



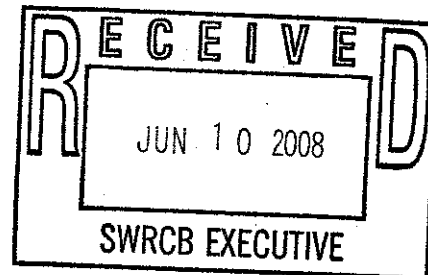
County of Imperial

Building Roads into the Next Century

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

June 9, 2008

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



SUBJECT: Comments Regarding the Draft General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activities

Dear Ms. Townsend:

This letter is in response to a review of the Draft General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activities. The document was downloaded from your Web site at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/.

Department staff reviewed the document and offer the following comments related to impacts the document in its current form will have on municipalities, small MS4 entities, construction companies, and the general public.

1. The refusal to waive certain permit requirements for small construction projects as explained in Findings 13 could make some construction projects cost prohibitive for both the smaller construction company and the small MS4 entity.
2. The water monitoring requirements for PH and turbidity will raise the costs of what could have been financially feasible projects for small MS4 entities, and may render such projects cost prohibitive for the entity and smaller construction companies.
3. The visual and effluent monitoring requirement as explained in Findings 17 will increase the costs of all construction projects, including smaller projects in semi-arid or arid areas of the state.
4. The requirement for Active Treatment Systems as explained in Findings 19 will increase costs of practically all projects in semi-arid or arid areas as such areas may contain soil particles smaller than the listed 0.02 millimeters.
5. The requirement that dischargers who obtained permit coverage under the pervious General Permit must adhere to the new General Permit as explained in VI (2) (b) renders those dischargers subject to ex post facto legislation and exposes them to penalties for practices that were originally approved. This could require projects to undergo additional planning activities and increasing the total project cost, the funds for which many times have already been allocated at a predetermined amount.

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6. The limits for construction site stormwater runoff generally do not consider the PH or turbidity of runoff *outside* of the construction site, and result in forcing the discharger to prove the PH and turbidity of stormwater run-on in order to acquit their best practices.

These comments are provided to you for your consideration as you continue with development of the new General Permit.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Ed Delgado, Administrative Analyst II of this Department. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your Draft General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activities.

Respectfully,

William S. Brunet, P.E.
Director of Public Works

BY:

Frank Fiorenza
Deputy Director of Public Works- Engineering

ED/dm