

# Executive Summary

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This Annual Report discusses the Permittees' Permit compliance activities for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, the ninth year of the NPDES Permit No. CAS004002/Order No. 10-108 (Permit). It includes a description of all activities conducted during the reporting period, and the efforts to improve water quality throughout Ventura County by the Permittees. The purpose of this Annual Report is to show compliance with the Permit, and to meet the reporting requirement that an Annual Stormwater Report be submitted by December 15<sup>th</sup> of each year; in its entirety this Report also serves as the Receiving Water Limitations Report. Since the Permit did not require a Stormwater Management Plan this Annual Report also serves to clarify the Permit's requirements and the efforts put forth by the Permittees to meet them. Finally, program effectiveness assessment of the implementation of the Permit requirements are examined with potential areas for improvement identified.

The Permittees, who contributed the information and data regarding their programs, were instrumental in the preparation of this Annual Report. Cooperating through the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program (Program) the Permittees ensure information and workloads are shared, economies of scale achieved, and an efficient and effective Program is realized. Together through the implementation of various comprehensive program elements we have strived for improved water quality through compliance with all requirements of the Permit. Each program element has a subcommittee working to develop needed forms, protocols, and procedures to ensure future Permit compliance. The programs, methods, and this Annual Report are continually being refined to improve effectiveness, apply lessons learned, identify and address additional sources of stormwater pollutants, and therefore improve water quality.

Notable accomplishments made by the Permittees and the Program over this reporting period include:

- Seven Ventura County beaches removed from the 303(d) impaired water body list after consistently meeting water-quality objectives for indicator bacteria. Water quality at beaches throughout Ventura County remained above average for Southern California and three beaches made the honor roll in Heal the Bay's 2018/19 Annual Beach Report Card (BRC).
- Participation in SCCWRP's Bight '18 Microbiology Coliphage Study and Trash assessment.
- Responded to elevated levels of pentachlorophenol at an urban outfall with a special investigation that conclusively found the source and initiated a partnership in a multi-agency effort to eliminate the discharge.
- Stakeholders are submitting new projects in the Stormwater Resource Plan using a tool developed by the Program that automatically calculates the quantitative and qualitative benefits.
- Continued to inform the highest levels of management about the potential programmatic and financial impacts of a new Regional Permit through new and refined communication tools.
- The Public Outreach program made 6.7 million impressions (14% percent in Spanish). New creative material was created, in both English and Spanish, focusing pollutants of concern: trash/litter, pet waste, and yard chemicals. Almost 4,500 elementary school age students were educated through 10 performances by the EcoHero Show and his engaging and interactive eco-friendly songs.
- Initiated an internet-based youth behavioral awareness survey which will be used to assist the Program in creating a more effective and targeted youth outreach program related to stormwater pollution prevention.
- Coordinated the 2018 Ventura County Coastal Cleanup Day Event, as part of the California Coastal Cleanup Day, recruiting 3,008 volunteers to 26 different beach and inland locations covering 45.2 miles. A total of 12,195 pounds of trash were collected, as well as 749 pounds of recyclables.

- Educated the private development community, including planners and engineers, with a comprehensive training workshop covering Ventura County stormwater quality post construction mitigation requirements.
- Continued updating the Water Quality Index distilling the over 200 constituents monitored into an easy to communicate form and continued the comprehensive data analysis effort to prioritize pollutants of concern in outfalls and receiving waters that in turn will be used to prioritize Program activities.
- Updated the drainage area and land use for the 11 major outfall monitoring stations using the latest topography, and storm drain system GIS data resulting in improved understanding of areas monitored.
- Eleven Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plans Annual/Semiannual Reports were submitted to the Regional Board.
- Active participation in the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition of Southern California, California Stormwater Quality Association, and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project.

Ventura County has been subjected to increased environmental stresses in recent years. In addition to the ongoing drought, the Calleguas Creek and Malibu Creek watersheds were heavily impacted by the Hill and Woolsey fires in 2018-19, and the Ventura River and Santa Clara River watersheds are still recovering from the Thomas Fire of 2017-18. The impacts of the fires were not observed in the water quality monitoring results, as concentrations above applicable water quality objectives (WQO) were similar to non-fire years, although higher sediment loads were observed in the runoff.

Three wet weather events were sampled at each of the fourteen monitoring sites. Absence of flow prevented all fourteen monitoring sites from being sampled during dry weather, though it can be inferred no pollutants were being discharged from the dry sites. Aquatic toxicity samples were analyzed for all fourteen sites. No toxicity was observed for the receiving water stations, however acute effects (e.g. mortality/survival), chronic effects [e.g. reproduction (MO-FIL, MO-VEN), growth (MO-MEI, MO-OXN, MO-SPA)], or acute and chronic affects (MO-CAM, MO-OJA) were observed. None of the samples were above the 50% mortality threshold to trigger a toxicity identification evaluation (TIE) and toxicity did not occur at the sites most directly impacted by the Hill or Woolsey Fires.

Water quality in the Ventura River Watershed appears to have rebounded significantly in 2018/19 and the Water Quality Index (Index) shows overall improvement in scores, except for the Calleguas Creek receiving water station. Overall water quality in the County of Ventura is generally good, with the overall Index showing A to C grades across the county during 2018/19 in both wet and dry weather.

During wet weather events, *E. coli* concentrations were commonly found above WQO at most sites while during dry-weather events, less than half of the sites with flow had concentrations of *E. coli* above WQO. Other constituents observed at least once above dry-weather WQO include chloride, total dissolved solids, pH, total selenium, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (one site, dry weather). Constituents observed at least once above wet-weather WQO include chloride, total dissolved solids, dissolved oxygen, MBAS, total chlorine residual, total cyanide, total aluminum, total arsenic, dissolved copper, dissolved zinc, and pentachlorophenol. Biological assessments were performed in accordance with the current Bioassessment Workplan, and at the Principal Permittee's fixed (Integrator) sites at the three receiving water stations. Data from the monitoring program is used to identify pollutants of concern and direct efforts to reduce their discharge from the storm drain system.

Continued in this Annual Report are the Performance Standards for specific Permit requirements identified in each section along with the Permittees' status on achieving that standard. Permit compliance cannot be directly inferred solely by these Performance Standards as the complete effort of the Permittees cannot be reflected through these discrete metrics. Rather, the information is more suitable for use by the Permittees to gage their efforts and identify areas of needed improvement.