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**San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board**

April 18, 2016  
CIWQS Place No. 756972 (SKM)

To: Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (Order No. R2-2015-0049)  
Permittees

*Sent via email to:*

Mr. James Scanlin, Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program:

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Mr. Tom Dalziel, Contra Costa Clean Water Program: [tdalz@pw.cccounty.us](mailto:tdalz@pw.cccounty.us)

Mr. Kevin Cullen, Fairfield-Suisun Urban Runoff Management Program:

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Geoff Brosseau, Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association:

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**Subject: Approval of Revisions to Biotreatment Soil Media Specifications in  
Water Board Order No. R2-2015-0049, Municipal Regional Stormwater  
NPDES Permit**

On February 5, 2016, the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) submitted proposed revisions to the biotreatment soil media specifications referenced in Provision C.3.c.i.(2)(c)(ii) of Board Order No. R2-2015-0049, the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (MRP). The proposed revisions were submitted on behalf of the 76 Permittees regulated by the MRP and were submitted as allowed under and in accordance with the requirements of Provision C.3.c.i.(2)(c)(ii).

The proposed revisions address issues with the current soil media specifications that Permittees have identified, based on implementation of these soil media specifications for the last 5 years under the previous MRP. These identified issues are as follows:

- Compost suppliers are having difficulties meeting the gradation specifications, soluble boron criteria, and occasionally the pH limits listed in the specifications.
- The specifications contain typographical errors and missing or incorrectly identified units of measurement.

This letter approves the Permittees' proposed changes to the biotreatment soil media specifications referenced in Provision C.3.c.i.(2)(c)(ii) of the MRP. We understand that BASMAA intends to convene a soil specification roundtable in Spring 2016 to investigate the need for alternative specifications that might enhance the performance of bioretention facilities under varying microclimates and drought conditions and with diverse planting palettes, including trees.

If you have questions, please contact Sue Ma of my staff at (510) 622-2386 or via email to [sma@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:sma@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

for Bruce H. Wolfe  
Executive Officer