



Media Release

Los Angeles Water Board Approves Updated Storm Water Runoff Regulations

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The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board approved municipal storm water runoff regulations Thursday designed to prevent trash, metals, bacteria, chemicals and pesticides from being washed into storm drains and into creeks, rivers and the ocean.

The regulations, called an MS4 Permit Order, are a renewal of a permit last issued in 2006, covering municipalities in Los Angeles County, except for Long Beach, which has its own storm water permit.

Storm water runoff remains a major water quality problem in the Los Angeles region, posing a threat to human health and water ecosystems. Pollutants in runoff have caused beach closings, fish consumption warnings, reduced habitat for threatened and endangered species and unsightly accumulations of trash and debris in waters of the county.

“Clean water is vitally important for our health and for the environment,” said Regional Water Board Executive Officer Samuel Unger. “The new regulations are designed to give municipalities the flexibility to design a strategy that meets clean water goals in the most cost effective way.”

The MS4 Permit requires cities and towns in the county to develop a plan to reduce the pollutants in storm water, to monitor the results and take corrective action when goals are not met.

Storm water discharge permit holders have a wide range of strategies available under the new permit to reduce pollution, from public education of residents for activities like car washing and pesticide use to low impact development regulations that require construction of retention basins and the use of permeable material for paving parking lots to allow water to seep back into the groundwater.

For more information on the MS4 Permit Order, visit
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/index.shtml

To learn more about the Los Angeles Regional Water Board, please visit:
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/>