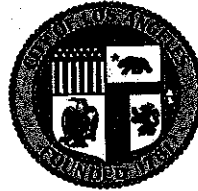


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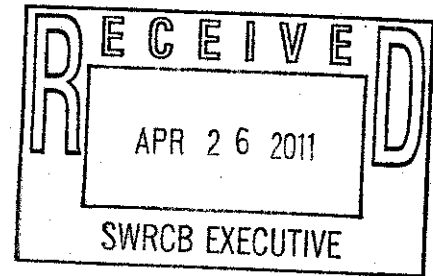
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April 25, 2011



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

Dear Ms. Townsend:

COMMENT LETTER – DRAFT INDUSTRIAL GENERAL PERMIT

The City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation, Watershed Protection Division (WPD) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed draft Industrial General Permit. WPD manages the City of Los Angeles Stormwater Program. In addition, the Bureau of Sanitation and the City of Los Angeles as a whole operates a number of facilities that are regulated under the General Industrial Permit. As such, WPD has a vested interest in the success of the affected industrial facilities in managing their stormwater discharges. Please consider our comments that accompany this letter in the attached table.

If there are any questions, please feel free to call Robert Vega at (213) 485-3991.

Sincerely,

SHAHRAM KHARAGHANI, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE
Program Manager

SK:RV:KK:HE
WPDCR 8842

c: Traci Minamide, Bureau of Sanitation/EXEC
Adel Hagekhalil, Bureau of Sanitation/EXEC
Alex Helou, Bureau of Sanitation/EXEC
Omar Moghaddam, Bureau of Sanitation/RAD



Draft General Industrial Facility Stormwater Permit Comments

Comment Number	Document Reference Doc, Sec, Pg. #	Issue	Comment
1	Draft permit order, p.4	Effluent limitations-SIC codes	As mentioned in the Blue Ribbon Panel report for feasibility of effluent limitations: "SIC categories are not a satisfactory way of identifying industrial activities at any given site. The Board should develop a better method of characterizing industrial activities that can impact storm water." By using SIC codes, the Board is ignoring this important point.
2	Draft permit order, p.14	Effluent Limitations - Concentration based limits	As mentioned in the Blue Ribbon Panel report for feasibility of effluent limitations: "Consideration must be given for both the pollutant concentration as well as the volume of runoff, since both contribute to the impacts that required the TMDL to be implemented." By setting interim waste load allocations as concentration based limits (as in the LA River Metals TMDL), the volume of the runoff from industrial sites is ignored. Consider providing both load and concentration limits so affected facilities can consider volume reduction BMPs.
3	Draft permit order, pg14-15	Effluent Limitations - EPA Benchmark values	The Numerical Action levels (NALs) uses the US EPA Multi-Sector General Permit's benchmarks (Table 4) as effluent limitations in contrast to US EPA's own guidance that presents these values as indicative of the need to review the facility SWPPP and take measures to attempt to further reduce these concentrations. The proposed permit order leads to these limits becoming numeric effluent limitations (NEPs) and requires strict compliance. This interpretation of the benchmark values is excessive and will lead to the majority of the facilities to be in non-compliance. Please reconsider the values selected for NELs or the use of alternative compliance language.
4	Draft permit order, p.14	Effluent Limitations	Effluent limitations should not go into effect until a suitable local (California) database of benchmarks for industrial sites exists (at least 5 years of data). The increased monitoring requirements under this permit will allow for this data to be collected. Alternatively the existing data can be used to determine reasonable effluent standards. Many of the proposed effluent standards are greater than the typical concentrations found in urban runoff even for runoff from residential areas and even typical effluent concentrations from treatment BMPs.
5	Draft permit order, p.14	Effluent limitations - TMDLs	Please compile a document listing all TMDL limits affecting the regulated facilities in a single accessible document. If this document is subject to change as new TMDLs are developed, post the website where the listing will be available. Currently there will be confusion with interim waste load allocations (WLAs) or limits such as the Los Angeles River Metals TMDL where the limits will be subject to future revisions. These potential revisions should also be described if they are to occur during the life of this permit.

Draft General Industrial Facility Stormwater Permit Comments

Comment Number	Document Reference Doc, Sec, Pg. #	Issue	Comment
6	Draft permit order, p.15	Compliance Storm Event	The draft permit establishes a 10-year, 24-hour compliance storm event. This is even greater than the 5-year, 24-hour standard used in the General Construction Permit. Consider using a more manageable storm such as the 2-year, 24 hour storm. Also clarify that compliance is not required if storm events exceed the Compliance Storm Event.
7	Draft permit order, p.16	SWPPP Certification Requirements	Consider allowing all other "California Registered" engineers such as chemical, mechanical, and industrial engineers to qualify to be certified as Qualified SWPPP Developers. Additional professional certifications to consider include Industrial Waste Treatment Plant Operator by California Water Environment Association, and Industrial Hygienist by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene.
8	Draft permit order, p.30	Sampling and Analysis Requirements	2 nd and 3 rd quarter rain events are very rare and it is very likely that their occurrence will not fall within the working business hours. For this reason only sampling during the first and fourth quarter of the year should be required for relatively dry climates such as those of Southern California.
9	Attachment D and draft permit order XII. C., p. 35	Sample collection/sample analysis	Please emphasize that stormwater samples should be representative and well mixed. Minimum QA/QC (sample duplicates, spikes, etc.) should be enumerated for specific parameters. Significant error is introduced into the sampling database by incorrect sampling methods that may lead to false exceedances.
10	General comment	Economic impact	As mentioned in the Blue Ribbon Panel report for feasibility of effluent limitations: "The Panel recognizes the need to make progress in monitoring and reducing storm water discharge from industrial facilities, but urges the Board to consider the total economic impact and not unduly penalize California industries with respect to industries outside of California." There seems to be no acknowledgment of this recommendation with respect to any of the requirements of this permit.