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**Board of Supervisors**

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- District 2 John F. Tavglione  
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- District 3 Jeff Stone  
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- District 4 John Benoit  
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- District 5 Marion Ashley  
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March 20, 2013

Mr. David Gibson  
 Executive Officer  
 California Regional Water Quality  
 Control Board, San Diego Region  
 9174 Skypark Court, Suite 100  
 San Diego, CA 92123

Re: Notice of Public Hearing – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) Draining the Watersheds Within the San Diego Region

Dear Mr. Gibson:

We are writing as members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors whose districts include the Cities of Murrieta, Temecula and Wildomar as well as unincorporated areas of Riverside County, which are proposed to be covered by the above-referenced Municipal Storm Water Permit (Permit). We understand that Regional Board staff has scheduled the public hearing for adoption of the Permit on April 10 and 11, 2013.

We are writing to request that these dates be continued, as the current hearing dates do not provide the Riverside County stakeholders sufficient time to review proposed changes in the Permit or the responses of your staff to the substantive and substantial comments made by stakeholders. To date, neither the draft Permit nor the response to comments has been released by Board staff.

We understand that the Regional Board had previously informed stakeholders of its strong desire to solicit and incorporate stakeholder comments during the development of the Permit. Unfortunately, with neither the final proposed Permit language nor staff's responses to stakeholder comments, the Regional Board is stifling the public review and comment process by not allowing sufficient time to review comment responses and any resultant changes in the draft Permit before holding the adoption hearing. This raises significant due process concerns, as well as concerns as to the treatment of local governments by a state agency.

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Stormwater permits have become increasingly complex and expensive over time, and require local governments (including those in Riverside County) to undertake significant activities with no or minimal state and federal funding. Given the financial pressures on local governments, state agencies must provide every opportunity for local government input to ensure that Permit requirements are aligned with local programs, resources and conditions so as to minimize unintended and unnecessary negative impacts on residents, business and local government services. The regional nature of this Permit, which proposes to cover municipalities in three counties and multiple watersheds, adds additional complexities for comment coordination beyond a typical permit renewal process and also requires new levels of coordination between local agencies after permit adoption. It is thus vitally important that local governments, and all stakeholders, have a full opportunity both to review the final draft Permit language and the comment responses in order to provide informed and complete testimony to the Regional Board.

Given the short time between now and April 10, and without even final permit language or responses to comments to review, the stakeholders, including those in Riverside County, will not have this opportunity.

We therefore request that the Regional Board re-schedule the hearing on the proposed Permit from the April 10 - 11, 2013 current scheduled dates to a later date and also provide a minimum of 45 days opportunity for the stakeholders to review and, if appropriate, comment on significant changes from the earlier draft of the Permit. We also understand that the Riverside County stakeholders also have specific concerns with the proposed hearing procedures for Permit adoption, which will be set forth in a separate letter.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries  
District 1



Supervisor Jeff Stone  
Vice-Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
District 3

cc: George Johnson, Executive Office  
Steven Horn, Executive Office  
Pam Walls, County Counsel  
Dusty Williams, Flood Control  
Jason Uhley, Flood Control  
Juan Perez, TLMA  
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