

## **ATTACHMENT N**

# **ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS**

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## **Assessment of Program Effectiveness**

1. Assessment of your agency's compliance with permit requirements, based on your responses to the questions in this form

**The LACFCD believes it is in compliance with the requirements of Order 01-182 and Order R4-2012-075.**

2. Descriptions of any evaluation methods that your agency uses to determine the effectiveness of your storm water management program

**The LACFCD participates in CASQA's Program Effectiveness Assessment Subcommittee which is scheduled to release an updated Program Effectiveness Assessment Manual in early 2015. The LACFCD will assess the feasibility of using practices from CASQA's new Program Effectiveness Assessment Manual to assess the effectiveness of the storm water management program.**

**In the meantime, the LACFCD has used the following evaluation methods to assess the effectiveness of the Public Information and Participation component and the Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Elimination component of its storm water management program.**

### **Public Information and Participation**

**Effectiveness of the Public Information and Participation component of the LACFCD's storm water management program was evaluated using quantitative and qualitative methods such as tracking hotline call levels, hits on the [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) website, collection levels of household hazardous waste and electronic waste, amount of used motor oil collected, trash measurement data, and anecdotal information gathered from program participants.**

### **Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Elimination**

**Effectiveness of the Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Elimination component of the LACFCD's storm water management program was evaluated by comparing this reporting year's illicit connections and illicit discharges reported, investigated, and resolved (see Form U-4 Parts IV.F.10 and IV.F.13).**

**Illicit connection data can fluctuate from year to year, depending on the predominant land use of the drainage area being inspected in a given year. For example, the number of illicit connections may increase if the associated land use is High Density Single Family Residential. However, an illicit connection from a Heavy Industrial land use occurs much less frequently, but is likely to have a greater impact on water quality. As more illicit connections are eliminated from our main lines, coupled with past experiences of finding illicit connections to the back of catch basins, field staff are proactively screening for illicit connections to the LACFCD's catch basins.**

**An increase in reported illicit discharges can be a result of a robust reporting program or actual increase in the number of incidents. A decrease can be due to either an actual change in behavior or a less effective reporting program. With extensive outreach, advertising, and branding of the 888-CLEANLA hotline and website, the LACFCD believes any decrease in illicit discharges is more likely the result of change in behavior that may cause stormwater pollution through the efforts of management and staff in implementing the stormwater program (reporting, investigation, and resolution; public education and outreach; etc.), rather than a decrease in reporting.**

3. Summary of the strengths and weaknesses of your agency's storm water management program

**Meeting Permit requirements is the primary strength of the LACFCD's stormwater management program. A committed staff willing to learn and "do the right thing" is a key component to success. The LACFCD is actively engaged in developing WMP and EWMP programs under the 2012 MS4 Permit and is committed to continuing to work collaboratively with the Regional Board and other permittees to meet the region's water quality goals.**

4. A list of specific program highlights and accomplishments;

- **LACFCD Low Flow Diversion Update Projects – The LACFCD operates and maintains 21 low flow diversions (LFDs) in the Santa Monica Bay and Marina del Rey watersheds, which divert dry weather urban runoff into the sanitary sewer system or other treatment. In 2010, the LACFCD created LFD Task Force whose purpose is to optimize the operations of the LACFCD's 21 LFDs. The LFD Task Force's recommendations resulted in increased staffing dedicated to maintenance of the LFDs. In 2011, the LFD Task Force implemented a pilot program at three locations to evaluate potential improvements to the data gathering and reporting equipment at the LACFCD's LFDs. This program was highly successful and the LACFCD is currently executing a system-wide update project to implement similar improvements at all of its LFDs, with project completion scheduled for fall 2015.**
- **The Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project will provide flood risk mitigation, water quality improvements, removal of potentially contaminated sediment, habitat improvements, as well as aesthetic and recreational enhancements. The design plans are complete and the project is scheduled for construction in early 2015.**
- **Completed the design plans for the Los Angeles River Headwaters Project. The project will construct recreational trails along a 1.25 mile stretch of the Los Angeles River between Owensmouth Avenue and Mason Avenue in the City of Los Angeles. Enhancements will include native landscaping, rest area amenities, educational signage, pedestrian bridges over Brown's Creek and Kelvin Channel, and rain gardens. Construction began in April 2013 and was completed in September 2014.**
- **Continued development of the Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project (formerly named the Strathern Wetlands Park Project). The project proposes the conversion of a 46-acre, former construction debris landfill into a multi-use facility. The project proposes to capture stormwater runoff in a detention pond, convey the water through constructed wetlands for water quality treatment, and pump the treated flows to the adjacent Sun Valley Park for infiltration into existing infiltration basins for groundwater recharge. The project will also enhance native vegetation, create recreational trails, and incorporate educational signage. The LACFCD hosted three community meetings for the project. On April 16, 2011, LACFCD provided an overview of the Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan, gave an introduction to the Strathern Wetlands Park Project, and solicited input from the community on the recreational components of the project. On September 17,**

2011, LACFCD returned to the community to review the final project concept. On September 19, 2012, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Paloma Perez of Councilmember Tony Cardenas' office presented the final project concept and announced the new project name; Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park. The project is currently in the design phase. The project is scheduled to begin construction in 2017.

- **The Comprehensive Watershed Management Modeling System (WMMS) has been completed. It will be used to identify cost effective pollution reduction projects to address urban runoff and stormwater quality. WMMS covers all watersheds included in the permit and provides an effective tool for long term TMDL implementation and overall watershed management. In particular, it can be effectively used for watershed- or local-scale water quality improvement plan development. The United States Environmental Protection Agency partnered in the development of WMMS. The WMMS was one of three models that were specifically referenced in the 2012 MS4 Permit as a mechanism to perform a Reasonable Assurance Analysis. The LACFCD is continually improving the model with updates to the weather, dam, and spreading grounds data. The LACFCD also has also provided support for the software and has responded to over 230 emails and numerous phone calls during this reporting period. The WMMS is publically available to download at [www.LACountyWMMS.com](http://www.LACountyWMMS.com).**
  - **As part of City of Los Angeles' Wilmington Drain Multi-Use Project, LACFCD will contribute up to \$8.166 million towards the removal of contaminated sediment from Wilmington Drain to improve water quality and increase hydraulic capacity. The sediment removal began in June, 2013 and was completed in January, 2014. During this period, approximately 27,300 cubic yards of sediment was removed.**
5. A description of water quality improvements or degradation in your watershed over the past fiscal year;
- Refer to Attachment M Summary of TMDL-Related Activities**
6. Interagency coordination between cities to improve the storm water management program;
- **Interagency coordination between the LACFCD, County and the cities was facilitated through the EAC and WMP and EWMP meetings. This coordination has been effective in broadening communication between Permittees. Additionally, interagency coordination of the PIPP is enhanced by quarterly meetings hosted by the LACFCD.**
  - **Interagency coordination of the 1-888-CLEAN-LA environmental hotline afforded turnkey coordination of responses to illicit discharge complaints to a representative in the appropriate jurisdiction so corrective action can be taken. Also, the LACFCD updated the co-permittee's contact information that is accessible to the general public and residents by visiting the CleanLA.com website.**
  - **The LACFCD provided co-permittees with stormwater collateral support in the development of public outreach campaigns for city residents, as well as in support of various watershed management groups.**

7. Future plans to improve your agency's storm water management program; and

**Please see Attachment D – Summary of the Implementation of the 2012 MS4 Permit Requirements**

8. Suggestions to improve the effectiveness of your program or the County model programs.

**A key to improve program effectiveness is good communication and working relationship with Regional Board staff. The LACFCD is committed to continuing to meet regularly with Regional Board staff to discuss opportunities and challenges in implementing the MS4 Permit.**