

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services
Jim O'Tousa, Director

Roads & Transportation
Anitha Balan, Director

Water & Sanitation
Joseph Pope, Director

Watershed Protection
Glenn Shephard, Director

July 25, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Receive and File Update on the 2021 Municipal Stormwater Permit and Total Maximum Daily Loads; All Supervisorial Districts.

Recommendation:

Receive and file a presentation on the 2021 Municipal Stormwater Permit and Total Maximum Daily Loads.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

This item has no fiscal impact.

Discussion:

This is the fourth presentation in a series from the Public Works Agency (PWA) to your Board to highlight Ventura County's state of water resources. This presentation will focus on the impacts of the regulatory requirements of the Stormwater Permit (Permit) and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in Ventura County (County). PWA intends to provide your Board and the public with an understanding of the possible impacts of these regulations and your Board's opportunities to consider to engage and address these issues.

The Clean Water Act requires discharges from storm drain systems be covered under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. The County has been covered under a Stormwater Permit since 1994 with each successive permit requiring new and expanded efforts. TMDLs are regulations adopted for waterways where water quality is not meeting applicable water quality standards.

On July 23, 2021, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) adopted the new Permit for municipal stormwater dischargers in the County. Unlike previous versions of the Permit, the new stormwater Permit incorporates TMDLs which makes their water quality limits enforceable. It also allows Permittees two options to comply with the new permit's water quality limits and requirements.



Traditional compliance is the first option. It requires the implementation of specific actions (e.g., business inspections and street sweeping) and strict numeric compliance with Receiving Water Limitations (RWLs) and numeric Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs). WQBELs are enforceable numeric interpretations of TMDL waste load allocations, and numeric compliance is measured through water quality samples taken in receiving waters and storm drain outfalls. Through the traditional compliance pathway, Permittees have no additional time to meet RWLs or interim TMDL WQBELs.

Alternative compliance is the second option. It requires developing a Watershed Management Program (WMP), allowing the County to address its highest watershed priorities, and be deemed in compliance while writing and implementing the WMP. Your Board authorized the submittal of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to develop a Countywide WMP to LARWQCB on December 7, 2021. In addition to the County, the Ventura County Watershed Protection District and all ten cities also submitted NOIs to develop a countywide WMP.

A WMP identifies water quality priorities and combinations of pollutant control measures to meet water quality objectives. Computer modeling is required to provide reasonable assurances that water quality objectives will be met. The goal of a WMP is to forecast the future water quality after the most cost effective structural and non-structural best management practices have been installed or implemented. The WMP will allow the County the flexibility to choose the best watershed-specific combination of options as the County learns new information, and the WMP will provide predictability in cost estimates and timelines for future budgets.

This presentation will provide a history the Stormwater Permit and an overview of the countywide organization of the permittees, the current permit compliance pathways, and a description of the draft WMP, including pollutants and control measures to meet required reductions. It will also include the current state of program funding, future cost projections, and potential strategies for necessary funding for compliance.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please call Arne Anselm at (805) 654-3942.

Sincerely,



Jeff Pratt, P.E.
Director

