

San Diego Regional Storm Water Management Committee
Special Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 5th, 2007, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
County of San Diego 3rd Floor Conference Room
9325 Hazard Way, San Diego, CA 92123

Copermittee

Representatives:

City of Carlsbad – Elaine Lukey	City of Poway – Danis Bechter
City of Chula Vista – Khosro Aminpour	City of San Diego – Chris Zirkle
City of Coronado – Jorge Ramirez	City of San Marcos – Ken St. Clair
City of Del Mar – Rosanna Lacarra	City of Santee – Helen Perry
City of El Cajon – Jamie Campos	City of Solana Beach – Danny King
City of Encinitas – Meleah Ashford	City of Vista – Jayne Strommer
City of Lemon Grove – Cora Long	County of San Diego, Chair – Jon VanRhyn
City of National City – Arsalan Dadkhah	Port of San Diego – Karen Holman
City of Oceanside – Mo Lahsaie	Regional Airport Authority – Richard Gilb

Other

Participants:

County of San Diego – Sara Agahi	RWQCB – Christina Arias
County of San Diego – Kelly Barker	RWQCB – Wayne Chiu
County of San Diego – Joe DeStefano	RWQCB – Ben Neill
City of Carlsbad – Paul Hartman	City of San Diego – Ruth Kolb
County of San Diego – Chris Hanger	MOE – Mikhail Ogawa
Hunsaker & Ass. – Ralph Hornbeck	D-Max Eng. – John Quenzer
City of Poway – Roger Morrison	Downstream Services, Inc. – Beverly Stumman
RCD of SD – Diane Hussey	Brown and Caldwell – Lisa Skutecki
Bureau Veritas – Laura Klages	Transcends – Eric Desio
RMC – Alyson Watson	Geosyntec Cons. – Vicki Tripolitis
Weston Solutions – Gretel Roberts	SCS Eng. – Ralph Vasquez
Weston Solutions – Amy Hamilton	

I. Introductions, Announcements, and Other Business

Jon Van Rhyn with the County of San Diego opened the meeting allowing the Copermittees to make announcements or discuss business they felt pertinent.

County of San Diego and City of Encinitas shared job opening opportunities.

Quick discussion regarding the City of Los Angeles suit against the State Water Board concerning unfunded mandates.

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II. San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Update

Christina Arias was introduced, she will be replacing Phil Hammer as RWQCB Copermittee contact and advisor. Ms. Arias informed the Copermittees that the JURMP and WURMP annual report reviews had been completed or were currently being conducted and that letters with comments are expected to be mailed out by the end of the week May 25, 2007.

RWQCB watershed contacts for the southern watersheds will be Jody Ebsen and Lesley Dobalian.

The following are preliminary assignments for RWQCB programs were also announced:

- Christina Arias - Hydromodification Plan and Limited Impact Development, San Diego River Watershed
- Lilian Busse – Receiving Waters
- Jody Ebsen – Dry Weather Monitoring
- Lesley Dobalian – MS4 Conveyance, Upper Tijuana River Watershed
- Dat Quach – San Diego Bay Watershed

III. Approval of Modifications to Monitoring Budget * PASSED *

Due to delay of the adoption of the new permit, a request was made to carry over, rather than credit, \$50,000 of additional “as-needed” funds for tasks performed by MEC/Weston and \$25,000 from the monitoring budget to the Copermittees’ FY 2007-08 monitoring budget and SMC Low Impact Development project.

Jon VanRhyn made the following motion:

Authorize \$75,000 of funds from the Copermittees' FY 2006-07 monitoring budget to be carried over, rather than credited, to the Copermittees' FY 2007-08 monitoring budget.

No comments were made and the vote was motioned by Ken St. Clair of San Marcos and seconded by Danis Bechter of Poway and passed unanimously (18 in favor).

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IV. Update on Stormwater Waivers

Mr. Wayne Chiu of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, Water Quality Standards Unit, presented information on stormwater waivers that are up for renewal at the end of this year. Mr. Chiu presented the following outline:

- Links to Waivers and Resolutions Adopted in 2002;
- Regulation of Waste Discharge;
- Description of Conditional Waivers;
- History of Conditional Waivers;
- Proposed Conditional Waivers;
- Adopted Waivers; and
- The Role of Copermittees.

Mr. Chiu covered the following key elements:

- Anything produced by humans and/or animals is subject to discharge regulations.
- Conditional waivers allow regulations for specific types of discharge.
- Conditional Waivers must be consistent with basin plan and the public's interest.
- Applicants obtaining waivers must comply with all conditions subject to the waiver.
- Waivers cannot exceed 5 years, at which time they must be renewed.
- There is no current assessment of fees for waiver applicants.
- There are currently 26 types of waivers they are divided into 12 classifications, with 9 new waivers proposed.
- The role of the Copermittees is to monitor all sources of discharge to the MS4 under the current NPDES permit.
- Copermittees are not responsible for enforcing waivers.

Key Questions, Answers and comments:

Q: Who is responsible for rangeland runoff?

A: Rangeland runoff can be subject to a waiver, but must comply with all regulations under the current NPDES permit. The Copermittee overseeing the jurisdiction is ultimately responsible for monitoring or reporting discharges coming from rangeland to the RWQCB.

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Q: How does the RWQCB propose that agricultural farmers sign up for these waivers?

A: No current method is currently proposed, however the RWQCB in conjunction with the Farm Bureaus and other coalitions will attempt to locate the agricultural farmers subject to the waivers and have them voluntarily sign up.

C: If the farmers are currently discharging to the MS4 or receiving waters it is not currently regulated and is adding to loads of nutrients, bacteria, etc. that are subject to TMDL regulations. The estimation given by the RWQCB is 15 to 20 years before waiver regulations are met, timelines for TMDLs are much shorter and are affected by agricultural loads. This presents a problem to copermittees responsible for reducing the loads to comply with regulations set by the RWQCB.

Q: Can waivers only be adopted every 5 years?

A: No, they can be adopted anytime.

Q: Are waivers issued to specific entities?

A: Yes, but the terms of the waivers are usually general unless other requirements or monitoring are assigned by the RWQCB.

Q: Do waivers cover 303(d) practices?

A: No, but the RWQCB is trying to incorporate 303(d) requirements to waivers.

Q: What do applicants have to file in order to receive a waiver?

A: Applicants must fill out information much like that of a Notice of Intent.

Q: How does the RWQCB plan on implementing the waivers, what is their strategy, is the strategy for implementation written into the waiver policy?

A: No policy is associated with the waivers in terms of implementation. The RWQCB relies on its inspectors and other entities to identify a site requiring waivers.

V. Best Management Practice Portal Project Update

Mikhail Ogawa of MOE and Eric Desio of Transcends presented the BMP Portal currently located on the Project Clean Water website. The website was displayed on the overhead and the copermittees and interested parties were requested to provide feedback to improve the portal.

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Mr. Ogawa then explained the methodology for the development of the website as he navigated through the website and described the workgroups involvement in making decisions affecting the portals subject matter. The purpose of the website is to provide a tool to the regulated community as a resource to assist in the identification of stormwater related activities and their association with applicable BMPs. The ultimate goal of the portal is to provide an integrated BMP information system that can be updated regularly and supply subject matter the copermittees feel prudent.

If you have any input for the portal contact Mikhail Ogawa.

VI. Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan Update

Jon VanRhyn discussed the completion of the project solicitation process for the IRWMP with 100-150 projects submitted for review. It appears the San Diego Region may receive a large amount proposition 50 funds based on the project information provided to the state. He informed the group that a draft of the IRWMP will be released for public review between June 1 and June 30, 2007.

VII. First Year Planning Update.

Mr. VanRhyn discussed the current status of the amended MOU and addressed comments provided by the City of Santee and City of San Diego. Many of the comments requested that cap amount be implemented for funds set aside for the development of the HMP. Changes to the MOU have incorporated language reflecting the estimated cost of the HMP at \$1.0 million, with \$600,000 provided for in the FY07-08 budget and a total cost amount not to exceed \$1.25 million. The amended MOU must be reviewed by County Council prior to approval of the Copermittees.

Currently no progress has been made on the development of the new MOU, however the amended MOU appears to meet all the requirements of the RWQCB. A new MOU is expected to be drafted and implemented by the end of October 2007, but no firm dates have been established for its development.

The establishment of reporting standards is currently being addressed within the Fiscal Analysis, Reporting and Assessment workgroup, who met for the first time on May 20, 2007. Developing these standards will be key in proceeding with the development of all the work products required in the new permit. The need for representatives to chair additional workgroups as well as volunteers to participate in these workgroups is key in establishing work standards for the permit work products. It is also possible that an additional workgroup may have to be established to address many of the key elements and critical components to expedite the requirements of the new permit that are time sensitive.

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VIII. Standard Urban Stormwater Management Plan Update

Sara Agahi of the County of San Diego addressed the Copermittees requesting their assistance with the development of the SUSMP and HMP for the region. Help was solicited, however no volunteers were identified during the meeting.

X. **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Copermittee Management Committee will take place on Thursday July 19, 2007.