

WARREN D. WILLIAMS
General Manager-Chief Engineer



Public Comment
Storm Water Program Workplan and Implementation
Deadline: 7/24/15 by 12:00 noon
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RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

July 24, 2015

via email delivery

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



Dear Ms. Townsend:

Re: Comment letter – Proposal to Develop a Storm
Water Program Work Plan and Implementation
Strategy

Riverside County is the fourth largest county in the state with a population of 2.3 million containing 28 cities and stretching nearly 7,300 square miles of fertile river valleys, low deserts, mountains, foothills and rolling plains and covers three watersheds: Santa Ana, Santa Margarita and Whitewater.

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District serves as the Principal Permittee for the three MS4 permits and works with our Co-permittees to implement the requirements of the Clean Water Act and develop stormwater management programs.

Proper management of stormwater resources and its infrastructure is critical for the health and economic prosperity of our region and the state. It is encouraging to see the Draft 2015 Stormwater Strategic Initiative proposes a work plan and implementation strategy that support sustainable stormwater management practices. Addressing the issues and barriers to stormwater program implementation is a welcome approach to develop flexible and cost efficient strategies that can meet the diverse needs of each watershed throughout the state.

We support the four guiding principles of the initiative and support the nine listed Immediate Action Projects.

In addition, we recommend that Project Number 2, Stakeholder Collaboration to Promote Storm Water as a Resource, should be an Immediate Action Project, too. We believe state leadership is needed to spur the multitude of agencies to work together for this common goal. It may even require the state to create regional joint powers authorities that have local entities as voting members. The joint powers authorities would then have the sanction to act on a watershed-wide basis.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Storm Water Program Work Plan and Implementation Strategy and we look forward to participating in future discussions as the work plan continues to develop.

Please contact me at 951.955.1273 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuart Mckibbin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

STUART MCKIBBIN
Chief of Watershed Protection Division

SEM:bad