limitations Provisions of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Permits for Storm Water Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) (Receiving Water Limitations Language)

Dear Chairman and Members of the California State Water Resources Control Board:

The California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB) is a non-partisan, non-profit coalition of business, labor and public leaders that advances strategies for a strong economy and a healthy environment. On behalf of CCEEB, we want to thank the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for this opportunity to comment on the Receiving Water Limitations language.

After reviewing the Issue Paper prepared by the SWRCB for the November 20, 2012 Workshop on this topic, we support Alternative 5, which states "This alternative would provide a safe harbor to dischargers complying with the implementation provisions of a TMDL or engaging in the iterative process to address exceedances caused by wet or dry weather discharges" with the following additional suggestions:

- This issue should be broadened beyond just MS4 stormwater discharges to include other stormwater and non-stormwater NPDES discharge permits that also rely on an iterative process to comply with technology-based permit requirements.
- The Alternatives proposed in the Issue Paper should not be solely limited to situations where a TMDL exists for the pollutant for which the receiving water objective is exceeded since similar compliance issues could exist for pollutants that are not on a 303(d) list, or if on a 303(d) list for which a TMDL has not been developed or for which a TMDL alternative process is or will be utilized.

If Alternative 5 is not the selected alternative, we respectfully request that the alternative that is chosen include language that does not preempt the ability of the SWRCB or a RWQCB to initiate an enforcement action.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Bob Lucas at 916-444-7337.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Lucas

Waste & Water Quality Project Manager

Scrald O. Securly

Gerald D. Securly

President

cc: Matthew Rodriguez, Secretary for California Environmental Protection Agency Gordon Burns, Undersecretary for California Environmental Protection Agency

Jackson Gualco, The Gualco Group, Inc.