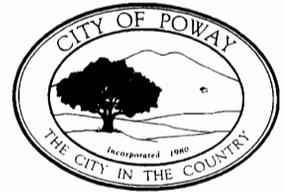


CITY OF POWAY

MICKEY CAFAGNA, Mayor
 MERRILEE BOYACK, Deputy Mayor
 BOB EMERY, Councilmember
 DON HIGGINSON, Councilmember
 BETTY REXFORD, Councilmember



November 21, 2007

John Robertus, Executive Officer
 California Regional Water Quality Control Board
 San Diego Region
 9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
 San Diego, CA 92123-4353

**Re: Support for Tentative Addendum No. 1 to Order No. R9-2007-0001
 (SWPU: 50000.02: dgibson)**

Dear Mr. Robertus:

At its next meeting on December 12, 2007, the Regional Water Quality Control Board will be considering adoption of Tentative Addendum No. 1 to Order No. R9-2007-0001, NPDES Permit No. CAS0108758. This Addendum would extend the deadline for certain Permit deliverables by 60 days due to the recent wildfires. The City of Poway strongly supports adoption of this Addendum, and submits these written comments for the Board's consideration.

The recent Witch Creek Fire has had a major impact on the City of Poway. Beginning early Monday morning on October 22, staff was assigned to the City's Emergency Operations Center, working 12-hour shifts. Engineering, Building, and Public Works staff was in the field addressing the fire with road closures, damage assessment, and at times fire suppression. By the end of the fire event, more than 7,000 acres in Poway were burned, and 90 homes were destroyed.

Once the initial response phase of the operations was completed, the City went into recovery mode. The City Council approved funds for emergency erosion control work. The first priority of this work was the protection of Lake Poway, which serves as a drinking water source for its 50,000 plus citizens, as well as an important part of the City's natural environment. Most of the hills around the Lake were burned.

This emergency erosion control work included the installation of more than 50 check dams constructed using more than 70,000 gravel-filled burlap bags, the creation of a biofilter using about 18 acres of bonded fiber matrix with an approved seed mix around the lower portion of the Lake, and installation of more than a mile of turbidity curtain in the Lake to ensure water quality.

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 By: Steven Bourche

The City also elected to install BMPs at all 90 of the burned homes to prevent the discharge of any toxins that may remain within the burnt structures into area receiving waters. Straw wattles and gravel bags have been placed around the debris to contain it on site until the property can be cleaned up. The City has also performed structure protection of existing homes that may be affected by mudslides during rain events. This work consisted of placement of rice straw bales on the upstream side of these homes. More than 2,000 of these bales have been placed. All erosion control work has been performed after notification of all relevant agencies, and these agencies have been kept updated on at least a weekly basis.

The City's NPDES Coordinator has been assigned to oversee these erosion control efforts, and has been working long hours, including weekends, to put as much protection as possible in place as quickly as we can before the rains come. Support staff in the office is busy answering calls from concerned residents, as well as tracking and the response efforts. The Management Analyst who was our lead on the WURMP and municipal code updates has been assigned to the CARE Team, which provides one-on-one, individualized service to Poway residents who lost homes in the recent firestorm. This group serves as a resource for residents during their rebuilding efforts. Additional staff members, including planners and engineers, are involved in the Witch Creek Fire recovery programs.

Staff has been stretched beyond its normal duties, and the rebuilding effort is in full swing. The City recognizes and continues to meet its obligations under the permit, but we are aware that critical components of our program such as our JURMP, WURMP, and ordinance updates will be best served by closer attention and a little more time for completion.

The City of Poway is requesting adoption of Tentative Addendum No. 1 to Order No. R9-2007-0001 to ensure the best possible management plans for implementation during this 5-year permit cycle.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,



Rod Gould
City Manager

cc: Penny Riley, Assistant City Manager
Patti Brindle, Interim Director of Development Services
Kevin Haupt, Director of Public Works

