
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 12, 2014

Ms. Carolyn Lehr, City Manager
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30940 Hawthorne Boulevard
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Mr. Anton Dahlerbruch, City Manager
City of Palos Verdes Estates
340 Palos Verdes Drive West
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

Mr. Douglas R. Prichard, City Manager
Rolling Hills Estates
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Ms. Gail Farber, Director
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Watershed Management Division, 11th Floor
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Ms. Gail Farber, Chief Engineer
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APPROVAL OF NOTIFICATION OF INTENT WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO DEVELOP AN ENHANCED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) PERMIT (NPDES PERMIT NO. CAS004001; ORDER NO. R4-2012-0175)

Dear Permittees participating in the Palos Verdes Peninsula Group:

In a letter dated November 26, 2013, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Water Board or Board) provided its review of the Palos Verdes Peninsula agencies' (PV Peninsula) notification of intent (NOI) to develop an enhanced watershed management program (EWMP). As part of their NOI, Permittees pursuing an EWMP are required to identify, and commit to fully implement by June 28, 2015, a structural best management practice (BMP) or suite of BMPs at a scale that provides meaningful water quality improvement within each watershed covered by the EWMP. The structural BMP(s) must be in addition to BMPs that are required to meet interim or final trash TMDL effluent limitations or other final effluent limitations applicable in the watershed with deadlines prior to April 28, 2016. The structural BMP(s) identified in the NOI are subject to Executive Officer approval. The NOI identified the Model Equestrian Center project in the Dominguez Channel Watershed and the San Ramon Canyon Stormwater Flood Reduction project in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed Management Area as the structural BMPs to meet the above mentioned requirement.

In its letter, the Board requested additional information about the water quality improvements to be achieved by these two projects. Specifically, for the Board to fully evaluate the Model Equestrian Center project, Permittees needed to provide the size of drainage area and volume of storm water addressed, and an estimate of pollutant load reductions. For the San Ramon Canyon Stormwater Flood Reduction project, Permittees needed to provide the reduction in sediment load to the receiving water.

On December 16, 2013, the Regional Water Board received the additional information in response to our comments. Board staff has reviewed the additional information in conjunction with the NOI submitted by the PV Peninsula agencies on June 27, 2013, for compliance with all notification requirements of Part VI.C of Order No. R4-2012-0175 and has determined that all the notification requirements have been met.

Pursuant to section VI.C.4.b.iii.(5) of the Order, the proposed structural best management practices (BMPs) are subject to approval by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer. The City of Rolling Hills Estates plans to implement the Model Equestrian Center project within the Dominguez Channel Watershed. The project will implement source control BMPs, to prevent exposure of manure to storm water and implement biofiltration BMPs to improve storm water runoff quality. The source control BMPs are anticipated to prevent 90% of the manure from contacting storm water. The treatment BMPs are anticipated to achieve 80% removal of nitrogen and 85% removal of phosphorus from the nutrient load in storm water runoff from the facility.

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes plans to implement the San Ramon Canyon Stormwater Flood Reduction project within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed. The proposed project consists of constructing a mid-canyon inlet structure located upstream of the Tarapaca Landslide, which is the degraded area of San Ramon Canyon and contributes the majority of the sediment loading. The inlet structure will be connected to a shoreline outfall with a 3,900-foot long, 54-inch pipe in a "tunnel alignment" that outlets below the oceanfront bluffs in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. The portion of the canyon downstream of the mid-canyon inlet structure, which runs through the Tarapaca Landslide, will be stabilized and restored with riparian habitat along the previously scoured canyon.

The estimated sediment loading to the storm drain system at Palos Verdes Drive South/25th Street averages approximately 44 cubic yards (cu. yds.) of material per 0.25 inch storm event, and 207 cu. yds. per storm event greater than 0.25 inch. The San Ramon project is expected to divert all storm water runoff from greater than a 0.25-inch rain event to the underground pipe, diverting it from the degraded area of San Ramon Canyon and thus eliminating the discharge of sediment to the Pacific Ocean. The lower portion of the canyon will only convey side slope runoff, which will prevent significant erosion of the canyon.

The Board has concluded that these projects will result in meaningful improvements in water quality by preventing and removing nutrients from discharging into Dominguez Channel and preventing sediment from being transported and discharged into the Pacific Ocean. Therefore, the proposed Model Equestrian Center and the San Ramon Canyon Stormwater Flood Reduction projects are approved.

The work plan for development of the Palos Verdes Peninsula EWMP is due by June 28, 2014. Please submit the work plan to losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "LA County MS4 Permit – Enhanced Watershed Management Program Work Plan" with copies to Ivar.Ridgeway@waterboards.ca.gov and Rebecca.Christmann@waterboards.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ivar Ridgeway, Storm Water Permitting, at (213) 620-2150 or Ms. Rebecca Christmann at (213) 576-6786.

Sincerely,



Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer

cc: Andy Winje, City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Allan Rigg, City of Palos Verdes Estates
Greg Grammer, City of Rolling Hills Estates
Angela George, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
Gary Hildebrand, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
David Smith, NPDES Program, USEPA Region IX
Jennifer Fordyce, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Board