

CALIFORNIA BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

September 16, 2011



- Anthem Blue Cross
- AT&T
- Auto. Club of So. Cal
- Bain & Company
- Bank of America, California
- Blue Shield of California
- C.J. Segerstrom & Sons
- Chevron Corporation
- Edison International
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Farmers Group, Inc.
- Granite Construction, Inc.
- HealthMet, Inc. ZA-1
- Kaiser Foundation Health Plans
- KB Home
- McKinsey & Co.
- PG&E Corp.
- Safeway Inc.
- Sidley Austin LLP
- State Farm General Insurance Co.
- Sutter Health
- United Grocers, Inc.
- Wells Fargo & Company

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 California Business Roundtable, 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,

 William Hauck
 President