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Agency Secretary

State Water Resources Control Board

Executive Office

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: Regional Water Board Executive Officers
and Assistant Executive Officers [via email only]

FROM: 
Celeste Cantu
Executive Director
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

DATE: JUN 07 2005

SUBJECT: PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS

I am writing to request that you promptly respond to requests by environmental groups and members of the public for access to storm water management plans (SWMPs) and storm water pollution prevention plans (SWPPPs) that are prepared pursuant to requirements in storm water permits. Upon a request for a SWMP or SWPPP that is not currently in the possession of your staff, you should promptly ask the discharger to submit the document, and then make it available to the person requesting it.

The current statewide general permits do not require that all SWPPPs be submitted to Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Board), but they do clarify that these are public documents. Moreover, the State Water Resources Control Board has specifically stated, in the Fact Sheet for the Construction General Permit, that Regional Water Boards will make SWPPPs available upon request. There is significant public interest in storm water issues, and it is important to ensure public participation and involvement in these critical water quality issues. Therefore, please instruct your staff to promptly respond to requests by obtaining SWPPPs or SWMPs and providing these to members of the public and groups who request them. Should a request be for voluminous documents, of course your response will consider your other workload priorities.

When providing copies of SWPPPs and SWMPs, you should follow your usual procedures for allowing members of the public to copy materials and for charging for copies made by your staff.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Elizabeth Miller Jennings at (916) 341-5175.