

**Alliance of Contra Costa Taxpayers**

**P.O. Box 5568**

**Walnut Creek, CA 94596**

**925.935.6480**

**ACCTaxpayers.com**

September 16th, 2011

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition to Caltrans MS4 NPDES Permit

Dear State Water Board Members and Staff:

As Chairman of the Alliance of Contra Costa Taxpayers, I am writing to express our opposition to the State Water Board's proposed Caltrans MS4 NPDES Permit. This permit would impose extensive new regulations on all future Caltrans road construction projects. The proposed regulations will far exceed the federal government requirements of the federal Clean Water Act.

This draft permit, if implemented, is estimated to take an estimated \$600 million annually from badly needed state road construction projects each year. Our infrastructure is already in deplorable condition and siphoning off another \$600 million would make it even worse.

With the economic situation as it is, this is not the time to implement regulations that could result in the loss of thousands of jobs in the construction industry. With California the third worst state in the country with unemployment at 12%, we can hardly afford further job losses.

As stated previously, our infrastructure is in disrepair. Caltrans could be forced by these new regulations to change its efforts from improving roadways to retrofitting existing infrastructure to meet the permit's requirements. We certainly do not need this to happen as the result would be worsened road conditions which often result in unsafe driving conditions.

While efforts to improve water quality may be laudable, now is not the time to shift \$600 million from the known hazardous conditions of our roads and highways to an effort based mostly on the hope that some minor improvement might result in cleaner water. Nor is it the time to implement new job killing regulations.

Finally, there is little or no evidence that these proposed regulations would improve water quality enough to justify spending \$600 million taxpayer dollars each year.

Our organization opposes this proposed permit and hopes that you can work with Caltrans to come up with a permit that will accomplish your goal of cleaner water while not diverting badly needed road and highway funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Hambrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Hambrick  
Chairman