Public Works Department

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November 3, 2025

Subject: Receiving Water Limitations Compliance Report

During the 2024/2025 dry season the MO-OXN sampling station showed an exceedance for selenium. This exceedance is the first observed exceedance in three years. It is likely due to the change in the CTR chronic objective from 5 ug/L to 3.1 ug/L. Selenium is generally found in groundwater or from agricultural practices. The City of Oxnard Water Department has implemented water conservation practices and public outreach. Water conservation methods include low flow sprinklers, water smart landscapes, and smart irrigation controls. These best management practices (bmps) may assist in the reduction of selenium.

During the 2024/2025 wet season the MO-SRG sampling station showed a cause and contribute to an exceedance in the receiving water for *E.coli*. It is undetermined as to the exact source that caused and contributed to the exceedance but the City of Oxnard has initiated multiple best management practices (bmp) to reduce the amount of bacteria that may lead to the sampled exceedance results.

The City of Oxnard is a participating agency in a subcommittee to address the requirements of the Santa Clara River TMDL, which became effective March 21, 2012. The City of Oxnard in partnership with the Cities of Fillmore, Santa Paula, Ventura, and the County of Ventura, has prepared an In-Stream Compliance Monitoring Plan and a Draft Implementation Plan for the Estuary and Reach 3 of the Santa Clara River. On April 11, 2016, we received Regional Board approval for the Final In-Stream Compliance Monitoring Plan for the Santa Clara River Estuary and Reach 3 Bacteria TMDL. The City of Oxnard and the other participating agencies have since entered into a memorandum of agreement to actively support the monitoring and reporting efforts as required by the SCR Bacteria TMDL by funding equal contributions of the total cost of the water monitoring described in the Final In-Stream Compliance Monitoring Plan.

As indicated by the 2024/25 storm water monitoring results, elevated levels of *E. coli* were detected at the MO-OXN during wet weather sampling. The MO-OXN is located in the El Rio Drain which receives stormwater and non-stormwater runoff from the El Rio, East Vineyard, and North Ventura subwatersheds. The El Rio drain (a tributary to the Santa Clara River) is located near the Oxnard Village-Wagon Wheel Junction development.

Within the Oxnard Village-Wagon Wheel Junction development there are currently 63 acres being converted into a multiple-use redevelopment primarily containing multi-family apartment units. This project is located near Oxnard Blvd and Highway 101 and drains to the Santa Clara River. The project has been conditioned to install post-construction bmps including a CDS Treatment Device as well as biofiltration as part of an onsite detention basin. The project is required to meet County of Ventura and City of Oxnard SQUIMP requirements. With updated bmps and land development this project may decrease the amount on bacteria, trash, and other pollutants entering from the area into the Santa Clara River. These updates may also potentially decrease the amount of *E. Coli* detections in the wet weather sampling.

Future multiple use development will be located between N. Ventura Road, Town Center Drive, N. Oxnard Blvd., and Hwy 101. This development is in the final development phase of the Riverpark community. Approximately 10 acres which includes one large apartment complex, multiple restaurants, one hotel, and a retail gas station have finished construction and are operational. One hotel is currently in the final stages of construction. These developments also incorporate post-construction bmps that will treat stormwater before being discharged to the Santa Clara River north of Hwy 101. The planned bmps may have the potential to decrease the amount of *E. Coli* being discharged to the Santa Clara River.

The completed Riverpark neighborhood catch basins all have Contech Stormwater Management Stormfilters installed and maintained on a regular basis. This post-construction bmp targets total suspended solids, hydrocarbons, nutrients, metals, and other common pollutants from entering the Santa Clara River by using rechargeable, media-filled cartridges to absorb and retain the pollutants.

In an effort to prevent or reduce elevated levels of *E. coli*, the City of Oxnard Technical Services Program – Source Control (TSP-SC) Division implements a stormwater program with established bmps. Annual reviews of land use data, business inventories, and critical source inspection records within the El Rio, East Vineyard, and North Ventura subwatersheds are conducted to identify and prevent illicit discharges. TSP-SC staff inspected businesses with a focus on outdoor trash enclosures, outdoor storage of waste and materials, and grease interceptor/clarifier maintenance. BMP information was provided regarding surface cleaning, waste management, and grease interceptor/clarifier maintenance. In addition, TSP-SC staff met with Wastewater Collections staff to review sanitary sewer overflow and grease interceptor overflow response protocol and training was provided for illicit discharge response.

TSP-SC, Special Assessments, and Parks Department staff are aware of possible bacteria sources such as excessive dog feces in the subwatersheds. Dog waste bags and dispensers are provided in various parks and neighborhoods throughout the city to reduce the amount of pet waste entering stormwater runoff. TSP-SC staff was trained on illicit discharge response and bmp information forms were put in a share drive so that all City departments could access and download the forms as needed.

Finally, routine street sweeping is also conducted in the Santa Clara River watershed. Street sweeping occurs twice a month in residential neighborhoods that drain to the Santa Clara River. Street sweeping is an effective bmp to remove surface level debris, sediment, heavy metals, and bacteria from entering the watershed.

TSP-SC staff is constantly evaluating what programs and bmps are most effective. We have enlisted the help of all city departments with the common goal of meeting our water quality standards and maintaining the beneficial uses for our receiving waters. The City of Oxnard has been and will continue to be proactive and diligent in its efforts to implement bmps to prevent or reduce the discharge of *E. coli*.