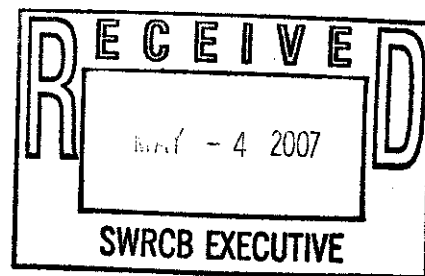




**Construction General
Permit – Stormwater
Deadline: 5/4/07 5pm**

May 4, 2007

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



**Subject: Industrial Environmental Association Comments-
State Water Resources Control Board Draft Construction Permit**

Dear Ms. Her and Members of the Board:

The Industrial Environmental Association (IEA) is a Southern California regional organization representing manufacturing, high technology and research and development companies. Many of our members are either considering or already in the process of considering site improvements, building upgrades, expansions or new facilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the March 2007 preliminary draft construction stormwater permit and the extension of the deadline to provide additional time for review.

IEA would like to submit comments in the following areas:

***Numeric Limits:**

We have closely followed the work of the Blue Ribbon Panel Report which indicated that numeric limits may be appropriate in certain circumstances. However, the proposed application of numeric limits in this draft permit does not adequately take into account the complexity of the issues still outstanding which require further scientifically-based protocols and data-gathering programs.

The inclusion of numeric limits in permits should be delayed to allow the Blue Ribbon Panel, or a successor group, more time to determine appropriate background levels, the effectiveness of new technologies and Best Management Practices (BMPs), as well as flexibility in determining the most effective method to achieve compliance.

***Hydromodification:**

Hydromodification requirements of the draft permit are of particular concern. Many industrial sites have purchased their properties years in advance and have planned for decades-long multi-stage buildout of their full operational capabilities. Any significant changes to the design, engineering, and planning for large industrial complexes could cause considerable expense and serious logistical challenges in now being able to meet the intended needs of their companies.

The kinds of controls and watershed planning in the hydromodification should be accomplished during the land use and planning process rather than through a water quality permitting process, and we would request that hydromodification not be included in the context of this construction permit.



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***Best Management Practices (BMPs):**

Industrial facilities have typically worked with BMPs through the administration of the General Industrial Permit. BMPs can have varying degrees of applicability and outcomes across industry sectors based on widely-varying circumstances.

Minimum BMPs specified in the permit must be reasonable, achievable and take into account site-related factors and conditions.

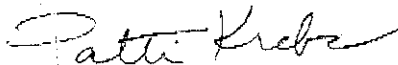
***Prioritization of Threat to Water Quality:**

As with all water quality decision-making processes and this permit, there should be prioritization of threat to water quality.

The requirements of the construction permit should be based on a risk/benefit approach that will result in the state being able to appropriately focus its time and resources on problem areas and major threats to water quality.

In summary, we appreciate this opportunity to present our views and would urge modifications as stated above to allow for a permit that can be fairly and reasonably implemented throughout the State of California while providing significantly enhanced water quality protections.

Sincerely,



Patti Krebs
Executive Director
Industrial Environmental Association
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