

(6/16/15) Board Meeting Comments to A-2236(a)-(kk) Deadline: 6/2/15 by 12:00 noon

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June 1, 2015



Ms. Jeanine Townsend Clerk to the Board State Water Resources Control Board 1001 I Street, 24th Floor P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Comments to A-2236(a)-(kk) - Submitted on Behalf the Cities of Duarte and Huntington Park in Response to State Board Revised Proposed Order Dated 4/24/15

Dear Ms. Townsend:

This office represents the Cities of Duarte and Huntington Park ("Cities") in connection with their Petitions for Review challenging Order No. R4-2012-0175, NPDES Permit No. CAS004001 ("Permit" or "Subject Permit"), and submits the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities/Comments in response to that Revised Proposed Order issued by the State Water Resources Control Board ("State Board") and dated April 24, 2015.

If you have any questions with respect to the above or the attached please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP

nlows

Richard Montevideo

RM:pj Enclosure

cc: Darrell George, City of Duarte, City Manager

Arnold Glassman, Esq., City Attorney, City of Huntington Park

Teresa Chen, Esq. Joseph Larsen, Esq.

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11	In the Matter of:	PETITIONERS CITIES OF DUARTE AND HUNTINGTON PARK'S POINTS AND
12 13	The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region's	AUTHORITIES/COMMENTS TO THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD'S REVISED PROPOSED ORDER
14	Adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System	DATED 4/24/15
15	(MS4) Discharges Within The Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County, Except	COMMENTS TO A-2236(a)-(kk)
16	Those Discharges Originating from the City of Long Beach MS4, Order No. R4-2012-0175, NPDES No. CAS004001	[Water Code § 13320 and Title 23, CCR § 2050, et seq.]
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	2284/012225-0098 8379298.8 a06/01/15 COMMENTS TO REVIS	SED PROPOSED ORDER

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Cities of Duarte and Huntington Park (the "Cities") submit these Points and Authorities/Comments in response to that Revised Draft Order issued on April 24, 2015 ("Revised Draft Order") by the State Water Resources Control Board ("State Board") in connection with the various Petitions for Review of Order No. R4-2012-0175, NPDES Permit No. CAS004001 ("Permit" or "Subject Permit".)

As provided in the letter from State Board's Chief Counsel, dated April 24, 2015, "[c]omments must be limited to revisions made since the November 21, 2014, proposed order, as indicated by redline/strikeout." In limiting their comments to the revisions, as instructed, the Cites are not waiving or abandoning their objections/comments raised in their previously submitted Memorandum of Points and Authorities/Comments in Response to the State Board Order Dated 11/21/14 and Petition for Review. The Cities hereby incorporate by this reference the objections/comments set forth in their previously submitted Memorandum of Points and Authorities/Comments in Response to State Board Order Dated 11/21/14 and Petition for Review. For the following reasons, as elaborated on further below, the Revised Draft Order, as revised, and the subject Permit are contrary to law.

II. SUMMARY OF ARGUMENTS

First, the Revised Draft Order reinforces the fact that the Permit requires Permittees to do the impossible, i.e., prevent all non-stormwater discharges from reaching a receiving water. (See Revised Draft Order, pp. 52, 69, fn 187.) In effect, it appears that under the Revised Draft Order, the Los Angeles 2012 MS4 Permittees ("Permittees") would be in violation of the Permit for virtually every instance where a dry weather discharge reaches a receiving water. In effect, the newly added language would effectively eviscerate all dryweather TMDL interim and final waste load allocations as, under the Permit with this language, no non-stormwater can be allowed to reach a receiving water, even if the interim or final dry weather waste load allocation ("WLA") is being met. In short, the new Permit language would override all dry weather WLAs, and convert them into "zero" WLAs.

This apparent interpretation of the Permit, including its interpretative effect on dry weather WLAs in TMDLs, is then compounded by the fact that most of the final wet weather WLAs being imposed on Permitees cannot possibly be met (other than potentially through a deemed compliant EWMP for limited feasible locations), thereby making it impossible for a Permittee to comply with most any aspect of a TMDL.

The ultimate outcome of imposing an unachievable non-stormwater discharge prohibition will *not* be to improve water quality, but instead to increase litigation fees and costs in fighting enforcement actions and citizen suits, with the Permittees then being subject to excessive penalties under the Clean Water Act. (*See*, *e.g.*, *NRDC v. County of Los Angeles* (C.D. Cal. Mar. 30, 2015) 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 40761 ["Defendants are liable for the 147 exceedances described in Defendants' monitoring reports, which the Ninth Circuit found were conclusively demonstrated to be Permit violations by Defendants' own pollution monitoring."].) Because the law precludes the Permit from requiring the impossible, the "discharge prohibition" provisions cannot withstand legal scrutiny.

<u>Second</u>, imposing a "zero" discharge limitation on non-exempt, non-storm water discharges is clearly not required under the Clean Water Act ("CWA", and therefore can only be imposed under the California Porter-Cologne Act when the factors set forth in California Water Code ("CWC") sections 13241, 13263 and 13000 have first been fully considered, and the Permit findings and terms have been developed consistent with these factors. The Revised Draft Order is thus legally deficient, as is the Permit, in light of the lack of finding and determinations showing that the "zero" discharge limitation was developed in accordance with the factors and considerations required by State law.

<u>Third</u>, the Revised Draft Order improperly suggests that, because CWC sections 13267, 13225 and 13165, somehow "<u>stand[]</u> as an obstacle to the accomplishment of the full purposes and objectives of [Federal law]," they cannot apply to the Permit's monitoring and reporting program. (Revised Draft Order, p. 72, fn 192.) However, the Revised Draft Order points to no federal law or regulatory requirement imposing the particular monitoring requirements upon the Permittees, and nor does the Revised Draft Order point to any federal

law prohibiting the conducting of a "cost/benefit" analysis, as required by CWC sections 13267, 13225 and 13165. Thus, the requirements in CWC sections 13267, 13225 and 13165 do not "stand as an obstacle" to federal law and must be complied with prior to imposing the monitoring obligations on Permittees. Because the Regional Board failed to comply with those sections, it acted in excess of its authority and contrary to law.

Finally, by changing various references from "liability" to "responsibility" (see Revised Draft Order, pp. 72-75), the Revised Draft Order further fuels confusion by indicating that "joint responsibility" is presumed in the Permit, yet suggesting that the Permit "does not impose such a joint responsibility regime" that "would require each Permittee to take full responsibility for addressing violations, regardless of whether, and to what extent, each permitted contributed to the violation." (Revised Draft Order, p. 74.) However, when defendants are "jointly responsible," it is generally understood that a plaintiff may recover the entire damages from any one of them regardless of the proportion of their responsibility or contributions to the violation. If the Revised Draft Order is intended to mean that a Permittee is only to be considered "liable" for its portion of an exceedance in a co-mingled discharge, this interpretation effectively means a Permittee is only to be "severally" liable for exceedances it contributes to. In effect, it appears that the State Board is striving to state that a Permittee shall only have "several responsibility" rather than "joint responsibility."

"Several" responsibility suggests that any obligations are divided amongst Permitees in proportion to their responsibility or contributions to the violation. Moreover, as written, the Permit conflicts with the various cases confirming that the Regional Board has the burden of proving liability against an individual Permittee, regardless of whether or not there is a comingled exceedance, and is contrary to the clear terms of the Clean Water Act and the Porter-Colon Act; and worse, violates fundamental principles of due process of law.

As explained herein, the Cities respectfully request that the subject Permit be further revised to address the other legal deficiencies set forth in this Brief/Comments.

1	III. THE REVISED DRAFT ORDER'S INTERPRETATION OF THE PERMIT
2	AS PROHIBITING ALL NON-EXEMPT, NON-STORM WATER
3	DISCHARGES FROM ENTERING A RECEIVING WATER, IS
4	IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLY WITH.
5	With the exception of exempt and conditional exempt non-storm water discharges,
6	Part III.A of the Permit requires each Permittee to "prohibit non-storm water discharges
7	through the MS4 to receiving waters." (Permit, p. 27.) Part VI.C of the Permit, subsection
8	1.d, then provides that the "Watershed Management Programs shall ensure that the
9	discharges from the Permittee's MS4: (iii) do not include non-storm water discharges
10	that are effectively prohibited pursuant to Part III.A."
11	The revisions in the Revised Draft Order indicate that a Permittee will not be deemed
12	in compliance with the Discharge Prohibition provisions in Part III.A, even where the
13	Permittee is in compliance with an approved WMP/EWMP. According to the revisions to
14	the Draft Order on page 52: "Implementation of control measures through the WMP/EWMP
15	may provide a mechanism for compliance with Section III.A, which establishes the
16	prohibition on non-storm water discharges, but such implementation does not constitute
17	compliance with Section III.A. The several provisions stating that Permittees will be
18	deemed to be in compliance with the receiving water limitations of the Los Angeles MS4
19	Order for implementing the WMP/EWMP specifically reference Section V.A of the Order,
20	the receiving water limitations provisions, and not III.A" (Revised Draft Order, p. 52.)
21	Accordingly, the implication of this added language to the Revised Draft Order is
22	that any non-exempt prohibited discharge that travels "through the MS4 to receiving
23	waters," regardless of whether there are "pollutants" in the discharge that exceed a
24	receiving water limitation or exceed a waste load allocation from a TMDL, would result in a
25	violation of the Permit.
26	This interpretation appears to be further confirmed by new footnote 187 to the
27	Revised Draft Order, which provides as follows:
28	We disagree that the phrasing of the non-storm water discharge prohibition in the Los Angles MS4 Order means that <i>any</i> dry

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weather discharges from the MS4 could be construed as a violation of the Clean Water Act. The *effective* prohibition directed by the Clean Water Act has been addressed in the Los Angeles MS4 Order through the extensive list of exceptions and conditional exemptions laid out in Part III of the Order. (Revised Draft Order, p. 69.)

Reading the revisions on pages 52 and 69 of the Revised Draft Order together would mean that any non-exempt non-storm water discharge that touches a receiving water would be a violation of the Permit, irrespective of the existence of the Permittee's Illicit Discharge program, irrespective of the Permittee's compliance of an approved WMP/EWMP program, and irrespective of the Permittee's compliance with applicable receiving water limitations or waste load allocations. In short, a single "drop" of non-exempt, non-storm water to a receiving water through the MS4 would seemingly subject the Permittee to an enforcement action or extensive liability to a third party under the citizen suit provisions of the Clean Water Act. These non-stormwater provisions of the Permit and the Revised Draft Order are impossible to comply with, go beyond what is required under the Clean Water Act, and

Furthermore, the reference in footnote 187 on page 69 of the Revised Draft Order to the discharge prohibition exceptions in Part III of the Permit are not, by any means, "extensive" as claimed by the State Board in footnote 187. To the contrary, they are limited to the following *narrow* categories: (1) discharges separately regulated by an NPDES permit, (2) discharges authorized by USEPA, (3) discharges from "emergency" firefighting activities, and (4) natural water flows. Moreover, while the list of conditional exemptions includes a broader range of discharges, including residential car washing and landscape irrigation, these exemptions are also somewhat limited (Permit, pp. 36-37), and it is clear that unless a Permittee can find a way to divert all non-exempt, non-storm water discharges from touching a receiving water, including, apparently those occurring during rain events, the Permittee will be in violation of the Permit. The result is an impossible position for the Permittees, and the non-storm water "discharge prohibition" provisions of the Permit, as interpreted in the Revised Draft Order, are therefore impossible to comply with.

In fact, the Permit's incorporation of the various dry-weather WLAs from the

exceed what is permissible under the Porter-Cologne Act.

1	TMDLs (and the development of the dry weather WLAs themselves) is an
2	acknowledgement that complying with a "zero" dry weather discharge limit is neither
3	necessary nor possible. (See e.g. Permit, Attachment O.) Such dry weather TMDL WLAs
4	would be unnecessary and entirely meaningless if dry weather discharges in general would
5	need to be prohibited. Indeed, the dry-weather TMDLs only make sense if the
6	implementation of control measures though the WMP/EWMP programs constituted
7	compliance with the "discharge prohibition" in Section III.A. Yet, as discussed above, the
8	Revised Draft Order makes the opposite point, i.e., that Permittees' "implementation [of
9	control measures through the WMP/EWMP] does not constitute compliance with Section
10	III.A." (Revised Draft Order, p. 52.)
11	The Cities hereby request that this language be revised to state the opposite, i.e., that
12	"implementation [of control measures through the WMP/EWMP] shall constitute
13	compliance with Section III.A."
14	By adopting such dry weather TMDLs and WQBELs and failing to provide any
15	feasible means by which Permittees can comply with the dry weather discharge prohibition
16	provisions, or to otherwise comply with the general discharge prohibition requirement in
17	Part III.A, through the implementation of a WMP/EWMP or otherwise, the Permit places
18	the Permittees between Scylla and Charybdis by implicitly acknowledging that the dry
19	weather discharge prohibition is impossible to comply with -necessitating the need for dry
20	weather TMDLs – yet providing no mechanism for Permittees to comply with such
21	discharge prohibition requirements.
22	The ultimate outcome of imposing an unachievable discharge prohibition on
23	municipalities will not be to improve water quality, but instead to increase litigation and
24	attorney's fees in fighting enforcement actions and citizen suits (see, e.g., NRDC v. County
25	of Los Angeles, supra, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 40761 [County of Los Angeles and Los
26	Angeles Flood Control District found liable for over 140 violations of the Clean Water Act
27	for effluent limit exceedances, and thus subjecting them to penalties in an amount yet to be
28	determined, where the Court stated: "Because the results of County Defendants' pollution

the permit, was not yet prepared to issue such permits. As a result, it was impossible for JMS to comply. (*Id.*)

The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeal held that the CWA does not require a permittee to achieve the impossible, finding that "Congress is presumed not to have intended an absurd (impossible) result." (*Id.* at 1529.) The Court then found that:

In this case, once JMS began the development, compliance with the zero discharge standard would have been impossible. Congress could not have intended a strict application of the zero discharge standard in section 1311(a) when compliance is factually impossible. The evidence was uncontroverted that whenever it rained in Gwinnett County some discharge was going to occur; nothing JMS could do would prevent all rain water discharge.

(*Id.* at 1530.) The Court concluded, "*Lex non cogit ad impossibilia*: The law does not compel the doing of impossibilities." (*Id.*)

The same rule applies here. The Clean Water Act does not require municipal permittees to do the impossible and comply with unachievable BMPs and a complete prohibition on all dry weather discharges. Because municipal permittees are involuntary permittees, that is, because they have no choice but to obtain a municipal storm water permit, the Permit, as a matter of law, cannot impose terms that are unobtainable. (*Id.*)

In this case, strictly complying with the non-storm water "discharge prohibition" is not achievable by the Permittees, given the innumerable and variable potential sources of urban runoff. The "technical" and "economic" feasibility to comply with the non-storm water "discharge prohibition" simply do not exist, and imposing such a requirement that goes beyond "the limits of practicability" (*Defenders of Wildlife v. Browner* (1999) 191 F.3d 1159, 1162) and is nothing more than an attempt to impose an impossible standard on municipalities that cannot withstand legal scrutiny.

Accordingly, the imposition of the non-storm water "discharge prohibition" is not only an attempt to impose an obligation that goes beyond the requirements of federal law, but equally important, represents an attempt to impose provisions that go beyond what is "practicable," and in this case, beyond what is "feasible." Because the law does not compel doing the impossible, the non-storm water "discharge prohibition" in the Permit, as

discharge. (33 U.S.C. § 1342(p)(3)(B)(iii).) Instead, under the CWA, regardless of the nature of the discharge, *i.e.*, be it "storm water" or alleged "non-stormwater," the MEP standard continues to apply. (*Id.*)

The only difference in the requirements to be imposed upon the municipalities between "storm water" and "non-stormwater," involves the need for municipalities to adopt and implement ordinances and to take appropriate enforcement actions in order to "effectively prohibit non-stormwater discharges into the" MS4. (See e.g., 40 CFR 122.26(d)(1)(3)(A) ["use of ordinances, guidance or other controls which limited the discharge of non-storm water discharges to any Publicly Owned Treatment Works serving the same area as the municipal separate storm sewer system"]; 40 CFR 122.26(d)(2)(i)(B) ["Prohibit through ordinance, order or similar means, illicit discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer"].)

Accordingly, the attempt to impose a "zero" effluent limit of non-exempt, non-storm water to "receiving waters," rather than only requiring the Permittees to adopt ordinances and take other appropriate enforcement measures to "effectively prohibit" non-storm water from entering its MS4 (33 USC § 1342(p)(3)(B)(ii)), exceeds federal law and is not authorized under State law. As such, the Permit, as written and interpreted by the State Board in the Revised Draft Order, imposes requirements on the Permittees that are not requirements under the Clean Water Act. Similarly, such requirements were not developed in accordance with the Porter-Cologne Act.

CWC sections 13241, 13263 and 13000 all directly or indirectly require a consideration of "economics," as well as whether the terms in question are "reasonable achievable," including a balancing of the benefit of the requirement versus the costs and other burdens of compliance, e.g., "the total values involved, beneficial and detrimental, economic and social, tangible and intangible" (CWC § 13000), the "water quality conditions that could reasonably be achieved through the coordinated control of all factors which affect water quality in the area" (CWC § 13241), and the need to "take into consideration the beneficial uses to be protected" and the "water quality objectives

reasonably	required	for that	nurnose"	(CWC	§ 13263(a).)
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Under the California Supreme Court's holding in *Burbank v. State Board* (2005) 35 Cal.4th 613 ("*Burbank*"), a regional board must consider the factors set forth in sections 13263, 13241 and 13000 when adopting an NPDES Permit, unless consideration of those factors "would justify including restrictions that do not comply with federal law." (*Id.* at 627.) As stated by the *Burbank* Court, "*Section 13263 directs Regional Boards, when issuing waste discharge requirements, to take into account various factors including those set forth in Section 13241."* (*Id.* at 625, emphasis added.) Specifically, the *Burbank* Court held that to the extent the NPDES Permit provisions in that case were not compelled by federal law, the Boards were required to consider their "economic" impacts on the dischargers themselves, with the Court finding that such requirement means that the Water Boards must analyze the "discharger's cost of compliance." (*Id.* at 618.)

The Court in *Burbank* thus interpreted the need to consider "economics" as requiring a consideration of the "cost of compliance" on the cities involved in that case. (*Id.* at 625 ["The plain language of *Sections 13263 and 13241* indicates the Legislature's intent in 1969, when these statutes were enacted, that a regional board *consider the costs of compliance when setting effluent limitations in a waste water discharge permit."].)*

With the language in the Permit, as now interpreted by the State Board in the Revised Draft Order, to impose a "zero" effluent limit for non-exempt, non-storm water discharges to a "receiving water," the requirements in the Porter-Cologne Act must be met. Because there is nothing in the administrative record, nor could there be, to show that such a "zero" limit on the Permittees is reasonably and economically achievable, the discharge prohibition requirement is plainly contrary to law.

V. COMPLIANCE WITH CWC §§ 13267, 13225 & 13165 DOES NOT STAND "AS AN OBSTACLE TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE FULL PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF" THE CWA

Under California law, before any monitoring, reporting, investigation and study requirements may be imposed upon a Permittee, a cost/benefit analysis must be conducted

1	and no such requirements can be imposed unless the Regional Board has first shown that the
2	burden, including the costs of these requirements, "bear a reasonable relationship" to their
3	need. (See CWC § 13267.) Section 13225(c) mandates that the Regional Board similarly
4	conduct a cost/benefit analysis if it requires a local agency to investigate and report on
5	technical factors involved with water quality. Section 13225(c) of the Water Code requires
6	that each regional board, with respect to its region, shall:
7	(c) Require as necessary any state or local agency to investigate and report on any technical factors involved in water quality control
8	or to obtain and submit analyses of water; provided that the burden, including costs, of such reports shall bear a reasonable
9	relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained therefrom.
10	obtained therefrom.
11	(§ 13225(c) [emphasis added]; see also § 13165 [imposing this same requirement on the
12	State Board where it requires a "local agency" to "investigate and report on any technical
13	factors involved in water quality control; provided that the burden, including costs, of suc
14	reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to
15	be obtained therefrom"].)
16	Despite this, with regard to the monitoring and reporting program requirements in
17	Parts VI.B and VI.E.5 of the Permit, New Footnote 192 of the Revised Draft Order (p. 71)
18	improperly suggests that CWC sections 13267, 13225 and 13165 do not apply to the
19	Permit's monitoring and reporting program:
20	Permittee Petitioners argue that the cost considerations of Water Code section 13225 and 13267 are relevant to the Los Angeles MS4
21	Order notwithstanding the fact that it was issued under federal authority because the requirements of those section are not
22	inconsistent with the requirements of section 13383. (See Water Code, § 13372, subd. (a) ("To the extent other provisions of this
23	division are consistent with the requirements for state programs those provisions apply ").) This exact assertion was taken up by
24	the trial court in litigation challenging the 2001 Los Angeles MS4 Order and decided in favor of the Los Angeles Water Board. The
25	trial court stated: "As noted in <i>Silkwood v. Kerr-McGee Corp</i> . (1984) 464 U.S. 238, the Court held, in part: 'state law is still
26	preempted where the state law stands as an obstacle to the accomplishment of the full purposes and objectives of Congress.'
27	(464 U.S. at p. 248.) Applying Water Code section 13225 and
- 1	13267 would stand, in other words of Silkwood as: 'an obstacle to

Water Permit Litigation (L.A. Super. Ct., No. BS 080548, Mar. 24, 2005) Statement of Decision from Phase II Trial on Petitions for Writ of Mandate, at pp. 19-20). (Revised Draft Order, p. 71, fn 192.)

Yet, the Revised Draft Order fails to provide any basis for its assertion that California law "stands as an obstacle to the accomplishment of the full purposes and objectives of [the federal law]." (Revised Draft Order, p. 71, fn. 192.) Rather, it cites, in footnote 191, a litany of federal regulations and statutes under which the monitoring provisions of the Permit were allegedly established. (See 33 U.S.C. §§ 1318, 1342(a)(2); 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.26(d)(2)(i)(F), 122.26(d)(2)(iii)(D), 122.41(h), 12241(j), 122.41(l), 122.42(c), 122.44(i), 122.48.) However, these regulations and statutes say nothing about relieving the Regional Board of its obligation to otherwise comply with State law. Indeed, there is nothing in the referenced federal regulations that conflicts with State law or that require the specific monitoring requirements provided for in the Subject Permit, nor do the federal regulations provide that further requirements imposed upon administering agencies under State law are *not* to be complied with.

Moreover, in accordance with CWC section 13372(a), only those requirements "required under" the Clean Water Act and which are "inconsistent" with the other requirements of the Porter-Cologne Act outside of Chapter 5.5, may be avoided by the Regional Board in issuing an NPDES Permit. The Revised Draft Order points to no federal law or regulatory requirement imposing the particular monitoring requirements imposed upon the Permittees, nor does federal law prohibit the conducting of a "cost/benefit" analysis under the present circumstances. Thus the requirements of sections 13225 and 13267 must be complied with prior to imposing the monitoring obligations in issue.

Rather than conflicting with State law, consideration of costs when imposing permit conditions that *meet* or *exceed* federal standards is entirely consistent with the Clean Water Act's purposes and objectives. (See, e.g., 33 U.S.C. § 1311, subd. (m) [allowing a permit issued under Clean Water Act section 402 to modify certain effluent limitations in a permit where the cost of meeting requirements exceeds the benefits to be obtained by an

1	unreasonable amount]; see also Entergy Corp. v. Riverkeeper, Inc. (2009) 556 U.S. 208, 22
2	[the Clean Water Act's silence regarding factors to consider when implementing the Act "is
3	meant to convey nothing more than a refusal to tie the agency's hands as to whether cost-
4	benefit analysis should be used, and if so to what degree."]; City of Burbank v. State Water
5	Resources Control Board (2005) 35 Cal.4th 613, 627 [prohibiting consideration of
6	"economic factors to justify imposing pollutant restrictions that are less stringent than the
7	applicable federal standards require"].) Indeed, in certain circumstances, the Act expressly
8	allows cost consideration in furtherance of its objectives. (See e.g., 33 U.S.C. § 1311.)
9	Moreover, the federal regulatory requirements under the Clean Water Act are
10	consistent with the "cost/benefit" analysis required by Sections 13225 and 13267 by
11	providing that municipalities should describe in its permit application its "budget for
12	existing storm water programs, including an overview of the municipality's financial
13	resources and budget, including overall indebtedness and assets, and sources of funds for
14	storm water programs." (40 C.F.R. § 122.26(d)(1)(vi)(A).) Yet, the Regional Board failed
15	to comply with the cost/benefit requirements under said Sections, and thus acted in excess
16	of its authority and contrary to law. The Revised Draft Order is in error in its analysis of
17	this deficiency with the Permit.
18	With this Permit, at least four Regional Board Member raised concerns with the
19	"cost" of the Permit at the Hearing. (See e.g., Regional Board Hearing Transcript, pp.
20	218:6-7 ["I'm concerned about the cost"], 240:4-9 ["What if the costs are completely blown
21	out of the park, and it's a really serious problem for the cities and they just can't, you know
22	for budgetary reasons, they just can't do the things that the permit requires them to do?"],
23	251:11-15 ["And I know that some of my colleagues already touched upon it, but I think we
24	need to take it very seriously because the truth of the matter is that cities – many smaller
25	cities specifically are really facing borderline bankruptcies"], 257:14-17 ["So I would really
26	appreciate, as we move forward, you know, to do a much better job with looking at the cost
27	- the true cost and benefits in the economics of water quality."].)

In part to address these concerns, a Board/Staff attorney proceeded to advise the

responsibility for addressing violations, regardless of whether, and to what extent, each

permitted contributed to the violation." (Revised Draft Order, p. 74.) This confusion

appears to be the result of the Revised Draft Order's misunderstanding of the meaning of "joint and several liability," "joint liability," and "several liability."

If defendants are "jointly and severally liable," the plaintiff may collect his or her entire damages from any one of them, and the defendants must then rely on principles of indemnity or contribution to apportion ultimate liability amongst themselves. (See *American Motorcycle Assn. v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County* (1978) 20 Cal. 3d 578, 586–590.) In contrast, if defendants are "severally liable" only, an obligation is divided amongst them in proportion to their liability; the plaintiff is entitled to collect from each only the part that corresponds to the liability of each. (*See* Civ. Code § 1431.2(a); *Douglas v. Bergere* (1949) 94 Cal. App. 2d 267, 270.)¹

By using the term "joint" instead of "several" in reference to a Permittee's "responsibility," the Revised Draft Order undermines its own assertion that the Permit "does not require each permittee to take full responsibility for addressing violations, regardless of whether, and to what extent, each permittee contributed to the violation." If the Revised Draft Order means what it says, i.e., that it does not "require each Permittee to take full responsibility for addressing violations, regardless of whether, and to what extent, each permitted contributed to the violation," it should substitute its use of the term "joint responsibility" with "several responsibility" and revise the Permit to make it clear that several responsibility (as opposed to joint responsibility) applies to the Permittees.

Moreover, the theory of a presumed violation of law for a comingled exceedance is plainly a theory that is contrary to the clear terms of the Clean Water Act and the Porter-Colon Act; and worse, violates fundamental principles of due process of law. Indeed, as written, the Permit conflicts with the various cases confirming that the Regional Board has the burden of proofing liability against an individual Permittee, regardless of whether or not there is a comingled exceedance. Furthermore, the Revised Draft Order fails to address the

Joint liability only (as opposed to joint and several liability) is a concept that has little or no application under current law and must be read as referring to joint and several liability. (25 California Forms of Pleading and Practice (Matthew Bender 2010) § 300.14; 5 California Torts (Matthew Bender 2009) § 74.04[1].)

1	fact that there is no such thing as "presumed" liability, nor joint and several liability, under
2	either the Clean Water Act or the Porter-Cologne Act. (See e.g., Rapanos v. United States
3	(2006) 547 U.S. 715, 745 ["[T]he agency must prove that the contaminant-laden waters
4	ultimately reach covered waters"]; Sackett v. E.P.A. (9th Cir. 2010) 622 F.3d 1139, 1145-47
5	["We further interpret the CWA to require that penalties for noncompliance with a
6	compliance order be assessed only after the EPA proves, in district court, and according to
7	traditional rules of evidence and burdens of proof, that the defendants violated the CWA in
8	the manner alleged in the compliance order"] [reversed on other grounds, Sackett v. E.P.A.
9	(2012) 132 S. Ct. 1367]; U.S. v. Range Prod. Co. (N.D. Tx. 2011) 793 F. Supp 2d 814, 823
10	[court expressed doubt that civil penalties can be obtained without EPA ever proving
11	defendant actually caused contamination]; In the Matter of Vos, 2009 EPA ALJ LEXIS 8.)
12	Moreover, California Evidence Code section 500 provides that, "[e]xcept as
13	otherwise provided by law, a party has the burden of proof as to each fact the existence or
14	nonexistence of which is essential to the claim for relief or defense that he is asserting."
15	The Revised Draft Order fails to identify anything in the Porter-Cologne Act that would
16	otherwise provide for the burden to be shifted to a Permittee.
17	California Courts interpreting the Porter-Cologne Act have confirmed that a plaintiff
18	bears the burden of proving a violation. (See, State of California v. City and County of San
19	Francisco (1979) 94 Cal.App.3d 522, 530 ["once plaintiff had proved that there had been a
20	discharge in violation of the Water Code it became defendant's burden to establish, by a
21	preponderance of the evidence, that the amount of penalty imposed should be less than the
22	maximum"].) City and County of San Francisco clearly shows that even if a burden is
23	shifted, it is shifted only after the actual violation is first proven by plaintiff.
24	The cases all clearly show that liability under either the CWA or the Porter-Cologne
25	Act triggers constitutional protections, and that the burden is on a plaintiff to prove a
26	violation of one of these statutes, not the other way around. The regulations, furthermore,
27	show quite conclusively that a particular alleged violation is only responsible for its own
28	discharges and not discharges of others (40 C.F.R. 8 122 26(a)(3)(vi)

1 It should also be recognized that an action to impose penalties under the CWA is quasi-criminal. (See e.g., U.S. v. Bay-Houston Towing Co. (2002) 197 F. Supp. 2d 788 2 3 ["civil penalties may be considered 'quasi criminal' in nature"]; see also In re Witherspoon (1984) 162 Cal.App.3d 1000, 1001 ["A civil contempt proceeding is criminal in nature 4 because of the penalties that may be imposed"].) In quasi-criminal actions, where penalties 5 are imposed, the accused is entitled to the presumption of innocence until proven guilty. 6 (See e.g., In re Witherspoon (1984) 162 Cal.App.3d 1000, 1002; Bennett v. Superior Court (1946) 73 Cal.App.2d 203.) "The presumption of innocence ... [is] fundamental to the 8 Anglo-American system of law." (5 Witkin Cal. Crim. Law Crim. Trial § 624.) 10 It is clear that the concept of "presumed guilt" is not an accepted principle of justice within the American System of Jurisprudence in the assessment of penalties under the CWA 11 or otherwise. Presuming a Permittee is "jointly responsible" for a violation and subject to 12 13 penalties, whenever there is a co-mingled exceedance thus violates basic tenants of due process of law, plain statutory requirements and well-established precedent. All such terms 14 15 are contrary to law and the Revised Draft Order should be modified to limit a Permittees responsibility for exceedances found in a co-mingled plume, to "several" liability only. 16 17 VII. CONCLUSION 18 For the foregoing reasons, the Cities respectfully contend that the Revised Draft 19 Order has added a number of new legal assertions and interpretations of the subject Permit that are inconsistent with law, and as such, continue to request that the provisions of the 20 21 Permit challenged in the Cities' Petition for Review and supporting points and authorities be 22 revised in accordance with law, and that the procedural deficiencies in the Permit adoption 23 process be corrected. Respectfully submitted RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP 24 25 26 Dated: June <u>/</u>, 2015 27 Attorneys for Petitioners 28

> -18-COMMENTS TO REVISED PROPOSED ORDER

379298.8 a06/01/15

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