



City of Santa Barbara

Public Works Department

www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us

April 16, 2004

Main Offices

630 Garden Street
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA
93102-1990

Mr. Roger W. Briggs, Executive Officer
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Administration

Tel.: 805.564.5377
Fax: 805.897.2613

SUBJECT: COMPLAINT FOR MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTY NO. 2004-0038, CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

Engineering

Tel.: 805.564.5369
Fax: 805.564.5467

Dear Mr. Briggs:

**Building Maintenance/
Street Lights**

Tel.: 805.564.5416
Fax: 805.897.2577

I am writing to request that the City of Santa Barbara (City) be allowed to address the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board) regarding the amount of the penalty set in the complaint referenced above. City staff believes that six serious violations that occurred in October of 2003 were, in fact, one upset, and that the upset was not the result of operator error. Staff would like to address the Board and explain the situation that led to the upset.

Permit Counter

Tel.: 805.564.5388
Fax: 805.897.1927

Additionally, staff would like to request that a portion of the penalty (up to \$31,500, if the penalty is not reduced) be applied to a supplemental environmental project. The City proposes to contract with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to evaluate hydrologic conditions and sources and transport of bacteria in surface and subsurface waters. High concentrations of bacteria have resulted in beach postings and closures, but there is little understanding of the specific sources or transport of the bacteria. The USGS will collect hydrologic data to quantify surface discharges and groundwater movement to streams and near shore ocean water. In particular, the USGS will evaluate the potential for leakage from sewer pipes into groundwater. I have attached a copy of the USGS study proposal for your review.

Transportation Operations

Transportation Planning
Tel.: 805.564.5385
Fax: 805.584.5487

The cost for the proposed scope of work is significantly greater than the amount of penalty monies available to be applied to it. Therefore, City staff requests that the maximum amount of penalties, as allowed by the water code, be applied to this project. This project will benefit the residents and ratepayers of Santa Barbara. It will help to provide a better understanding of the sources of pollution, so that it may be effectively addressed. I hope the Board can support the use of these funds for this project.

Water Maintenance

Street Maintenance
Tel.: 805.564.5413
Fax: 805.564.2613

Sincerely,

Water Supply Management

Water Conservation
Tel.: 805.564.5460
Fax: 805.897.2613

Rebecca Bjork
for Steve Mack
Acting Water Resources Manager

Downtown Parking
1115 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA
93101

Tel.: 805.963.1591
Fax: 805.963.1542

RB/mh

cc: James L. Armstrong, City Administrator
Tony Nisich, Public Works Director
Rebecca Bjork, Wastewater System Manger