Executive Summary

This Annual Report discusses the Permittees' Permit compliance activities for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, the sixth 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 of an Annual Stormwater Report be submitted by December 15th of each year; in its entirety this Report serves as the Receiving Water Limitations Report. Since the Permit did not require a Stormwater Management Plan this Report also serves as a way 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. The Permittees cooperate through the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program (Program) to ensure information and workloads are shared, economies of scale achieved, and an efficient and effective Program is realized. The Permittees through implementation of various comprehensive program elements have strived for improved water quality through compliance with all requirements of the Permit.

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

- Water quality at beaches throughout Ventura County remained among the best in the state.
- To meet the State's SB985 requirements the Program initiated a countywide Municipal Stormwater Resource Plan, including stakeholder outreach and the development of eleven new concept projects. This effort will be the foundation for future products such as Reasonable Assurance Analysis required to show compliance with water quality objectives through Watershed Management Plan implementation.
- Finalized the Unified Countywide Storm Drain System Geodatabase. This included five new geodatabases for the storm drain systems of Permittees who had not yet created GIS maps of their systems. This project also included a Countywide GIS analysis to identify infiltration constraints per 2011 Technical Guidance Manual and mapping of the natural stream network.
- Created communication tools to inform the highest levels of management about the potential programmatic and financial impacts of a new Permit modeled on the Los Angeles Permit.
- Drafted an amendment to the Implementation Agreement to continue the cooperative effort between Permittees through adoption of the next Permit. This amendment was adopted by eleven of the twelve Permittees before the end of the reporting period.
- Continued a Bacteria Marker Study to identify human, dog, and bird genetic host-specific markers in MS4 outfalls and background sites. More samples are being collected to confirm previous results and help the Program identify the controllable sources of indicator bacteria.
- Public Outreach efforts made 9.7 million impressions through the Public Outreach program. 16.5% percent of those were made in Spanish.
- Held two pre-sale rain barrel events, one in March and one in May 2016. A total of 2,358 50-gallon rain barrels were sold at a discounted price directly to 980 residents of Ventura County.

- Coordination and participation of the Ventura County Coastal Cleanup Day Event, as part of the California Coastal Cleanup Day, recruiting 2,830 volunteers to 22 different beaches and inland locations covering a distance of 41.1 miles. A total of 10,475 pounds of trash were collected.

- Updated the Water Quality Index which distills the over 200 constituents monitored into an easy to communicate form, and continued the comprehensive data analysis effort to prioritize pollutants of concern in outfall and receiving waters that will in turn prioritize Program activities.

- Performed an assessment of the applicability of the Basin Plan's MUN* beneficial use for waters monitored by the Principal Permittee.

- Thirteen Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plans, Monitoring Plans, and Compliance 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 and it's Bight '13 Microbiology Study assessment of the extent of human fecal contamination from coastal drainages to the ocean.

The 2015/16 water year was exceptionally dry in Ventura County, however three wet events were successfully sampled at all Mass Emission and Major Outfall stations. Eight stations were sampled for the dry weather event (the other six stations were dry). E. coli and fecal coliform were commonly found at elevated levels at most sites during wet-weather events and during dry-weather. Other constituents observed at elevated levels at one site and/or event or more include chloride and total dissolved solids (primarily dry-weather), MBAS (Event 1 only), dissolved oxygen, dissolved copper, dissolved zinc (single wet occurrence), total arsenic, total barium, total beryllium, total cadmium, total chromium, total nickel, total thallium, total selenium (dry weather only), ammonia, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, pentachlorophenol, indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene, and pH (predominantly dry weather). No toxicity identification evaluations (TIE) were required. Biological assessments were performed in accordance with the allocations in the current Bioassessment Workplan, and at the Principal Permittee's fixed (Integrator) sites at the three mass emission stations.

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.

The Program uses California Stormwater Quality Association's (CASQA) six progressive outcome levels for effectiveness assessment ranging from documenting efforts to measurably protecting water quality. These show the Program is continually effective in the first two outcome levels of documenting efforts and raising awareness. As the Program continues, improvements in the outcome levels of changing behavior and reducing pollutant loads will be accurately measured and documented. The trends identified in the Water Quality Monitoring Section show real progress towards the Program's effectiveness at the ultimate goal - Outcome Level 6 improving and protecting receiving water quality.

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.