



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 19, 2026

Via Email Only

Permittees of the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group¹

APPROVAL, WITH CONDITIONS, OF THE BEACH CITIES WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP'S COORDINATED INTEGRATED MONITORING PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO PART III IN ATTACHMENT E OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS AND NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION (NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004004; ORDER NO. R4-2021-0105)

Dear Permittees of the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group:

The Regional MS4 Permit (Order No. R4-2021-0105) authorizes discharges from the MS4 operated by 99 municipal Permittees within the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (hereafter, Regional MS4 Permit or Order). The Regional MS4 Permit requires Permittees to implement an Integrated Monitoring Program (IMP) or a Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program (CIMP) as set forth in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment E of the Order) hereafter, MRP.

Pursuant to Part III.D.1.a of the MRP, the Beach Cities Watershed Management (Group) submitted a revised draft CIMP by the March 13, 2023 deadline for approval by the Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board or Board).

Public Review and Comment

On March 17, 2023, the Los Angeles Water Board provided public notice and a 60-day period to allow for public review and comment on all new or updated monitoring programs submitted by March 13, 2023. The Board received one joint comment letter from Heal the Bay, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Los Angeles Waterkeeper. These comments were considered during the Board's review of the IMPs and CIMPs.

¹ Permittees of the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group include the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and the cities of Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Torrance.

DAVID NAHAI, CHAIR | SUSANA ARREDONDO, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Board's Review

Los Angeles County Permittees were required to update and/or develop a monitoring program pursuant to Part III of the MRP.

On April 19, 2024, Board staff emailed the Group to ask why the CIMP was missing Machado Lake TMDLs monitoring plan attachment that was included in the previously approved version of the CIMP. Additionally, on January 10, 2025, Board staff provided comments to the Group requesting revisions to the CIMP. To discuss these comments, the Group met with Board staff on March 6, 2025. On July 8, 2025 and July 15, 2025, Board staff provided additional comments to the Group. To discuss the additional comments, the Group met with Board staff on August 28, 2025. Additionally, Board staff met with LACFCD on October 22, 2025 and December 3, 2025, and with City of Torrance on December 1, 2025, to discuss the remaining issue regarding the Machado Lake Nutrients TMDL monitoring sites within the City of Torrance. As a follow-up to the meeting with City of Torrance, Board staff emailed the City of Torrance on December 8, 2025 to provide direction on how to address the remaining comment regarding Machado Lake TMDLs monitoring. The Group submitted a revised CIMP on December 11, 2025. Subsequently, on December 22, 2025, Board staff requested revisions to the CIMP to address the remaining comments.

On March 5, 2026, the City of Torrance sent a letter to the Board providing justification for their Machado Lake monitoring plan to retain their mass-based WQBEL compliance option. On March 9, 2026, the Group submitted a second revised CIMP. On March 11, 2026, Board staff responded to the City of Torrance's March 5, 2026 letter and provided the City of Torrance with the Board's final comment to address the outstanding issue of the Machado Lake TMDLs monitoring. On April 14, 2026, the City of Torrance responded to the Board's final comment by proposing outfall sites to use for compliance with the Machado Lake Nutrients and Toxics TMDLs. Specifically, the City of Torrance stated that they will be switching from a mass-based to a concentration-based compliance approach for the Machado Lake Nutrients TMDL due to LACFCD no longer allowing sampling at the LACFCD owned/operated monitoring sites within the City of Torrance. On May 21, 2026, Board staff responded to the April 14, 2026 email from the City of Torrance to provide comments on the City of Torrance's proposed outfall monitoring sites. Subsequently, Board staff had a meeting with the City of Torrance on June 3, 2026 to discuss the new proposed outfall monitoring site, Tor-S10, for Torrance's concentration-based compliance approach for the Machado Lake Nutrients TMDL and address other remaining issues.

The Los Angeles Water Board has reviewed the Group's CIMP dated March 2026 and has determined that for the most part, it is consistent with applicable requirements in the MRP, monitoring provisions in applicable TMDLs, and specifically, with Attachments K through S of the Order. Note that, if applicable, the review of the CIMP did not include a review of any Trash Monitoring and Reporting Plans and/or Plastic Pellet Monitoring and Reporting Plans.

Approval with Conditions

The Los Angeles Water Board hereby approves the Group's CIMP, dated March 2026 subject to the following condition: Update the Beach Cities CIMP to include the City of Torrance's Machado Lake's subwatershed area without Torrance's Machado Lake TMDLs monitoring plan/special study attachment. Instead of the attachment, the City of Torrance shall select the concentration-based WQBELs compliance option for the Machado Lake Nutrients TMDL. Per the outfall selection criteria in Part III.C.4 in Attachment E of the Order, select, at minimum, one outfall monitoring site owned/operated by the City of Torrance and representative of the City of Torrance's land use within the Machado Lake subwatershed to serve as a compliance point for the Machado Lake Nutrients TMDL. Consistent with Part V.C in Attachment P of the Order, the CIMP must clarify that compliance points for the Machado Lake Toxics TMDL, DOM-OF-004 and P-77, for the City of Torrance, are monitored by the Dominguez Channel CIMP. Since City of Torrance is not part of the Dominguez Channel CIMP, ensure that there are data sharing agreements for the Machado Lake Toxics TMDL compliance points. The Board may rescind this approval if the above condition is not met to the satisfaction of the Board within the timeframe provided below.

The Group shall submit a final CIMP to the Los Angeles Water Board that satisfies the above condition no later than **September 17, 2026**. Pursuant to Part III.D.1.c of the MRP, **the Group shall implement their approved CIMP immediately**. Additionally, as agreed upon at the June 3, 2026 meeting, the City of Torrance may transition from a mass-based to a concentration-based compliance approach for the Machado Lake Nutrients TMDL at the proposed Tor-S10 outfall monitoring site starting July 1, 2026. An approval of the Group's CIMP does not constitute an approval of any unapproved Trash Monitoring and Reporting Plans and/or Plastic Pellet Monitoring and Reporting Plans that were included in the CIMP, if applicable.

Monitoring Program Modifications

Pursuant to Part II.F of the MRP, if the Permittee(s) wish to modify any monitoring requirements in their approved Monitoring Program (e.g., reduce or eliminate monitoring of specified pollutants, reduce monitoring frequencies, change monitoring locations), then the Permittee(s) shall submit a written request to the Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Water Board for approval prior to making any modifications. This provision may be waived if the Los Angeles Water Board determines that the modification is (a) minor and (b) does not otherwise violate any applicable provision of law.

Additionally, pursuant to Part III.D.1.d of the MRP, if there is any change in membership of Permittees participating in an approved CIMP (e.g., Permittee in an IMP joining a CIMP, Permittee(s) dropping out of the CIMP), the Permittee(s) affecting the change shall notify the Los Angeles Water Board promptly. The affected Permittee(s) shall then revise/develop their monitoring program as directed by the Los Angeles Water Board.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Erum Razzak, Municipal Stormwater Permitting Unit Supervisor, by email at Erum.Razzak@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at (213) 620-2095.

Sincerely,

for Susana Arredondo
Executive Officer

cc: Geraldine Trivedi, City of Redondo Beach
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