

RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS STATUS REPORT

Submitted by
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
On behalf of the County of Los Angeles
Reporting Period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

December 12, 2012

I. Introduction

Part I.A.4 of the Los Angeles County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System NPDES Permit (Permit) - Monitoring and Reporting Program requires that a status RWL Compliance Report be submitted every alternate year following the submittal of the first RWL Compliance Report. In accordance with Part I.A.4, this Status Report is being submitted on behalf of the County of Los Angeles (County).

The RWL Status Report in Sections II and III below provide the status of the County's RWL Compliance Reports from 2010 and 2008, respectively.

II. Status for 2010 RWL Compliance Report

The 2010 RWL Compliance Report was submitted voluntarily as a result of a March 2, 2010, United States District Court order in which the court concluded that the California Ocean Plan's prohibition against discharges of "waste" into an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) is a water quality standard that is incorporated into the Permit and discharges from the MS4 into ASBS No. 24 violate this Permit requirement.

In June 2009, the State Water Board accepted the County's application for a general exception to discharge into the ASBS. The State Water Board adopted the general exception and the associated conditions (special protections) on March 20, 2012. Dischargers are required to submit a wet-weather compliance plan and implement any nonstructural Best Management Practices by September 20, 2013, and implement any structural Best Management Practices by March 20, 2016. Furthermore, dischargers are required to commence monitoring during the 2012-13 storm season.

Observational monitoring of Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and County outlets for dry-weather direct discharges was performed, during which 39 storm drains were surveyed from February to April of 2012 along the following beaches: Broad, Zuma, Westward, and Escondido.

Reconnaissance surveys were conducted during dry weather, which is defined by a day with no rain more than 0.1 inches in the past 72 hours. Field staff obtained site characteristics at the beaches and verified GPS locations for drain inlets, outlets, and access points. They also measured and documented storm drain outlet dimensions, and drain distances from the high tide line. Storm drain flows were noted, if any, with flow estimates based on visual observation using the classification method by City of Los Angeles' Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria TMDL field observation reports. Staff recorded whether flows reached the ocean waters, and whether any ocean waters flowed into the storm drain.

On May 30, 2012, the State Water Board sent a letter requesting information regarding our plan to initiate monitoring in the next storm season. We responded to the State Water Board indicating that the County plans to participate in the Southern California ASBS Regional Integrated Monitoring Program. On September 6, 2012, we received written authorization to conduct regional and core monitoring within the ASBS for the upcoming storm season. A notice to proceed was issued to a consultant on September 10, 2012, to prepare a monitoring plan as well as conduct the required monitoring.

III. Status for 2006 and 2008 RWL Compliance Reports

As stated in the 2010 RWL Compliance Report, there was no evidence showing that County discharges caused or contributed to an exceedance of an applicable water quality standard and the reports were submitted voluntarily. As such, the submission of this status report should not be construed to mean that the County was the source of any exceedance of any applicable water quality standard, and no such inference should be drawn.

SMB 1-07, 1-08, and 1-09

The North Santa Monica Bay Source Identification Study was suspended in 2010 due to a lack of bacteria water quality exceedances at sites 1-07, 1-08, and 1-09, and based on study results to date. Results from summers of 2007 to 2009 in Ramirez Canyon Creek and Escondido Creek ruled out the upper watershed as a source of bacteria to the beach. Testing for bacteroides provided little evidence of human sources at Ramirez and Escondido Creeks. In spring 2010, beach samples rarely exceeded bacteria standards; as a result, the source identification study was suspended. Site SMB-1-09 at Latigo saw zero exceedances of bacteria WQS during summer dry-weather months in 2009 and 2010. In summer 2011, sites SMB 1-07, SMB 1-08, and SMB 1-09 saw an increase in exceedances of bacteria WQS. However, in summer 2012, there was a reduction in exceedances at SMB 1-08 and site SMB 1-09 had zero exceedances.

SMB 2-07

Design plans were completed for construction of a rubber dam in Santa Monica Canyon Channel to increase capacity of a new City of Los Angeles low-flow diversion. Construction will be overseen by the LACFCD. Construction of Phase 1 began in March 2012, which included fence replacement and concrete work. Phase 2, which involves the installation of the rubber dam, began construction in July 2012. Due to delays associated with right-of-way/easement issues, we expect completion by the end of Summer 2013. The County is funding the design and construction of this project that provides a service to the City of Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles will own and operate the rubber dam while the LACFCD will maintain it for a period of two years under agreement.

SMB BC-01

With respect to the Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL, the County submitted a draft implementation plan on October 26, 2009, and is still awaiting comments. With respect to the Ballona Creek Metals TMDL, the County submitted a draft implementation plan on January 11, 2010, and received comments on July 16, 2010. The comments were addressed and a final implementation plan was submitted on October 5, 2010. With respect to the Ballona Creek Toxics TMDL, the County submitted a draft implementation plan on January 11, 2010, and received comments on August 17, 2012. The comments were addressed and a final implementation plan was submitted on November 14, 2012.

MdRH-5, 6, and 7

The County is preparing a Marina del Rey Multi-Pollutant Implementation Plan to address dry- and wet-weather water quality improvements for bacteria, metals, toxics, chlordane and total Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The County submitted a draft Implementation Plan in March 2011, received comments in April 2012, and submitted a response and revised Implementation Plan in August 2012.