

MEMO RE MEETING WITH ROB ALMY ON 3/08/06

To: Roger Briggs
From: Jeff Young
Dated: 3/09/06

I met with Rob Almy with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency yesterday. Rob had asked to meet with me to discuss Phase II Storm Water Permitting issues. I told him I would be glad to meet with him to discuss general storm water issues, but we could not discuss specific details about the County's own upcoming Phase II permit.

Rob informed me that he had reviewed the tape of the last Monterey Regional SWMP hearing numerous times and had been thinking a lot about what had transpired during the hearing. He said he was somewhat concerned at the direction the Water Board appeared to be headed into a discharger's financial justification for choosing one BMP over another. He said he was going to put a "Sonoma" type disclaimer into the County's SWMP. He also said the the Monterey Regional SWMP will be the first Phase II permit in the state to be finalized so everyone is anxious to see what happens.

Rob informed me that the Water Board needs to know that, typically, funding for storm water management comes from general funds as opposed to dedicated funds. This means that SB County as well as most other storm water dischargers have to compete with fire and law enforcement departments as well as other general fund departments for funds. He said that SB County had done polling to see if the public would support the creation of a dedicated fund for storm water management. The results indicated a measure would not receive the required number of votes to pass.

Rob stated that the SWMPs were set up as non-numerically based permits and that recent efforts by some environmental groups were trying to move them toward numerically based permits.

He asked me whose call was it on an individual BMP? He said that EPA says the local community gets to make the call as long as its reasonable. He also said that monitoring is not required for Phase II permits, is very costly, and if done must be well thought out due to the inherent great variability in storm water, water quality. He said you need to be specific with the answer your monitoring program is going to answer.

With respect to the County's BMP selection process they looked to local input first as to what pollutants were of concern and didn't consider the EPA 303(d) list. Rob said the County has filed a petition challenging some of the 303(d) listed bodies in the County. One example is for boron which has a natural source in a specific watershed that I don't remember, and shouldn't be included on the list.

Item 6, Attachment No. 9
July 7, 2006 Meeting
Santa Barbara County SWMP