



via email to
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

August 4, 2014

Jeannie Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comment Letter – Proposed Amendments to Statewide Water Quality Control Plans to Control Trash

Dear Ms. Townsend,

The City of Sunnyvale appreciates the State Board's efforts to establish statewide policy to address the important issue of marine debris and trash impacts on local waterways as envisioned through the Proposed Amendments to the Statewide Water Quality Control Plans (Trash Amendments). The City has a long history of working to address and reduce trash in our community. As part of the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program, we recognized the need to identify the extent and magnitude of the trash issue in our region over a decade ago, and as a result began implementing trash assessment strategies and implementing programs and control measures to reduce the impacts of trash in our community and on local waterways.

City staff participated in the Trash Amendments stakeholder workshop held in April 2013 and appreciates the State Board's consideration and incorporation of the feedback offered at the workshop. Specifically, the City is very supportive and greatly values of the multi-track implementation approach to meeting the water quality objectives set forth in the Proposed Amendments. Track 2 provides much needed flexibility for local jurisdictions to prioritize implementation based on available resources and local knowledge of the presence and source of trash in our community.

As a co-permittee covered under the San Francisco Bay Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (MRP), the City has invested significant resources over the past 5 years working to reduce trash in our community through the development and implementation of Sunnyvale's Short Term and Long Term Trash Load Reduction Programs in accordance with the framework established in the MRP. While the approach of multi-control implementation plans (e.g., mix of structural and institutional controls) offered through Track 2 is generally consistent with San Francisco Bay Area regional implementation, the City is concerned that the Implementation Provisions, including the Time Schedule, as currently delineated in the Trash Amendments will divert resources and possibly compromise years of research, planning, and the implementation efforts that have been invested into our Short and Long Term Trash Reduction Plans. We respectfully request that the State Board

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consider establishing a mechanism that allows MRP permittees to comply with Track 2 implementation via continued implementation of the already developed Long Term Trash Reduction Plans, submitted to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board as required by the MRP.

The City has been at the forefront of trash reduction efforts in the Bay Area. Sunnyvale first piloted full trash capture devices in 2009 with the installation of 13 full trash capture inlet screen devices. Sunnyvale also participated in the Bay Area Trash Capture Demonstration Grant Project (Project), administered by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, which resulted in bringing American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds to local agencies for full trash capture device installation. Through that Project, Sunnyvale installed an additional 66 full trash capture devices. Additionally, the City is implementing the installation of two large devices that will capture trash over a total drainage area of approximately 1,000 acres. We request that the State Board allow for the full trash capture devices previously "approved" by the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Control Board for installation under the Project to satisfy the requirements of the Trash Amendments consistent with process outlined for the full trash capture devices previously certified by the Los Angeles Regional Water Board as defined in the Trash Amendments.

Taking effect in June 2012, Sunnyvale was also among the first cities in the Bay Area to restrict single use plastic bags by all retail stores. This past year, the City enacted a prohibition of expanded polystyrene foam food ware at all food service establishments effective April 22, 2014. The prohibition will expand to cover retail sale of expanded polystyrene foam food ware on April 22, 2015. Product specific prohibitions are an effective trash control measure and provide reductions of litter prone products whether they would discharge from a storm system or otherwise be windblown to a waterway. Long time cleanup volunteers have noted a significant decrease in the presence of single use plastic bags at recent on-street and waterway cleanup events. The City strongly supports the inclusion of these types of regulatory source controls as an institutional control available for implementation to comply with the Trash Amendments.

We appreciate your consideration of the above and the more detailed comments being submitted by the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP) and the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA), which are incorporated herein by reference. We look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with the State Board staff on this issue.

Sincerely,



John Stufflebean

Director

Environmental Services Department

cc: Bruce Wolfe, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
Tom Mumley, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board