

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906**

**CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. R3-2005- 0008**

**Requiring the**

**CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE, MONTEREY COUNTY,**

**To Cease and Desist from  
Discharging Waste to Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) in Violation of  
Prohibitions Prescribed by the  
State Water Resources Control Board**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (hereafter Regional Board), finds:

1. The Regional Board is authorized under Section 13301 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act to order dischargers to cease and desist discharging waste in violation of discharge prohibition(s) prescribed by the Regional Board or the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board). Section 13301 also authorizes the Regional Board to require dischargers to comply with a time schedule set by the Regional Board.

2. Water Code Section 13301 states:

When a regional board finds that a discharge of waste is taking place, or threatening to take place, in violation of requirements or discharge prohibitions prescribed by the regional board or the state board, the board may issue an order to cease and desist and direct that those persons not complying with the requirements or discharge prohibitions (a) comply forthwith, (b) comply in accordance with a time schedule set by the board, or (c) in the event of a threatened violation, take appropriate remedial or preventive action.

3. The City of Pacific Grove (hereafter Discharger or municipality) operates a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) which collects storm water runoff. In 1987 the U.S. Clean Water Act was amended to include defined storm water conveyance systems that were considered point source discharges. Under the 1987 amendments, a municipal separate storm water system discharge is defined as a point source discharge, and is therefore subject to NPDES permit requirements and prohibitions. MS4 storm water discharges are regulated pursuant to State Board Water Quality Order No. 2003 – 0005 – DWQ, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit No. CAS000004, Waste Discharge Requirements For Storm Water Discharges From Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (Phase II Storm Water Permit). The Phase II Storm Water Permit required all automatically designated MS4s to submit a Notice of Intent no later than August 8, 2003. Permit coverage for a particular discharger takes effect when the Regional Board approves the discharger's storm water management plan (SWMP).

4. The "Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge and Hopkins Marine Life Refuge" is designated as an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). The ASBS designation requires that the local

government adequately considers the problem of urban runoff and other non-point source wastes, with the objective that the ASBS will not be impaired by waste substances.

5. Assembly Bill 2800, the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act was signed on September 8, 2000, and added sections to the Public Resources Code (PRC) that are relevant to ASBS. Section 36710 (f) of PRC states: “In a state water quality protection area, point source waste and thermal discharges shall be prohibited or limited by special conditions. Non-point source pollution shall be controlled to the extent practicable.” State water quality protection areas include all ASBS. (PRC § 36700(f).)
6. Senate Bill 512 takes effect on January 1, 2005. S.B. 512 added the following language to PRC Sections 36700(f): “Areas of special biological significance” are a subset of state water quality protection areas, and require special protection as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board pursuant to the California Ocean Plan ... and pursuant to the Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Temperature in the Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California (California Thermal Plan) adopted by the State Board.” S.B. 512 amended PRC Section 36700(f) to read: “In a state water quality protection area, waste discharges shall be prohibited or limited by the imposition of special conditions in accordance with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act ...and implementing regulations, including, but not limited to, the California Ocean Plan ... and the ... California Thermal Plan ... adopted by the State Board. No other use is restricted.”
7. The 2001 California Ocean Plan, published by the State Board, includes section III.E, “Implementation Provisions For Areas of Special Biological Significance”. Item III.E.1 states, “Waste shall not be discharged to areas designated as being of special biological significance. Dischargers shall be located a sufficient distance from such designated areas to assure maintenance of natural water quality conditions in these areas.”
8. In Order No. WQ 2001-08, the State Board ruled that stormwater discharges are subject to the ASBS discharge prohibition in the California Ocean Plan.
9. In December 2003, the State Board published an Informational Document<sup>1</sup> on proposed Ocean Plan amendments. The Informational Document explained that:

In 1974, urban storm water runoff was considered a form of non-point source pollution to be controlled to the extent practicable. The 1978 and 1983 California Ocean Plan amendments, in effect, prohibited all discharges, both point and non-point source, to ASBS.
10. On October 18, 2004, the State Board issued “Prohibition of Waste Discharges into the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens and Hopkins Marine Life Refuge Area of Special Biological Significance” letters (Prohibition letter), to City of Pacific Grove. The Prohibition letter explained that the storm water discharge from the Municipality violates the ASBS discharge prohibition in Section III.E.1 of the Ocean Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Quality “Informational Document, Public Scoping Meeting for the Proposed Amendment of the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California, California Ocean Plan, December 2003”

11. The 2001 Ocean Plan contains water quality objectives, set forth in Table B of the document. This Cease and Desist Order (“CDO” or “Order”) includes requirements to monitor for those constituents in Table B which are likely to be found in urban storm water runoff. The 2001 Ocean Plan, section III.G states,

G.1 The Regional Boards shall require dischargers to conduct self-monitoring programs and submit reports necessary to determine compliance with the waste discharge requirements, and may require dischargers to contract with agencies or persons acceptable to the Regional Board to provide monitoring reports...G.2 Where the Regional Board is satisfied that any substance(s) of Table B will not significantly occur in a discharger’s effluent, the Regional Board may elect not to require monitoring for such substance(s), provided the discharger submits periodic certification that such substance(s) is not added to the waste stream, and that no change has occurred in activities that could cause such substance(s) to be present in the waste stream. Such election does not relieve the discharger from the requirement to meet the objectives of Table B.

12. The Phase II Storm Water Permit states: “Urban runoff is a leading cause of pollution throughout California. Pollutants of concern found in urban runoff include sediments, non-sediment solids, nutrients, pathogens, oxygen-demanding substances, petroleum hydrocarbons, heavy metals, floatables, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), trash, and pesticides and herbicides.”

Urbanized areas have a higher percentage of impervious area compared to non-urban areas.

Higher impervious areas correlates to a greater pollutant loading, resulting in turbid water, nutrient enrichment, bacterial contamination, organic matter loads, toxic compounds, temperature increases, and increases of trash or debris. Pollutants present in storm water can have damaging effects on both human health and aquatic ecosystems. In addition, the increased flows and volumes of storm water discharged from impervious surfaces resulting from development can significantly impact beneficial uses of aquatic ecosystems due to physical modifications of watercourses, such as bank erosion and widening of channels.<sup>2</sup>

13. Storm water discharge occurs whenever there is enough rain for the municipal streets to have runoff that flows to the ocean. To be in compliance with the Ocean Plan, the Municipality must either: 1) redesign or redirect the storm drain system so that no runoff enters in or near an ASBS; or 2) apply for an exception to the ASBS discharge prohibition. The State Board’s October 18, 2004 letter to the Municipality required that the Municipality notify the State Board as to which option they intend to pursue by January 1, 2005. The City of Pacific Grove notified the State Board in a December 16, 2004 letter that the City intends to apply for an exception.
14. Runoff from the City of Pacific Grove discharges to the “Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge and Hopkins Marine Life Refuge” ASBS via surface runoff collected and carried in gutters to storm drains. It is likely that storm water also discharges via sheet flow or similar non-engineered flow paths. The California Ocean Plan prohibits both point source and non-point source discharges to an

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<sup>2</sup> State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order NO. 2003 - 0005 – DWQ, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit No. CAS000004, Waste Discharge Requirements for Storm Water Discharges From Small Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) (GENERAL PERMIT), “Findings” section.

ASBS. Therefore any runoff from the municipality which discharges to the ASBS, whether the runoff is within the storm drain system (gutters, pipes, etc.) or not, violates the ASBS-discharge prohibition.

15. The City of Pacific Grove may apply to the State Board for an exception to the ASBS-discharge prohibition (exception). The Scripps Institution of Oceanography (Scripps) received the most recent ASBS-discharge exception granted by the State Board. The Scripps discharge consists of both wastewater point source, and storm water runoff discharges. The Scripps exception contains a number of requirements, some focus on mitigating or eliminating the wastewater point source, and others focus on the storm water discharge. The Discharge exception will be focused solely on storm water discharges. Nonetheless, the Scripps storm water exception-requirements may be considered to be a model of the requirements expected from the ASBS-discharge MS4s.
16. The Discharger has submitted a Storm Water Management Plan in conjunction with other MS4s in the Monterey area (Monterey Regional group). The document, titled Monterey Regional Storm Water Management Program (MRSWMP) is part of the complete application for the MS4 Phase II General Permit. The Monterey Regional group chose to work together to write the MRSWMP, and to combine resources and efforts in implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) in order to achieve an effective, unified approach to protecting storm water runoff. Of the nine (9) Monterey Regional group MS4s, the City of Carmel by the Sea, City of Pacific Grove, and the Pebble Beach Company are the three (3) MS4s that the State Board has identified as discharging to an ASBS. The Regional Board has identified the City of Monterey as an additional discharger, due to fact that a portion of that City's storm water is discharged to the City of Pacific Grove's MS4, which then discharges to the ASBS. The City of Pacific Grove, City of Monterey, City of Carmel by the Sea, and the Pebble Beach Company have submitted complete applications for enrollment in the General Permit.
17. The time schedule and requirements in this CDO are appropriate considering the following: 1) the Ocean Plan procedure for obtaining an exception to the discharge prohibition; 2) the lack of information about storm water impacts from this municipality to the ASBS; 3) the time necessary to construct structural improvements to redirect stormwater outfalls and to implement design standards for new construction. To cease discharging (or reroute discharge) the Discharger will likely have to:
  - a. draw up plans and consider multiple options of infiltration, rerouting, and/or source removal for entire sections of the municipality;
  - b. gain necessary approval, permits, and funding;
  - c. locate and purchase lands for infiltration, treatment or infrastructure rerouting;
  - d. implement plans.With respect to the MRP time schedule, a more rapid compliance schedule is not technically feasible because Regional Board staff wishes to receive a well developed MRP and time is needed to gather interested parties and form an adequate program. The process of ceasing discharge required infrastructure changes. Time schedules are required of the discharger to ensure that changes occur in a timely manner.
18. While this CDO is in effect, and during the application for an exception, the municipality will continue to discharge storm water, and for a limited time, non-storm water, to the ASBS. However, through application of the requirements of this CDO, the quality of the discharges will be controlled and potential impacts will be minimized.

19. This CDO enforces the terms of the Phase II Storm Water Permit, the California Ocean Plan and the Basin Plan and thus is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.) in accordance with Section 15321, Title 14, California Code of Regulations.
20. The Discharger is required convene a panel of experts who will assist in preparing a monitoring and reporting plan (Requirement No. 7, below). The purposes of the monitoring and reporting plan requirements are two-fold: first, to determine natural water quality and benthic marine life conditions, and second, to measure the effectiveness of BMPs.

The Discharger is strongly encouraged to work collaboratively with other Monterey Bay Area ASBS dischargers<sup>3</sup> to prepare and implement a monitoring and reporting plan with all components required in this CDO. A combined effort should result in less cost to each group member, and yield consistent, acceptable scientific data. It may be reasonable to utilize existing studies, if it can be justified that the study designs, inputs, and findings fit the needs of the MRP. The monitoring and reporting plan must be approved by the Executive Officer.

21. The technical and monitoring reports required in this Order are required of the Discharger under Sections 13267 and 13383 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act because the Discharger is legally responsible for operation of the MS4. These technical and monitoring reports are necessary to ensure that the Discharger is taking actions to either eliminate ASBS discharges or to obtain a State Board exception authorizing such discharges; to determine the impact that ASBS discharges in the interim have on receiving waters; to determine whether the Discharger should take any additional interim measures to abate the effects of the discharges, and to assist the State Board in formulating conditions to support an exception from the ASBS discharge prohibition, if the Discharger elects to seek an exception. Additional information in support of the requirement to provide technical and monitoring reports can be found in the official Regional Board files.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to Sections 13301, 13267 and 13383 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, that:

I. The Municipality must EITHER:

a) file for an exception to the ASBS-discharge prohibition by **March 1, 2005**, OR b) cease all wet weather discharges no later than **January 1, 2008**. If the Discharger seeks an exception by March 1, 2005 and the State Board denies the exception, the discharger must cease all wet weather discharges no later than **two years from the date of exception denial notification**.

II. The Discharger shall meet all of the following conditions:

1. **March 1, 2005** – The Discharger shall advise the Regional Board in writing whether it intends to seek an exception or cease all storm water discharges to the ASBS.

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<sup>3</sup> In October, 2004, the State Water Resources Control Board notified the following Monterey Bay-area entities that they must cease ASBS discharge, or apply for an exception: the Cities of Pacific Grove, Monterey, Carmel by the Sea, the Pebble Beach Company, Hopkins Marine Station, Monterey Bay Aquarium, the California Department of Transportation, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

2. **Within three months of the date of this CDO** - The Discharger shall submit a map of the storm drain system to the Regional Board. The map must be detailed enough to determine watersheds contributing to each of the ASBS-discharge points.
3. **Within six months of the date of this CDO** - The Discharger shall revise its Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) to describe the measures by which the Discharger will eliminate non-storm water discharges within 2 years (per Requirement No. 9, below). The SWMP revisions must also include interim measures that the Discharger will employ to reduce non-storm water flows until non-storm water ASBS discharges cease.

The SWMP revisions must be designed to ensure an improvement in receiving water quality each year, due to either a reduction in storm water discharges, or reduction in pollutants (due to on-site treatment or other BMPs). The revised SWMP implementation must be developed to ensure non-structural BMPs are implemented within **one year** of this CDO issuance. Structural BMPs must be implemented as soon as practicable. The SWMP amendments must be approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.

6. **Within six months of the date of this CDO** - the Discharger shall submit an updated financial analysis for development and implementation of time-scheduled items in this Order.
7. **Within nine months of the date of this CDO** – The Discharger shall submit a monitoring and reporting plan (MRP) to the Regional Board's Executive Officer for approval. The monitoring and reporting plan shall be based on recommendations provided by a panel of experts, convened by the municipalities for this purpose. The MRP shall include:
  - a) A map, description, and justification of sampling locations;
  - b) A method and implementation plan to determine ASBS-background water quality;
  - c) A water quality sampling plan that meets the purposes described in Findings No. 20 and 21, above. Water quality sampling must begin **within two months of the date of the approved MRP**;
  - d) A toxicity testing component to commence **within six months of the date of the approved MRP**.
  - e) A quantitative survey of benthic marine life, to commence **within nine months of the date the MRP is approved**.
  - f) A bioaccumulation study using sand crabs (*Emerita analoga*) and mussels (*Mytilus californianus*) near field and far field (up and down coast, and offshore) in the ASBS to determine the concentrations of metals. The bioaccumulation study must commence **within one year of the date the MRP is approved**.
8. **Within one year of the date of this CDO** – The Discharger shall develop and submit for public review and comment, and Executive Officer approval, Draft Design Standards and related ordinance that describes measures to reduce pollutant discharges from all new development and significant redevelopment projects, and individual priority project categories as defined in Attachment 4 of the Phase II Storm Water Permit (Design Standards). The Draft Design Standards and related ordinance must be consistent with Attachment 4 of the Phase II Storm Water Permit and shall be applicable to all portions of the municipality that discharge to the ASBS. The Draft Design Standards and ordinance must be submitted to the Executive Officer along with a comparison of the Design Standards to the requirements established in Attachment 4 of the Phase II Storm Water Permit, and/or other applicable directives; and

**Within six months of approval of the Design Standards** - the Discharger shall adopt and implement the approved Design Standards and related ordinance. The SWMP shall be amended to include and require implementation of the approved Design Standards and related ordinance.

9. **Within two years of the date of this CDO** - The Discharger must cease all non-storm water discharges to the ASBS, except (i) fire fighting water, and (ii) those non-storm water discharges described in the Phase II General Permit, Section D.2.c.6 that meet the requirements below:

The Municipality shall include a demonstration in its SWMP Annual Report that discharges of the following types are not significant contributors of pollutants to ASBS (see Phase II General Permit, Section D.2.c.6):

- water line flushing;
- landscape irrigation;
- diverted stream flows;
- rising ground waters;
- uncontaminated ground water infiltration (as defined at 40 CFR section 35.2005(20)) to separate storm sewers;
- uncontaminated pumped ground water;
- discharges from potable water sources;
- foundation drains;
- air conditioning condensation;
- irrigation water; springs;
- water from crawl space pumps;
- footing drains;
- lawn watering;
- individual residential car washing;
- flows from riparian habitats and wetlands; and
- dechlorinated or debrominated swimming pool discharges.

10. If the results of water quality monitoring indicate the municipality's discharges have the potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of applicable water quality standards in the Ocean Plan or Basin Plan, or to alter natural water quality conditions in the receiving water seaward of the surf zone<sup>4</sup>, then **within 30 days of the discharger receiving sampling results**:

The Discharger shall initiate appropriate steps to identify the source(s) of the pollutant(s) and determine appropriate BMPs to eliminate the pollutant(s) in runoff. Once the Discharger has identified the source(s) of pollutant(s) and appropriate BMPs, the Discharger shall submit a Report of Exceedance to the Executive Officer for approval. The Report of Exceedance shall be **submitted within 120 days** of the discharger receiving sampling results. At a minimum, the Report of Exceedance shall include a discussion of the following items:

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<sup>4</sup> The surf zone is the area between the breaking waves and the shoreline at any one time.

1. Geographical description of the problem area;
2. The potential sources of pollutant(s);
3. Permittee's jurisdiction over the pollutant sources;
4. Recommended BMPs to reduce the pollutant(s);
5. Proposed changes to the SWMP to reduce the pollutant(s); and
6. Suggested follow-up monitoring to demonstrate that the pollutant source(s) have been removed.

The Discharger shall revise the above items as directed by the Executive Officer. The Discharger shall amend the SWMP to include the proposed changes, and the SWMP revisions will go into effect immediately unless otherwise directed by the Executive Officer.

11. The Discharger shall include in the SWMP Annual Report a section or chapter that describes the results and progress of all applicable requirements of this CDO. The Discharger shall include this CDO section or chapter in the SWMP Annual Report until all CDO requirements have been completed, or until this CDO terminates.
12. The Regional Board reserves jurisdiction to extend due dates set forth in this Order if the extension is necessary due to circumstances beyond the Discharger's reasonable control. Lack of financial resources does not constitute a circumstance beyond the Discharger's reasonable control. The Executive Officer may extend due dates under this paragraph for a period not to exceed sixty days.
13. If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Discharger fails to comply with the provisions of this Order, then the Executive Officer may apply to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement or issue a complaint for Administrative Civil Liability.

III. Should the State Board deny the application for exception, or should the Discharger elect to cease all ASBS discharges, the Discharger shall:

14. **Within six months of the date of exception denial notification or election to cease all wet weather ASBS dischargers** - The Discharger shall revise its Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) to describe the measures by which the Discharger will eliminate all discharges to the ASBS, and interim measures that the Discharger will employ to reduce discharges until storm water ASBS discharges cease. The revised SWMP shall include a time schedule that lists the steps that will be taken to cease discharge, including infrastructure modifications, and the time necessary to complete those actions. All discharges must cease no later than two years from the date of exception denial notification or election to cease discharges. The SWMP amendments must be approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.

IV. Should the Discharger file for an exception to the ASBS-discharge prohibition, then the Discharger shall meet all of the following conditions:

15. The Discharger shall comply with all deadlines the State Board imposes during the exception process, and such deadlines shall become enforceable requirements of this Order.

V. If the State Board grants an exception:

16. If the State Board grants the exception prior to the due date any of the tasks listed in this CDO, the non-completion of the tasks required by this CDO shall not be a violation of the CDO. However, the exception or amended SWMP may require this task within the same timeframe.
17. The State Board exception will control if there are any conflicts between the exception and this Order. This Order will become null and void on the date that the State Board exception and any supporting CEQA documents become final and non-appealable.

**I, Roger W. Briggs, Executive Officer** of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Control Board, Central Coast Region, on February 11, 2005.

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Executive Officer

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Date