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CALIFORNIA**

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The VOICE of the Construction Industry

OFFICERS

Gerry DiIoli, President
John Nunan, Senior Vice President
Randy Douglas, Vice President
Curt Weltz, Treasurer
Bob Christenson, Immediate Past President
Thomas Holsman, CEO

STATE OFFICE

3095 Beacon Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 371-2422 / Fax (916) 371-2352
E-mail: agesac@age-ca.org

REGIONAL OFFICES

Northern California
1390 Willow Pass Road, Suite 1030
Concord, CA 94520
(925) 827-2422 / Fax (925) 827-4042
E-mail: agenorth@age-ca.org

Southern California
1906 W. Garvey Avenue South, Suite 100
West Covina, CA 91790
(626) 608-5800 / Fax (626) 608-5810
E-mail: agesouth@age-ca.org

DISTRICTS

Eureka and Shasta
(916) 371-2422 / Fax (916) 371-2352
E-mail: ageredding@age-ca.org

Delta-Sierra
(916) 371-2422 / Fax (916) 371-2352
E-mail: agesac@age-ca.org

North Bay
(925) 827-2422 / Fax (925) 827-4042
E-mail: agenorth@age-ca.org

San Francisco Bay Area
(925) 827-2422 / Fax (925) 827-4042
E-mail: agenorth@age-ca.org

Santa Clara
(408) 727-3318 / Fax (408) 727-7567
E-mail: agenorth@age-ca.org

Monterey Bay
(925) 827-2422 / Fax (925) 827-4042
E-mail: agenorth@age-ca.org

San Joaquin
(559) 252-6262 / Fax (559) 252-6294
E-mail: agefresno@age-ca.org

Tri-Counties
(805) 388-7330 / Fax (805) 388-7329
E-mail: agetrico@age-ca.org

Los Angeles
(626) 608-5800 / Fax (626) 608-5810
E-mail: agesouth@age-ca.org

Orange County
(949) 453-1480 / Fax (949) 453-1580
E-mail: agesbo@age-ca.org

Riverside/San Bernardino
(909) 385-7519 / Fax (909) 381-4047
E-mail: agesbo@age-ca.org



September 15th, 2011

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



Re: Opposition to Caltrans MS4 NPDES Permit

Dear State Water Board Members and Staff:

On behalf of AGC of California, I am writing to express our opposition to the State Water Board's proposed Caltrans MS4 NPDES Permit. This permit, as drafted, would impose extensive new regulations on all future Caltrans road construction projects that far surpass what the federal government requires from states under the federal Clean Water Act.

If implemented, Caltrans estimates that the draft permit would drain an estimated \$600 million annually from state road construction projects each year. Such enormous costs would result in the elimination of thousands of jobs in the construction industry at a time when our economy can hardly afford further job losses.

We are concerned that the proposed permit would significantly shift Caltrans' focus from improving roadways to retrofitting existing infrastructure to meet the permit's requirements. This would worsen road conditions, create unsafe driving environments, and force California motorists to pay more for driving on under maintained roadways.

While we support efforts to improve water quality, there is no evidence that these proposed regulations would proportionally improve water quality to justify spending \$600 million taxpayer dollars each year.

For these reasons, our organization opposes the proposed Caltrans MS4 NPDES permit and requests that the State Water Board work with Caltrans to come up with a more cost-effective permit that improves water quality without defunding our transportation system.

Sincerely,

Thomas T. Holsman
CEO