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SWRCB Clerk



October 19, 2012



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

RE: Draft Statewide General NPDES Permit for the Discharge of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities Dated July 2012
Comment Letter

Dear Ms. Townsend:

The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) hereby submits the following comments regarding the Draft Industrial General Permit dated July 16, 2012 on behalf of the 31 school district bus maintenance facilities participating in the SDCOE Group Monitoring Program:

- Permit Effective Date (Permit Page 15). The Permit effective date is July 1, 2013. By that date all existing Permittees will have to register for NOI coverage (which will require revision of the existing SWPPP) or the existing Permit coverage will expire and be terminated. Since adoption of this Permit has been delayed substantially (fall 2012 adoption was originally anticipated), we request that the Permit effective date be delayed at least until July 1, 2014 (provided the final IGP is adopted in January or February 2013). This will allow time for existing Permittees to revise their SWPPPs and submit new NOIs before the 2014-2015 reporting period and avoid gaps in coverage.
- Pre-Storm Inspections (Permit Page 37). Pre-storm inspections are required prior to NOAA-forecasted storm events that have a 50% or greater probability of producing precipitation (but not more than once during any 14 day period). During rainy months, it will be difficult to keep track of the date on which the next pre-storm inspection is required. Further, due to the constantly-changing nature of NOAA forecast, the area within the 50 % probability forecast could change several times during a single day. In addition, inspections every 14 days are not necessary because industrial sites are not typically in a continuous state of flux (like construction sites).

It would assist us in staying compliant if the Permit allowed for alternative monthly inspections that would encompass both the pre-storm and the Quarterly Non-Storm Water Discharge visual observation requirements. Group Monitoring (Pages 36-45). We request reinstatement of Group Monitoring as an option. Although there would be no reduction in sampling, the reinstated program would allow groups with

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similar industrial activities (e.g. school bus maintenance) to join together and gather data that the SWRCB staff could use in the future to develop industry-specific permits.

- Exceedance Response Actions (Pages 46-47). If sampling results indicate an NAL exceedance, the Permittee status will automatically move from Baseline to Level 1. However, after entering Level 1 status, the Permittee will have no opportunity to demonstrate that the exceedance was caused by sources out of his control (e.g. natural background conditions or off-site non-industrial sources). Several of our school districts have experienced conditions where low pH precipitation fell on their sites. As written, even if rainfall and runoff sample results demonstrate that the low pH in the runoff was caused by atmospheric conditions (rather than industrial activities), the Permittee is forced to proceed with performance of a Level 1 evaluation and preparation of a Level 1 Report. We request that provisions be provided for a Permittee to:
 - ✓ Demonstrate that an "apparent" NAL exceedance is due to natural background or off-site conditions before moving into Level 1 or 2 status;
 - ✓ Upload analyses onto the SMARTS website that demonstrate that an "apparent" NAL exceedance is due to natural background or off-site conditions (along with industrial site storm water runoff sample analyses);
 - ✓ File a Non-Industrial Source Pollutant Demonstration Technical Report while in Level 1 status.
- Training Qualifications (Permit Page 124). As proposed, each school district would have to have a trained QISP by July 14, 2014. Based on our experience with the QSP training provided after adoption of the Construction General Permit, it is highly likely that there will not be sufficient time for the State Water Board to develop and implement the QISP training program between Permit adoption (in early 2013) and July 14, 2014. We request that the deadline for compliance with the QISP training requirement be delayed until July 31, 2015.

If you have any questions, please call me at (619) 929-6334 or Steve Herrera with Herrera Engineering Consultants, Inc. at (530) 677-1854.

Sincerely,



Joanne Branch
Facility Planning Coordinator/Stormwater Group Manager

c: Steve Herrera, Herrera Engineering Consultants, Inc.

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