

# Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District

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October 13, 2015

Ms. Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Draft Storm Water Resource Plan Guidelines

Dear Ms. Townsend:

The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Storm Water Resources Plan Guidelines. Our comments are recommendations of language we would like to see incorporated into the guidelines regarding the potential for the creation of vector habitat and the need to coordinate with local mosquito and vector control agencies. Suggested language is taken from the Bay Area Storm Water NPDES permit and adapted from the California Health and Safety Code is italicized below.

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Storm water planning and management on a watershed basis involves collaboration of local governments, utilities, and other stakeholder groups to analyze the hydrology, storm drain/runoff conveyances systems, opportunity sites, and other habitat or community needs within sub-watersheds. Design of green infrastructure to capture dry weather runoff should correspond to a watershed-based plan to achieve multiple benefits that supports water quality protection of surface and ground waters within the watershed. Coordinated storm water management, monitoring, and evaluation on a watershed basis minimizes monitoring costs and maximizes the value of monitoring results across programs intended to protect beneficial uses.

*Certain control measures implemented or required by MS4 permittees for urban runoff management might create a habitat for vectors (e.g., mosquitoes and rodents) if not properly designed or maintained. Close collaboration and cooperative efforts among permittees, local vector control agencies, Water Board staff, and the State Department of Public Health are necessary to minimize potential nuisances and public health impacts resulting from vector breeding.*

In the 1990s, local storm water agencies and professional associations began to develop guidance documents for the design and implementation of storm water capture for specified percentiles of rainfall frequencies (e.g., the volume associated with the 85th percentile 24-hour rain event); however, there have been many challenges associated with compliance with storm...

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#### **D. CONSISTENCY WITH APPLICABLE NPDES AND WASTE DISCHARGE PERMITS**

All Storm Water Resource Plans must be implemented in accordance with applicable National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, waste discharge requirements (WDRs), Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) Compliance Plans (State Water Board Resolution No. 2012-0012), and/or conditional waivers issued by the State and/or Regional Water Boards. (Wat. Code, § 10562, subs. (b)(5) & (6))

#### **CONSISTENCY WITH CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE – PEST AND MOSQUITO ABATEMENT**

*For the prevention of public health threats and diseases caused by vectors, Division 3, Chapter 1 of the code, beginning with Article 2000, referred to as the Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District Law, requires property owners, including municipalities, to prevent public nuisances caused by property that has been artificially altered from its natural condition so that it now supports the development, attraction, or harborage of vectors such as mosquitoes and rats, including activity that supports the development, attraction, or harborage of vectors, or that facilitates the introduction or spread of vectors. The presence of these vectors in their developmental stages on a property is prima facie evidence that the property is a public nuisance. The law also covers any water that is a breeding place for mosquitoes, that in any stage of development is considered evidence that the water is a public nuisance.*

*Storm water management plans and systems should be vetted through local mosquito and vector control districts and maps and maintenance plans provided for comment.*

#### **E. MODIFICATION OF A RIVER OR STREAM CHANNEL**

Projects within the Plan that include substantial change or use of any material from a river, stream, or lake should avoid and minimize erosion, sediment transport, and hydromodification, and fully mitigate environmental impacts resulting from the project (for example, California Fish and Game Code § 1600 et seq.).

Thank you for considering our comments. We hope the Storm Water Resources Plan Guidelines will be revised to address these concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Castillo  
Environmental Specialist  
Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District