



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

March 30, 2016

Mr. David Gibson
Executive Officer
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108

Subject: Letter of Interest to Fund a Section 401 Water Quality Certification Staff Person

Dear Mr. Gibson:

Thank you for your staff's recent assistance in processing the City of San Diego's (City) numerous emergency permit applications during this rainy season. The City's ability to complete these emergency projects to protect public health and safety could not have been accomplished without your staff's timely assistance and dedication. As has been discussed at the City's regular bi-monthly meetings with your staff, and to continue this collaborative effort, the City is interested in pursuing an Agreement with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) that would help expedite the permitting process of future water, wastewater and storm water projects.

With this proposed Agreement, the City would provide funding for one additional Section 401 Water Quality Certification staff person at the Regional Board who would be dedicated to supporting the City's requests, and, in turn, this Regional Board staff person would expedite reviews of City permit applications. The intent is for the Agreement to allow the City to fund one Regional Board staff position to provide expedited environmental review of projects identified in the Agreement, as well as emergency projects, for a period of up to 5 years. We have a similar arrangement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the Water Resources Development Act and it has been highly effective.

There are many more upcoming priority projects, and we look forward to building on our cooperative relationship with Regional Board staff. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Kris McFadden by e-mail at kmcfadden@sandiego.gov or phone at (619) 236-6594.

Sincerely,

Paz Gomez, PE, CEM, GBE
Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Infrastructure/Public Works

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cc: David Graham, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Neighborhood Services
Halla Razak, Director, Public Utilities Department
Kris McFadden, Director, Transportation & Storm Water Department
David Barker, P.E., Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer, Regional Water
Quality Control Board
Eric Becker, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, Regional Water Quality
Control Board
Drew Kleis, Deputy Director, Transportation & Storm Water Department
Rania Amen, Deputy Director, Public Utilities Department
Gene Matter, Assistant Deputy Director, Transportation & Storm Water
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Christine Rothman, AICP, Development Project Manager, Transportation &
Storm Water Department
Keli Balo, Project Officer, Public Utilities Department