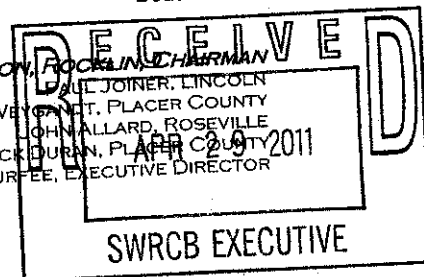




**WESTERN PLACER**  
WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

GEORGE MAGNUSON, ROCKLIN CHAIRMAN  
PAUL JOINER, LINCOLN  
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JOHN ALLARD, ROSEVILLE  
JACK DURAN, PLACER COUNTY  
JAMES DURFEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



April 29, 2011

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

**RE: DRAFT STATEWIDE GENERAL NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE  
ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT FOR THE DISCHARGE OF STORM WATER  
ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES**

Dear Ms. Townsend:

Western Placer Waste Management Authority (Authority) staff have reviewed the California State Water Resources Control Board's (Water Board) 2011 Draft Industrial General Permit (IGP) released for public comment in January 2011. The draft IGP, which is intended to supersede Order No. 97-03-DWQ, would severely impact the Authority's operations.

The Authority is a regional agency comprised of Placer County and the cities of Lincoln, Rocklin and Roseville. The Authority provides recycling and waste disposal services to these communities as well as to the City of Auburn and the Town of Loomis. The Authority owns and operates a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) designed to separate, process and market recyclable materials removed from the municipal solid waste stream. The residual waste is disposed in the adjacent Western Regional Sanitary Landfill (WRSL), also owned and operated by the Authority. The Authority's facilities would be significantly and negatively impacted by the draft IGP requirements, as outlined in the following comments:

- At a time when public agencies are continuing to experience negative effects from the economic recession, the added compliance measures identified in the draft IGP would place additional undue financial burden on the Authority. The draft IGP's requirement that landfills must sample every day of a qualifying storm event would significantly increase those costs, many of which would be administrative and would not result in a direct improvement to water quality or environmental benefit. Basic compliance with the IGP as drafted could increase sampling costs by an order of magnitude. Based on the Authority's 2010 rain data, compliance with the draft IGP would have required the Authority to sample as many as twenty two events compared to the single event that was sampled under existing IGP conditions.

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- Ambiguity throughout the draft IGP language makes it virtually impossible for dischargers to estimate the true impacts of the draft IGP and to budget for necessary sampling supplies and staffing requirements. For example, as a landfill at Corrective Action Level (CAL) III required to sample every day of every qualifying storm event, there is no means for the Authority to reasonably quantify the amount of sampling supplies required to respond to a series of storms which could last several days each. The existing IGP is much clearer in this regard, specifying a minimum and maximum number of qualifying storm events required to be sampled. This allows the Authority to accurately budget for storm event sampling, acquire the necessary sampling supplies, and dedicate staff time to the task of complying with IGP requirements.
- The Water Board convened a panel of experts to address questions about imposing numeric limits in storm water permits. In its report, the panel concluded that:

"Whether the use of Numeric Limits is prudent, practical or necessary to more effectively achieve nonpoint pollution control is a separate question that needs to be answered, but is outside the scope of this Panel."

Further, the draft IGP states that:

"The panel's final report concluded that it would be possible to determine numeric effluent limitations for industrial storm water discharges, but noted various reasons why such a determination would be problematic at this time."

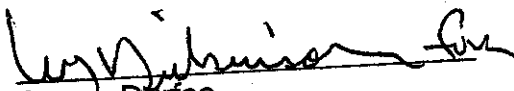
The panel also concluded that substantial research and data gathering is required to develop design criteria for the removal of pollutants to be expected from various types of Best Management Practices (BMP), and that until such research is done, assignment of legally enforceable numerical effluent limitations to any BMP would be difficult. We understand this language to mean that better data are necessary to ascertain whether numeric limitations are reasonable considering the costs associated with implementation of BMPs that may be necessary to meet those limits. We have great concern whether the potential capital and operating costs associated with treatment and other BMPs would be commensurate with the potential environmental benefit associated with numeric limitations.

- The draft IGP does not include provisions for dischargers to consider background levels that may be higher than the draft IGP's Numeric Action Levels (NALs) or Numeric Effluent Levels (NELs). During the Authority's initial storm water sampling analysis conducted in 1989, levels of iron were detected at twice the proposed NEL and are believed to be associated with naturally occurring conditions of the site. These historically high background levels of iron, along with other uncontrollable factors such as aerial deposition of contaminants onto the property, could rapidly force the Authority's facilities into CAL III. As currently drafted, the IGP does not include a provision allowing for return to a lesser CAL from CAL III.

Finally, we commend the Water Board on the inclusion of the No Discharge Certification, which would allow facilities designed to contain all storm water onsite the potential to be conditionally excluded from the IGP's sampling and reporting requirements. However, we would appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Attachment B, No Discharge Certification Requirements, which has not yet been developed.

We respectfully request that the Water Board reconsider adopting the IGP as currently drafted, and work with stakeholders to conduct the required analysis of costs, benefits and alternatives before proceeding; and that our concerns be considered when preparing the next draft of the IGP.

Sincerely,



James Durfee  
Executive Director

JD:EO:kw

