



RANCHO
CORDOVA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

September 19th, 2011



Re: Opposition to Caltrans MS4 NPDES Permit

Dear State Water Board Members and Staff:

On behalf of the Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our opposition to the State Water Board's proposed Caltrans MS4 NPDES Permit. As drafted, this permit would impose extensive new regulations on future Caltrans road construction projects far surpassing what the federal government requires from states under the federal Clean Water Act.

If implemented, Caltrans estimates the draft permit would drain an estimated \$600 million annually from state road construction projects each year. Such enormous costs would result in the elimination of thousands of jobs in the construction industry at a time when our economy can hardly afford further job losses.

We are concerned the proposed permit would significantly shift Caltrans' focus from improving roadways to retrofitting existing infrastructure to meet the permit requirements. This would worsen road conditions, create unsafe driving environments, and force California motorists to pay more for driving on under maintained roadways.

While we support efforts to improve water quality, there is no evidence these proposed regulations would proportionally improve water quality to justify spending \$600 million annually of taxpayer dollars.

For these reasons, the Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce opposes the proposed Caltrans MS4 NPDES permit and requests the State Water Board work with Caltrans to come up with a more cost-effective permit improving water quality without defunding our transportation system.

Sincerely,


Diann H. Rogers, CEO/President