

APPENDIX C

SANTA CLARA RIVER AND ANTELOPE VALLEY WATERSHEDS SOFT-BOTTOM CHANNELS WATER QUALITY MONITORING REPORT 2016-2017 MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

In compliance with Condition 49 of the Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R4-2010-0021 and the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) initiated water quality monitoring activities at earthen-bottom channels, also known as soft-bottom channel (SBC) reaches, within the Santa Clara River and Antelope Valley Watersheds before the start of the 2016 annual vegetation maintenance activities in the channels.

Ordinarily, water quality samples are extracted from SBC reaches that have surface water that flows from the upstream to downstream limit for each respective reach. For SBCs in the Santa Clara River and Antelope Valley Watersheds, water quality samples could not be taken for this period since the SBCs were dry and showed no signs of surface water flow. Below are the related findings by LACFCD flood maintenance crews and certified biologists who inspected the reaches.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS

LACFCD flood maintenance crews performed inspections at the SBCs within the watersheds, that are under LACFCD's maintenance jurisdiction, and observed that the reaches did not contain surface water flow paths; the SBCs inspected before the start of annual vegetation maintenance included: Reaches 45-58, 60, 61, 63, 64, 66, 67, 69-80, 82, 86-95, 97, 105, & 108. However, the crews noticed that Reach 75 (Santa Clara River South Fork) and Reach 76 (Pico Canyon) contained non-flowing ponded water and nuisance water in certain areas, like at storm drain outlet locations. To confirm that those areas did not warrant water quality sampling, certified biologists were appointed to perform an analysis at each reach.

Ensuing is a summary of the analysis performed by biologists for Reaches 75 and 76.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS FOR REACH 75 – SANTA CLARA RIVER SOUTH FORK AND REACH 76 – PICO CANYON

On August 31, 2016, prior to the start of channel vegetation maintenance, both Reaches 75 and 76 were inspected for the presence of continuous surface flow. Reach 75 was inspected from Lyons Avenue to Orchard Village Road. The entirety of Reach 76, from Tournament Road to Orchard Village Road, was inspected. At the upstream limit of Reach 75, nuisance water was observed trickling into the channel from appurtenant storm drain outlets. Ponded nuisance water was also observed immediately downstream of the storm drain outlets, midway between the upper and lower limits of both reaches. This ponded water collected around the concrete stabilizers within the channels. Based on observations made during the inspection, it was anticipated that the ponded water would evaporate or infiltrate into the ground, thus resulting in no continuous surface water flow within the channels.

Although nuisance water was observed at various points in the reaches, a single continuous flow of water from upstream to downstream was not observed in either reach. Both reaches were very dry, with only small areas of ponded water observed near the outlets. The downstream limit of Reach 76 converges with Reach 75 at Orchard Village Road and continues to Magic Mountain Parkway. Water was not noticed discharging from either reach and surface flows were not present at the downstream limit of Reach 75.

Since the only water present at either reach existed as isolated nuisance water ponds, any water sampling performed at a pond would not be an accurate indication of the water quality conditions of the reach and would not demonstrate potential water quality parameter exceedances related to vegetation maintenance activities. Due to the above conditions, water sampling and testing was not performed at either reach. The biologists concluded that vegetation maintenance work in the channel would not impact water quality.