

From: "Robert Brower" <rmbrower@att.net>
To: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov
Date: Mon, Jun 9, 2008 12:48 PM
Subject: Comment Letter: Draft Construction Permit

Clerk to the Board Townsend:

We all need to begin taking a "Common Sense" view to all new regulations that impact the drivers of our California economy, and businesses and general.

On behalf of our company, Bettencourt & Associates, I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed Draft General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activities ("the Permit") now being considered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

As a homebuilding professionals, we have had regular experience in successfully managing runoff from construction sites. we are troubled, therefore, by the drastic changes in runoff management called for in the Permit. The extremes of those changes seem unnecessary given the track record of homebuilders' "best management practices". Instead of improving the best management practice approach, the permit will simply create confusion and uncertainty and lead to increased housing costs.

Some of the Permit's new requirements make no sense. For example, the Permit adopts complicated and costly new sediment-content standards (numeric effluent limits) that the SWRCB's own blue-ribbon panel rejected due to the current lack of data and necessary technology. This and other new requirements are proposed without any demonstration that they will produce any marked improvement water quality.

While we join with California homebuilders in supporting improvements to the management of runoff, those changes should be practicable, workable and should lead to certain improvements in water quality.

Regrettably, the Permit in its present form appears to fail at meeting those reasonable tests. Accordingly, we urge the SWRCB to resolve the Permit's defects and inconsistencies before moving forward on its adoption.

We respectfully ask that you consider these comments and those of our fellow Building Industry professionals as you deliberate changes to the Permit. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert Brower
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