

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

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Regional Board Defends MS4 Permit Regulating Discharges

RIVERSIDE—The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board has successfully defended the 2002 permit that regulates the discharge of stormwater within San Bernardino County and its municipalities.

The cities of Rancho Cucamonga and Upland sued the Regional Board over the issuance of the stormwater permit, but the Court ruled in favor of the Regional Board on all counts. The cities sought to overturn the permit on grounds that the permit was not legally authorized and that the Regional Board had failed to properly consider the cities' arguments before adopting the permit.

Stormwater permits are issued to municipalities and are required by federal law. The permits require cities to carry out practices and controls to reduce the pollutants into the stormwater channels, which eventually flow into rivers, creeks, and ultimately to the ocean. Stormwater picks up pollutants as it flows over parking lots, industrial sites, and streets.

"This decision validates the Regional Board's efforts to clean up urban runoff, the largest remaining source of surface water pollution," said Gerard Thibeault, the Regional Board's Executive Officer.

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