

Executive Summary

This Annual Report discusses the Permittees' Permit compliance activities for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, the tenth 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 15th 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:

- Continued engagement with Regional Board members and staff during Regional Permit renewal to ensure a Permit that is right for Ventura County.
- Water quality at beaches throughout Ventura County remained above average for Southern California. 100% of the beaches received A grades for both Summer and Winter dry weather, and one beach made the honor roll in Heal the Bay's 2019/20 Annual Beach Report Card (BRC).
- Participation in SCCWRP's Bight '18 Microbiology Coliphage Study and Trash assessment.
- Initiated a countywide regional stormwater treatment project location identification and concept development study.
- 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 over 20 million impressions. New creative material was created, in both English and Spanish, focusing on pollutants of concern: trash/litter, pet waste, and yard chemicals. 2,700 elementary school age students were educated through performances by the EcoHero Show and his engaging and interactive eco-friendly songs.
- Completed 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.
- Launched a new Community for a Clean Watershed public outreach Instagram account: www.instagram.com/cleanwatershed.

- Coordinated the 2019 Ventura County Coastal Cleanup Day Event, as part of the California Coastal Cleanup Day, recruiting a record number 3,795 volunteers to 29 different beach and inland locations covering 50.1 miles. A total of 16,210 pounds of trash were collected, as well as 1,118 pounds of recyclables.
- 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.
- Ten 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 continues to be subjected to increased environmental stresses in recent years. In addition to the ongoing drought, every major watershed within the County has been impacted heavily by numerous wild fires including the Thomas Fire of 2017-18, the Hill and Woolsey fires of 2018-19, and most recently the Maria and Easy fires that occurred in 2019. 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 stations. Thirteen of fourteen stations were sampled during dry weather and it can be inferred no pollutants were being discharged at the dry/unsampled station. Aquatic toxicity samples were analyzed for all fourteen sites during the first sampled wet event of the monitoring year and no toxicity was observed. 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.

The Water Quality Index (Index) shows generally good water quality scores across the County, with the overall Index showing A to C grades at mass emission stations during 2019/20 in both wet and dry weather. E. coli concentrations were commonly found above WQO at most sites during wet weather and at around half the sites with flow during dry weather. Other constituents that were found at elevated levels in relation to applicable water quality objectives (WQO) at least once during wet-weather events include chloride, total dissolved solids, sulfate, pH, dissolved oxygen, total chlorine residual, total aluminum, dissolved copper, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, and pentachlorophenol. Constituents above dry-weather WQO include chloride, total dissolved solids, sulfate, pH, total cyanide, perchlorate, dissolved copper, total selenium, nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen, and benzo(a)pyrene. Data from the Stormwater Monitoring Program (SMP) 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 gauge their efforts and identify areas of needed improvement.