

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 main objective of the Program is to fulfill the commitment of Orange County's cities, the County of Orange and the Orange County Flood Control District to develop and implement a program that satisfies the requirements of area-wide municipal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits (subsequently referred to as the Third Term Permits).

The purpose of this document is to comply with the requirement of the Third Term Permits, Regional Water Quality Control Board Orders R8-2002-0010 (Santa Ana Regional Board) and R9-2002-0001 (San Diego Regional Board) to submit a Report of Waste Discharge 180 days prior to permit expiration. This Report discusses the Permittees' Third Term Permit compliance activities and includes a description of accomplishments, an assessment of program effectiveness, and a proposed management program (a draft 2007 Drainage Area Management Plan) for the period 2007-2012.

The Program's accomplishments represent the culmination of the development and three years of implementation of a program that was substantially revised to meet the requirements of the Third Term NPDES Permits. Notable programmatic accomplishments include:

- Completion of the 2003 DAMP including 34 jurisdictional Local Implementation Plans (LIPs) (**DAMP Appendix A**), a formal training program (**DAMP Appendix B**) a program effectiveness assessment strategy (**DAMP Appendix C**), and 6 Watershed Action Plans (WAPs) (**DAMP Appendix D**) (**Section 2.0**);
- Establishment of 2 separate, but nonetheless similar and highly interdependent, planning processes targeting the control of pollutants in urban runoff and completion of studies to evaluate the effectiveness and applicability of various source control and treatment control Best Management Practices (**DAMP Appendix D**) (**Section 3.0**);
- Validation, through independent administrative and trial court review, of the robustness of the Permittees' local legal authority for DAMP implementation (**Section 4.0**);
- Development and implementation of (1) a Model Municipal Activities program at 2,302 municipal facilities, (2) Model Integrated Pest Management Guidelines which have reduced municipal fertilizer and pesticide use, and (3) an Established BMP performance reporting program that has indicated the increased effectiveness of street sweeping and trash and debris collection practices (**Section 5.0**);
- Development and implementation of a public education program that has created over 160,000,000 media impressions and produced measurable and positive changes in public awareness and behavior (**Section 6.0**);
- Development and implementation of a Model Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) based program for new development, the approval of over 1,400 project WQMPs, and the creation and ongoing development of a web-based expert system to support coastal urban wetland management (**Section 7.0**);
- Development and implementation of a Model Construction Program under which 6,570 enforcement actions were taken within a pattern of increasing levels of compliance in the most recent annual reporting period (**Section 8.0**);
- Development and implementation of a Model Industrial/Commercial Program under which over 31,000 facilities have been subject to local regulatory review and 7,266

enforcement actions were taken within a pattern of increasing levels of compliance in the most recent annual reporting period (**Section 9.0**);

- The investigation of 8,866 complaints regarding illegal discharges or illicit connections, increased use of a telephone hotline for the reporting by the public of water quality concerns, and implementation of enhanced cooperative local agency procedures and practices for sewage spill response (**Section 10.0**);
- Development and approval of the Third Term Permit water quality monitoring program and development and implementation of a sophisticated environmental data management system (Labtrack) (**Section C-11.0**), and
- Implementation of the DAMP/Watershed Action Plans (WAPs) in the San Diego Regional Board area (**Section C-12.0**) and significant progress toward completion of WAPs for the Newport Bay and Santa Ana River watersheds.

In assessing the effectiveness of the Program, the Permittees evaluated a series of performance metrics termed Headline Measure, that 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. In addition, the assessment has been informed by (1) the findings of the Countywide water quality monitoring programs, (2) a series of consultative workshops conducted with jurisdictional program coordinators, (3) reviews of audit reports and other Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) correspondence and meetings with RWQCB staff, and (4) the receiving water limitations provisions of the Permits.

In conducting the assessment, three major themes emerged during the review. These themes are:

Theme 1: Demonstrating the iterative management approach: Adapting the management program to more effectively address urban sources of pollutants that are causing or contributing to exceedances of water quality standards;

Theme 2: Enhancing Implementation: Improving program implementation through incorporation for auditable environmental management system concepts, and

Theme 3: Establishing watershed-based water quality planning: On a Countywide basis, creating 2 separate, but nonetheless highly inter-related, water quality planning processes, to address urban sources of pollutants.

The Program effectiveness assessment resulted in 2 types of programmatic recommendations, specifically (1) ROWD Commitments (New programmatic commitments to be developed and implemented over the period of the Fourth Term Permits) and (2) DAMP Modifications (Improvements to existing program commitments incorporated into the proposed 2007 DAMP). The ROWD Commitments comprise:

Iterative Management: Developing and implementing new BMP programs including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches for pesticide toxicity, BMPs for the architectural use of copper and zinc in new development, and new BMPs and for municipal trash and debris

control.

Enhancing implementation: Defining the expertise and competencies of staff with program implementation responsibilities and to develop staff skills and expertise through a strategic approach to training. Also, commitments to develop program guidance documentation and standards for source and treatment control BMPs.

Enhancing watershed-based water quality planning: Completing 11 Watershed Action Plans to establish countywide and watershed-based water quality planning processes across Orange County.