

July 23, 2012

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



Subject: Comment Letter – 2nd Draft Phase II Small MS4 General Permit

Dear Ms. Townsend and Members of the Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft Phase II Small MS4 General Permit. Please accept this letter as the formal comment from the City of Ukiah, Department of Public Works (DPW) to the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) on the Second Draft NPDES General Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for Storm Water Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (Draft Permit).

The City of Ukiah has faced substantially decreased revenues over the last several years. In particular, the City's General Fund, where the City's storm water efforts are funded, has been drastically reduced the last three years. In addition, the DPW's Assistant Civil Engineer was laid off as part of the FY 2012-2013 budget cuts. The Draft Permit as written requires the City to accomplish significantly more work with reduced revenue and reduced staff availability.

Specifically, the City has comments on the following:

- 1) Expense to Comply. It is DPW's estimate that it will cost \$185,000 per year to comply with this permit. This level of funding is simply not available in the general fund for DPW's current budget. At present, the City has few options to generate additional revenue to fully comply with the draft permit as written.
- 2) Reporting requirements. The draft permit places an excessive burden to local agencies to comply with reporting on all aspects of the permit. It is DPW's request that the draft permit be rewritten to place the emphasis on stormwater programs which are workable for small, financially strapped communities rather than have the focus be on report writing which does not have a direct connection to improving stormwater quality.
- 3) Exceeds the Phase 1 permit. The draft permit as written exceeds the requirements

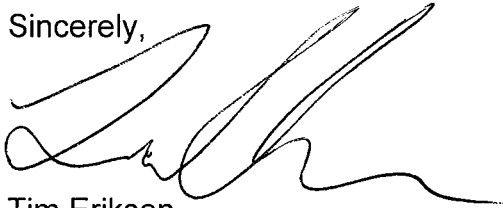
of existing Phase 1 permits. DPW believes that small local agencies with limited revenue sources should not be burdened with a permit which exceeds the Phase 1 permit requirements.

- 4) Excessive monitoring, inspection and assessment. The draft permit as written has substantial requirements for monitoring, inspection and assessment. These requirements appear to have more relation to scientific study of stormwater as opposed to existing program requirements which have a direct benefit on improving stormwater quality. The "Municipal Pollutant Load Quantification", item E.14.b, page 73, is one example of an excessive requirement.

Overall, the Draft Permit has many onerous requirements which will severely affect the City in this time of reduced general fund revenues and reduced staff. The City requests that the Draft Permit be rewritten through a process that includes input from affected Phase II agencies.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. I look forward to working with the Board to develop a practical and workable Phase II Small MS4 General Permit.

Sincerely,



Tim Eriksen
Director of Public Works/ City Engineer

cc: Thomas Howard, SWRCB Executive Director
Matthew St. John, RWQCB – Region 1 Executive Officer
Noreen Evans, California Senator
Wesley Chesbro, California Assembly Member
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