

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Orange County Stormwater Program (the Program) is a cooperative municipal regulatory compliance initiative focused on the management of urban and stormwater runoff for the protection and enhancement of Orange County's creeks, rivers, streams, and coastal waters. The primary objective of the Program is to fulfill the commitment of the County of Orange, the Orange County Flood Control District and the cities of Orange County (collectively, the "Permittees"), to develop and implement a program that satisfies the requirements of area-wide municipal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits (specifically, Regional Water Quality Control Board Orders R8-2009-0030 (Santa Ana Regional Board) and R9-2009-0002 (San Diego Regional Board), subsequently referred to as the Fourth Term Permits).

The purpose of this document is to comply with the requirement for an annual submittal of a progress report. This report discusses the Permittees' Fourth Term Permit compliance activities over the period July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, and includes a description of all activities that were conducted during the reporting period and an assessment of program effectiveness. These compliance activities include program development activities to address significant new permit requirements, notably the required integration of Low Impact Development (LID) and hydromodification control strategies into local land development regulation, and concurrent implementation of the programs established under the Third Term Permits and which continue to be required under the Fourth Term Permits, notably local regulation of existing development, public education and outreach and environmental monitoring.

Programmatic accomplishments in 2011-12 include:

- California Legislature recognition for the land development Technical Guidance Document for engineering excellence (**Section C-2.0**);
- Continuing development and implementation of the County Area Spill Containment (CASC) Program and CASC activation to address significant sewage spills (**Section C-3.0** and **Section C-10.0**);
- Coordination with Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) on development of a Structural BMP Prioritization and Analysis Tool (SBPAT) to support disbursement of Measure M2 funding for water quality projects. SBPAT is a GIS-based decision support tool that will be used to identify and prioritize potential structural BMP retrofit projects throughout Orange County (**Section C-3.0**);
- Continuing implementation of *Baseline BMPs* and further implementation of the Program's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy (**Section C-5.0**);
- APWA recognition of the Orange County Stormwater Program's Project Pollution Prevention Public Education website as a "model practice" (**Section 6.0**);
- The production of nearly 196 million public education impressions, compared to 127 million public education impressions in the prior reporting period (**Section C-6.0**);
- Delivery of six educational workshops for various residential and business sectors (**Section 6.0**);
- Implementation of an Interim Hydromodification Standard for south Orange County;
- Submittal of a new Model Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and supporting Technical Guidance Document (TGD) and Hydromodification Management Plan (HMP) to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Executive Officer on December 16, 2011 (**Section C-7.0**);

- Implementation of the new Low Impact Development (LID) based Model Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and supporting Technical Guidance Document (TGD) in north Orange County (**Section C-7.0**).
- Updating of infiltration feasibility and hydromodification susceptibility mapping of the area of Orange County under the jurisdiction of the Santa Ana Regional Board and expansion of the mapping effort into south Orange County (**Section C-7.0**);
- Completion of a LID Cost Study (**Section C-7.0**);
- Processing of 317 Project WQMPs covering 9,114 acres of development (**Section C-7.0**);
- 8,966 construction sites inspected and 671 formal enforcement actions taken (**Section C-8.0**);
- Completion of 6,858 commercial/industrial facility inspections and 1,241 formal enforcement actions (**Section C-9.0**);
- Completion of 10,399 food service establishment inspections and 2,665 follow-up investigations/actions (**Section C-9.0**);
- Implementation of a countywide mobile business database (**Section C-9.0**);
- Investigation of 2,884 complaints and 2,877 enforcement actions regarding illegal discharges or illicit connections (**Section C-10.0**);
- Continued implementation of innovative water quality monitoring programs and the development of new insights regarding the chemical, biological and physical impacts of urban dry and wet weather runoff (**Section C-11.0**);
- Continued implementation of Stormwater Action Level (SAL) based outfall monitoring program element for wet weather discharges in South Orange County (**Section C-11.0**);
- Full implementation of Dry Weather Reconnaissance Monitoring Program in North Orange County and implementation of Non-stormwater Action Level (NAL) Program in south county areas (**Section C-11.0**);
- Continued implementation of metals, sediment, selenium, nutrients, toxics and bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) programs and attainment of targets in the Newport Bay, San Gabriel River-Coyote Creek, Aliso Creek and San Juan Creek watersheds (**Section C-12.0**), and
- Implementation of Watershed Workplans for six South Orange County watersheds and ongoing development of the Watershed Master Plan approach for North Orange County (**Section C-12.0**).

The Permittees also consider a series of performance metrics termed Headline Measures to further enable the effectiveness of the Program's elements to be evaluated. These measures are intended to confirm program implementation and validate achievement of outcomes. The basis of this approach draws on the hierarchical taxonomy of programmatic outcomes, being advocated by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA), which creates a framework for defining the relationships between compliance actions and, ultimately, positive changes in water quality.

The report discusses the compliance of the Program with the Fourth Term Permits and presents an assessment of both the chemical, biological impacts of urban dry and wet weather runoff on the quality of the surface water environment in Orange County and the Program's Headline Measures. This assessment is the basis for identifying specific program development initiatives that are identified as *2012-13 Program Focus* initiatives. These initiatives are noted in each

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section of the report and summarized, together with the Fourth Term Permit compliance milestones, in **Section C-13.0**.