



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

JUL 22 2013

Via Certified Mail:
No. 7000 0520 0021 6108 5573
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Gerhardt Hubner, Deputy Director
Water and Environmental Resources
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Ventura County Watershed Protection District Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Compliance Audit Report

Dear Mr. Hubner:

Enclosed please find the final audit report for the Ventura County Watershed Protection District Storm Water Management Program (Program). On June 27, 2012, EPA Region 9 (EPA) and representatives from PG Environmental, LLC, an EPA contractor, and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) conducted an audit of the Watershed Protection District's Program. The purpose of the audit was to assess the Watershed Protection District's compliance with the requirements contained within the NPDES Storm Water Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems within Ventura County (NPDES Permit No. CAS004002).

EPA's audit focused on evaluation of the Watershed Protection District's responsibilities as the Principal Permittee to implement the program management and monitoring program requirements included in the Permit. In addition, EPA's evaluation included a review of the *Ventura County Stormwater Quality Management Program 2010/2011 Water Quality Monitoring Report*.

EPA found the following component of the Watershed Protection District's Program noteworthy:

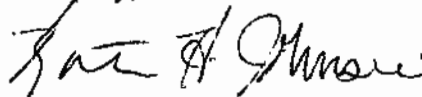
- The Watershed Protection District represented the Copermittees in water quality meetings and regional water quality programs; and
- The Watershed Protection District collected mass emission and major outfall water samples during multiple wet weather events and during dry weather conditions consistent with the Countywide Monitoring Program requirements of the Permit, and submitted a summary of the results to the Regional Board as part of the *Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program Annual Report for the 2010/2011 Permit Year* (Annual Report).

EPA also found program deficiencies and potential permit violations. Most significantly, the Watershed Protection District failed to:

- Include a summary of the Copermitees' monitoring results for each TMDL in its 2010/2011 Annual Report; and
- Submit a report that describes additional BMPs to be implemented by the Copermitees to reduce the concentration of pathogens and aluminum in stormwater discharges in response to elevated levels of these pollutants detected in receiving waters and in stormwater discharges.

Please respond to the audit report with any updates on program enhancements or clarifying comments by Friday, September 13, 2013. Following receipt of the Watershed Protection District's response, EPA will post the audit report along with the Watershed Protection District's response on our website. Thereafter, EPA will follow-up with appropriate District management to ensure adequate resolution of all potential permit violations. If you have concerns or questions, please call me at (415) 972-3873, or refer staff to Greg Gholson at (415) 947-4209 or via email at gholson.greg@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Kathleen H. Johnson, Director
Enforcement Division

Enclosure:

VCWPD MS4 Audit Report (w/attachments)

Cc via email with enclosure:

Arne Anselm, VCWPD
Renee Purdy, LA RWQCB



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
Enforcement Division
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

**MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM
SEWER SYSTEM (MS4)
COMPLIANCE INSPECTION**

**VENTURA COUNTY
WATERSHED PROTECTION DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA**

INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date:

June 27, 2012

Report Date:

July 18, 2013

CONTENTS

	Page
SECTION 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
SECTION 2.0 VENTURA COUNTY WATERSHED PROTECTION DISTRICT STORMWATER PROGRAM.....	2
2.1 PROGRAM AREAS EVALUATED	3
SECTION 3.0 EVALUATION FINDINGS	3
3.1 PRINCIPAL PERMITTEE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	3
3.2 MONITORING PROGRAM.....	7
 APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INSPECTION REPORT MATERIALS	
APPENDIX B: CATALOG OF REFERENCE MATERIALS	

Section 1.0 Executive Summary

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted an inspection on June 27, 2012, of the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, California (hereinafter, Watershed Protection District), Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program.

EPA reviewed documents and interviewed staff to gather information on overall program management of the Watershed Protection District's MS4 Program. The inspection focused on the following two program elements (1) Principal Permittee Program Management, and (2) Reporting and Monitoring Program. At the conclusion of the inspection, EPA discussed preliminary observations with Watershed Protection District representatives.

In this report, where applicable, EPA has identified noteworthy aspects of the Watershed Protection District's stormwater program, recommendations for improvement, program deficiencies, and potential permit violations. Although this report includes potential permit violations, it is not a formal finding of violation.

EPA found the following elements of the Watershed Protection District's current program noteworthy. Specifically, the Watershed Protection District:

- Represented the Copermittees in water quality meetings and regional water quality programs; and
- Collected mass emission and major outfall water samples during multiple wet weather events and during dry weather conditions consistent with the Countywide Monitoring Program requirements of the Permit, and submitted a summary of the results to the Regional Board as part of the *Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program Annual Report for the 2010/2011 Permit Year* (Annual Report).

EPA also found program deficiencies and potential permit violations. Most significantly, the Watershed Protection District failed to:

- Include a summary of the Copermittees' monitoring results for each TMDL in its 2010/2011 Annual Report; and
- Submit a report that describes additional BMPs to be implemented by the Copermittees to reduce the concentration of pathogens and aluminum in stormwater discharges in response to elevated levels of these pollutants detected in receiving waters and in stormwater discharges.

Section 2.0 Ventura County Watershed Protection District Stormwater Program

On June 27, 2012, the U.S. EPA, representatives from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and an EPA contractor, PG Environmental, LLC (hereinafter, collectively, the EPA Inspection Team) conducted an evaluation of the Watershed Protection District's MS4 Program. EPA also evaluated the cities of Thousand Oaks, Oxnard, Santa Paula and Simi Valley MS4 Programs on June 28, July 24, July 25 and July 26, 2012, respectively.

Discharges from the Watershed Protection District's MS4 and eleven other municipalities (hereinafter, Copermittees) are regulated under *Waste Discharge Requirements for Storm Water (Wet Weather) and Non-Storm Water (Dry Weather) Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Within the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, County of Ventura and the Incorporated Cities Therein*, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAS004002, Order No. R4-2010-0108, (hereinafter, Permit), issued July 8, 2010. NPDES Permit No. CAS063339 was first adopted by the RWQCB in 1994 and re-issued in 2000 and 2010. The Permit is the third NPDES MS4 permit issued to the Copermittees. The Copermittees currently covered under the Permit include the Watershed Protection District (Principal Permittee and Copermittee), County of Ventura, and the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, San Buenaventura (Ventura), Santa Paula, Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks.

The Permit authorizes the twelve Copermittees, including the Watershed Protection District, to discharge or contribute to discharges of stormwater from Phase I MS4s into the Watershed Management Areas of Ventura River, Santa Clara River, Calleguas Creek, Malibu Creek, and various coastal drainage within Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

Watershed Protection District Information

The Watershed Protection District is the designated Principal Permittee with roles similar to that of the Copermittees, as well as additional overall programmatic and facilitation responsibilities as outlined in the Permit. As the Principal Permittee, the Watershed Protection District is partially funded through a benefit assessment and a cost sharing structure between the Copermittees. After the adoption of the 1994 Countywide NPDES MS4 Permit, the Copermittees entered into an Implementation Agreement that identified the responsibilities of the Copermittees and provided a methodology for using the Watershed Protection District's benefit assessment to fund the NPDES programs (see Appendix B, B.1). The Copermittees amended the 1994 Implementation Agreement in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007/2008 to include cost sharing among Copermittees. Two additional amendments to the original Implementation Agreement were approved in FY 2008/2009 and FY 2009/2010 to continue the cost sharing provision. With the issuance of the 2010 NPDES Permit, a new NPDES Implementation Agreement was developed to replace the original agreement and its three amendments (see Appendix B, B.2). The current Implementation Agreement, dated July 14, 2010 defines the fiscal responsibilities of the Copermittees for implementation of the Permit. As the Principal Permittee, the

Watershed Protection District has responsibilities that include acting as a liaison between the Copermittees and the Regional Water Board, participating in various committees and workgroups, providing technical and administrative support for subcommittees, and implementing the Countywide Monitoring Program.

2.1 Program Areas Evaluated

The inspection included an evaluation of the Watershed Protection District's responsibilities as the Principal Permittee to implement the Program Management and Monitoring Program requirements included in the Permit. The EPA Inspection Team did not evaluate all components of the Watershed Protection District's MS4 Program and this inspection report should not be considered a comprehensive evaluation of all individual program elements.

Section 3.0 Evaluation Findings

This section is organized to generally follow the structure of the Permit. Within each subsection, where applicable, EPA has identified recommendations for improvement, program deficiencies, and potential permit violations. Potential permit violations are areas where the City is not fulfilling requirements of the Permit. Program deficiencies are areas of concern that may prevent successful program implementation or areas that, unless action is taken, have the potential to result in non-compliance in the future. This report also provides recommendations for improved program implementation. Although this report includes potential permit violations, it is not a formal finding of violation.

The inspection findings are supported by interviews, observations and photographic evidence gathered during the inspection, as well as documentation that may have been obtained before, during, or after the inspection. This inspection report does not attempt to comprehensively describe all aspects of the Watershed Protection District's MS4 Program or fully document all lines of questioning conducted during personnel interviews. Additional inspection report materials, including an inspection schedule and sign-in sheet are included in Appendix A.

Multiple documents were referenced by the EPA Inspection Team during the inspection process and development of this report (e.g., the Permit, MS4 annual reports). In addition, the Watershed Protection District provided the EPA Inspection Team with multiple documents during the inspection process. A list of these reference materials is included as Appendix B. The documents identified in Appendix B have not been included in the submittal of this inspection report. Copies of the materials are maintained by EPA Region 9 and can be made available upon request.

3.1 Principal Permittee Program Management

Part 3.E.1 of the Permit designates the Watershed Protection District as the Principal Permittee and identifies specific requirements for the Principal Permittee in Part 3.E.1(a)-(h), including (1) coordinate and facilitate activities to comply with the Permit, (2) serve

as a liaison between Copermittees and the Regional Water Quality Control Board on permitting issues, (3) provide technical and administrative support for committees, (4) implement the Countywide Monitoring Program, (5) evaluate, assess, and synthesize the results of the monitoring program and BMP implementation, and (6) provide personnel and fiscal resources for the collection, processing and submittal of monitoring and annual reports. Additional responsibilities of the Principal Permittee are outlined in the stormwater management program elements included in Part 4, Special Provisions, of the Permit.

The EPA Inspection Team conducted a one-day office session at the County Government Center to review and evaluate the Watershed Protection District's responsibilities and implementation of Permit requirements. Watershed Protection District staff gave a slide presentation to the EPA Inspection Team summarizing its program (see Appendix B, B.3). Program accomplishments specific to the Watershed Protection District's responsibilities under the Permit are discussed below.

3.1.1 Watershed Initiative Program

Parts 3.E and 4.D of the Permit require the Watershed Protection District to participate in specific water quality meetings and regional water quality programs. Watershed Protection District staff stated that they participate in the following regional water quality programs: the Southern California Coastal Watershed Research Program; Stormwater Monitoring Coalition of Southern California; California Association of Stormwater Quality Association; Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County; and the Environmental Crimes Task Force. In addition, the NPDES Management Committee meeting, chaired by the Watershed Protection District, is held monthly and is attended by senior staff from all Copermittee agencies to discuss formal cost sharing and decision agreements. The Watershed Protection District also participates in subcommittee meetings addressing (1) residential/public outreach, (2) business inspection and illicit discharge, (3) land development, (4) construction, and (5) public agency activities.

3.1.2 Public Information and Participation Program (PIPP)

Pursuant to the requirements in Part 4.C.1 of the Permit, the Principal Permittee is required to implement a public information and participation program (PIPP). The Watershed Protection District has implemented a public information program through, among other approaches, semi-annual radio campaigns to raise awareness of issues surrounding stormwater pollution and litter in waterways. The Watershed Protection District has also developed educational materials for Copermittees to distribute in their respective jurisdictions (see Appendix B, B.6, B.7 and B.8). Watershed Protection District staff explained that they utilize a consultant to ensure that outreach efforts and materials are appropriate and effective for educating the public, including local ethnic groups.

Pursuant to Part 4.C.2(c)(8) which requires the Copermittees to develop and implement a strategy to measure changes in behavior, the Watershed Protection District implemented

a “Youth Awareness Baseline Survey” throughout Ventura County which is used to periodically measure stormwater awareness among younger age groups (see Appendix B, B.4), and conducts periodic residential panel surveys (see Appendix B, B.5) to measure public awareness of issues related to pollution and litter in waterways.

In order to ensure that outreach materials provided to the Copermittees are further distributed to appropriate outlets (i.e. home improvement/garden centers, pet shops/feed stores, and automotive parts stores), the Watershed Protection District developed a form for use by the Copermittees to track when and where materials were distributed. Part 4.c.2.(c)(1)(C) of the Permit requires materials to have been distributed within 365 days of the adoption of the Permit (i.e. May 7, 2011). According to Watershed Protection District staff, feedback from the Copermittees through use of the tracking form or other mechanisms has been limited, therefore it’s unclear whether outreach materials have been or are being distributed.

Recommendation for Program Improvement

Increase support to the Copermittees to ensure the Watershed Protection District’s Public Information and Participation Program is tracked and reported.

3.1.3 Reporting Program

Parts 3.E.1(h) and 4.I of the Permit require the Watershed Protection District to develop and submit an annual report to the Regional Board Executive Officer no later than December 15th of each year, as described by Attachment I (Reporting Program) of the Permit. Part 1.A.4 of the Reporting Program specifies that the annual report must document, among other information, the status of the General Stormwater Program including a summary of the monitoring results for each TMDL.

In order to collect information from the Copermittees for inclusion in the annual report, the Watershed Protection District developed “Annual Report Data Summary Sheets” for the Copermittees to complete (see Appendix B, B.9 – B.15). The Annual Report Data Summary Sheets include data fields for stormwater management program elements in Parts 4.C–H of the Permit, but do not include data fields requiring the Copermittees to submit results of analyses conducted in accordance with applicable TMDLs described in Part 5 of the Permit.

The Watershed Protection District prepared a *Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Annual Report for 2010/2011 (Annual Report)* using data provided by the Copermittees (see Appendix B, B.16). The Annual Report included, as Attachment F, a summary of the results of mass emission, major outfall, aquatic toxicity, bioassessment, and dry-weather monitoring performed by the Watershed Protection District.

Potential Permit Violation

A summary of the monitoring results for each TMDL was not included in the 2010/2011 Annual Report. [Attachment I, Part 1.A.4]

The Permit requires a summary of the year's monitoring results for each TMDL to be included in the Annual Report. The 2010/2011 Annual Report did not include a summary of the monitoring results for each TMDL identified in Part 5.VI of the Permit.

3.1.4 Monitoring Database

Pursuant to the requirements of Parts 3.E.1(b), (c), (e), (g) and (h) of the Permit and the reporting requirements of Part 4.I of the Permit, the Watershed Protection District developed a database for managing water quality monitoring data. According to Watershed Protection District staff, the database was developed to allow electronic data transfer between the Copermittees, Watershed Protection District and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) in a format compatible with the State Water Board's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). Watershed Protection District staff use the database to generate reports, automate quality assurance checks, and make comparisons to water quality criteria for Basin Plan and the California Toxics Rule.

According to Watershed Protection District staff, Copermittees are given the opportunity to use monitoring data collected by the Watershed Protection District but often conduct monitoring of their own and choose not to use the data collected by the Watershed Protection District. A process should be established to ensure the Watershed Protection District is coordinating effectively with the Copermittees on monitoring efforts required under the Permit, including mass emission, major outfall, dry weather, aquatic toxicity and TMDL monitoring.

The objectives of water quality monitoring activities required by the Permit include estimating mass loading from the MS4s to watersheds, assessing trends in mass loading over time, and determining if the MS4s are contributing to exceedances of water quality objectives. Watershed Protection District staff stated that monitoring data from mass emissions stations appear to indicate (1) decreasing trends for chromium, nickel, copper, zinc, and lead, (2) no continuous trends for aluminum, cadmium, selenium, and arsenic, and (3) increasing trends for mercury. However, Watershed Protection District staff stated that discharges from four major outfalls had only been monitored for the past two years and seven major outfalls were monitored for the first time in the 2010/2011 reporting year. Therefore, staff explained that sufficient data had not yet been obtained to confirm suspected trends.

Recommendation for Program Improvement

Improve communication with Copermittees regarding the results of monitoring activities.

EPA recommends the Watershed Protection District improve communication between the technical experts that implement the Countywide Monitoring Program and the Copermittees tasked with implementing the TMDL monitoring provisions of the Permit. The Watershed Protection District should consider providing technical support to the Copermittees where monitoring results could inform program implementation.

3.2 Monitoring Program

Attachment F (Monitoring Program) of the Permit outlines the responsibilities of the Watershed Protection District related to water quality monitoring activities and describes the primary objectives of the monitoring program, as well as the required monitoring locations, frequencies, and pollutants of concern for laboratory analyses.

The EPA Inspection Team evaluated the Watershed Protection District's implementation of the mass emission and major outfall monitoring requirements specified within Attachment F of the Permit. In addition, the EPA Inspection Team assessed the effectiveness of the Watershed Protection District's efforts to coordinate activities among the Copermittees to ensure compliance with the TMDL monitoring provisions of the Permit, as required by Parts 3.E.1(b) and (e).

The Watershed Protection District contracted consulting services to help develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for monitoring, a database to maintain monitoring data, training on the database, and to provide technical support to staff at the Watershed Protection District, as needed.

3.2.1 Mass Emission and Major Outfall Monitoring

Attachment F, Part A of the Permit requires the Watershed Protection District to monitor water quality at a total of three mass emission stations located (one per river) on the Ventura River, Santa Clara River, and Calleguas Creek during a minimum of four monitoring events (i.e. three wet-weather storm events, one dry-weather) annually and report the result to the Regional Board. Attachment F, Part B of the Permit requires the Watershed Protection District to monitor major storm drain outfalls transporting representative discharges from each of the Copermittees drainage areas during a minimum of four monitoring events annually and report the result to the Regional Board. A description of the monitoring activities and summary of the results were included in the 2010/2011 Annual Report (see Appendix B, B.16).

Pursuant to the receiving water limitations specified within Part 2 of the Permit, discharges from the MS4 that cause or contribute to a violation of a water quality standard (WQS) are prohibited. If an exceedance of a WQS persists, notwithstanding implementation of the Permit, the Copermittee is required to submit a report to the Regional Board describing BMPs currently implemented as well as additional BMPs that will be implemented to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants causing or contributing to the exceedance of a WQS. The submittal of this report is the first step in an iterative process described in Parts 2.3(a)-(d) of the Permit whereby the Regional Board Executive Officer has an opportunity to require modifications to the report's recommendations for additional BMPs. Permittees are to submit any required modifications to the report for the Executive Officer's approval, and implement the approved, modified BMPs along with any required monitoring according to an approved schedule. After the additional BMPs are implemented, if it's determined that there are still exceedances of Receiving Water Limitations, a report with another set of additional

BMPs to be implemented is submitted for the Executive Officer's approval and another iteration of the process is implemented. When the required reports of additional BMPs are not submitted in the first place, there isn't implementation of the iterative process laid out in Parts 2.3(a)-(d) of the Permit to address exceedances of Receiving Water Limitations.

Under the approach described by the Watershed Protection District in section 9.4.1 of the 2010/2011 Annual Report (p. 9-8), if a WQS is exceeded at a mass emission station, the upstream major outfalls are sampled to determine if the same pollutant is present above the applicable WQS. If so, the Copermitttee discharging through the major outfall is considered to be responsible for causing or contributing to the exceedance of a WQS. If two or more WQS exceedances are detected for the same constituent within the same monitoring season, then the elevated level is determined to be persistent.

3.2.2 Receiving Water Limitations - Reports of WQS Exceedances for the 2010/2011 Monitoring Season

Ventura River Mass Emission Station WQS Exceedances

According to the Watershed Protection District's 2010/2011 Annual Report, elevated levels of E. coli and fecal coliform relative to the applicable WQSs for these pollutants were detected at the Ventura River mass emissions station (ME-VR2) during all three 2010/2011 wet weather sampling events. Elevated levels of these same pollutants were detected at both upstream major outfall sampling locations (Meiners Oaks, MO-MEI; and Ojai, MO-OJA) and ME-VR2 during the same monitoring event. Accordingly, these exceedances are considered likely "caused or contributed to" by the MS4 discharge. In addition, these exceedances are considered "persistent" because elevated levels in receiving waters (mass emissions) and urban runoff (major outfalls) were detected during multiple wet weather sampling events within the same monitoring season. Given these findings, the City of Ojai, the sole Permittee upstream of the point of discharge, is required to comply with Permit provisions 2.3(a)-(d).

Santa Clara River Mass Emission Station WQS Exceedances

According to the Watershed Protection District's 2010/2011 Annual Report , elevated levels of E. coli, fecal coliform, and aluminum relative to the applicable WQSs for these pollutants were detected at the Santa Clara River mass emissions station (ME-SCR) during multiple 2010/2011 wet weather sampling events. Elevated levels of these same pollutants were detected at both upstream major outfall sampling locations (Filmore, MO-FIL; and Santa Paula, MO-SPA), both downstream major outfall sampling locations (Oxnard, MO-oxn; and Ventura, MO-ven) and ME-SCR during at least one wet weather sampling event. Accordingly, these exceedances are considered likely "caused or contributed to" by the MS4 discharge. In addition, these exceedances are considered

“persistent” because elevated levels in receiving waters and urban runoff were detected during multiple wet weather sampling¹ events within the same monitoring season.

Because no receiving water monitoring locations exist downstream of the Oxnard (MO-OXN) and Ventura (MO-VEN) major outfall sampling locations, the WPD explained in its 2010/2011 Annual Report that water quality at the upstream mass emission station (ME-SCR) will be assumed to represent receiving water quality downstream of MO-OXN and MO-VEN for purpose of applying the “cause or contribute” methodology. Given these findings, the cities of Fillmore, Santa Paula, Oxnard, and Ventura are required to comply with Permit provisions 2.3(a)-(d).

Calleguas Creek Mass Emission Station WQS Exceedances

According to the Watershed Protection District’s 2010/2011 Annual Report, elevated levels of E. coli, fecal coliform, and aluminum relative to the applicable WQSs for these pollutants were detected at the Calleguas Creek mass emissions station (ME-CC) during all three 2010/2011 wet weather sampling events. Elevated levels of these same pollutants were detected at all upstream major outfall sampling locations (Moorpark, MO-MPK; Simi Valley, MO-SIM; and Thousand Oaks, MO-THO), the sole downstream major outfall sampling location (Camarillo, MO-CAM) and ME-CC during the same monitoring event and are therefore considered likely “caused or contributed to” by the MS4 discharge. These exceedances are considered “persistent” because elevated levels in receiving waters and urban runoff were detected during multiple wet weather sampling events within the same monitoring season.

Because no receiving water monitoring locations exist downstream of the Camarillo (MO-CAM) major outfall sampling locations, the WPD explained in its 2010/2011 Annual Report that water quality at ME-CC will be assumed to represent receiving water quality at MO-CAM for purpose of applying the “cause or contribute” methodology. Given these findings, the cities of Moorpark, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Camarillo are required to comply with Permit provisions 2.3(a)-(d).

Annual Reports

Pursuant to the requirements of Part 3.E.1(h) of the Permit, the Watershed Protection District, with input from the Copermittees, prepared and submitted its 2010/2011 Annual Report to the Regional Board.

Pathogen Indicators

The Annual Report includes a detailed description of the E. coli and fecal coliform exceedance(s) along with a summary of the mass emission and major outfall sample data, a description of the BMPs currently being implemented to address these pollutants (i.e. public outreach/education and illicit connection/illicit discharge (IC/ID) elimination

¹ Elevated levels of aluminum were detected multiple times at all major outfall sampling locations except MO-FIL during the 2010-2011 monitoring season. As such, the aluminum exceedance detected at the MO-FIL sampling location is not considered “persistent.”

efforts), and a description of additional BMPs proposed to more effectively control pathogens within the applicable watersheds. Specifically, the WPD indicates in its Annual Report that the Permittees are *considering (emphasis added)* enhanced outreach efforts focusing on the effects of domestic animal waste on the watershed and “source tracking through additional sampling for indicator species...to identify the source(s) of fecal bacteria... to assist in the selection of BMPs better suited to control a particular bacteria source.”

Program Deficiency

The WPD failed to submit an annual report which describes additional BMPs implemented by the Copermittees to reduce pathogens in storm water discharges within their respective jurisdictions. [Part 4.1.4(b)]

As discussed above, the Annual Report describes the BMPs currently being implemented and additional BMPs proposed for implementation to control these pollutants, but fails to commit the Copermittees to proactively implement any program improvements prior to Regional Board approval.

Although WPD staff explained that no response was received from the Regional Board following submission of the 2010/2011 Annual Report, EPA recommends that the WPD provide technical and administrative support to the cities of Ojai, Fillmore, Santa Paula, Oxnard, Ventura, Moorpark, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Camarillo to ensure successful implementation of the enhanced outreach efforts and source tracking BMPs described within Section 6.9.1.3 of the Annual Report. In addition, EPA recommends that updates on progress toward compliance with the E. coli and fecal coliform WQSs be included in subsequent annual report submissions.

Aluminum

The Annual Report includes a detailed description of the aluminum exceedances, a summary of the mass emission and major outfall sample data, and a description of the BMPs currently being implemented to address aluminum (primarily through measures to control sediment as a surrogate, given known concentrations of aluminum in sediments throughout Ventura County). These BMPs include street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, debris basin maintenance, and operation/maintenance of Permittee-owned treatment control BMPs where applicable. In addition, the Annual Report cites the Copermittees ongoing implementation of their respective Industrial/Commercial, Development Construction, Public Agency Activities, and Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Elimination programs as BMPs currently being implemented to reduce the concentration of aluminum in stormwater discharges.

Program Deficiency

The WPD failed to submit an Annual Report which describes the additional BMPs that will be implemented by the Copermittees to reduce aluminum in storm water dischargers within their respective jurisdictions. [Part 4.1.4(b)]

The Annual Report describes the Copermittees efforts to implement the baseline program elements required by the Permit, but fails to describe any additional BMPs that will be implemented by the Copermittees (i.e. program management improvements and/or structural/non-structural control measures) to prevent or reduce the discharge of aluminum likely causing or contributing to the WQS exceedances.

EPA recommends that the cities of Santa Paula, Oxnard, Ventura, Moorpark, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Camarillo implement program improvements within their respective Development Construction Programs, including increased inspection frequencies and more thorough construction site inspections focused on operator compliance with proper selection, installation and maintenance of structural/non-structural sediment control BMPs.

3.2.6 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Monitoring

Parts 3.E.1(b) and (e) of the Permit require the Watershed Protection District to “coordinate and facilitate activities necessary to comply with the Permit” and “evaluate, assess, and synthesize the results of the monitoring program and the effectiveness of the implementation of BMPs.” In addition, Attachment I (Reporting Program) requires the Watershed Protection District to submit an Annual Report to the Regional Board Executive Officer documenting the status of the General Storm Water Program, including an integrated summary of the year’s monitoring results for each TMDL. The Watershed Protection District is not, however, responsible for ensuring compliance by the other Copermittees with the requirements of the Permit.

Parts 5.IV and VI of the Permit identify the TMDLs in effect for each of the watersheds within the County, the Waste Load Allocations (WLAs), compliance monitoring activities, and actions or special studies required by the Copermittees to address identified impairments.

According to Watershed Protection District staff, data collected as part of the Countywide Monitoring Program was provided to the Copermittees for use, where applicable, to fulfill certain TMDL monitoring provisions. The Copermittees have elected not to use the data, and in some instances have performed sampling of their own for TMDL evaluation. In addition, as noted above in Section 3.1.3, a summary of the year’s monitoring results for each TMDL was not included in the 2010/2011 Annual Report as required by Attachment I, Part 1.A.4 of the Permit.

Recommendation for Program Improvement

Improve coordination with the Copermittees to ensure TMDL monitoring is conducted, BMPs are implemented, and monitoring results are included in the Annual Report.

As noted above in Section 3.1.3, a summary of the year’s monitoring results for each TMDL was not included in the 2010/2011 Annual Report as required by Attachment I, Part 1.A.4 of the Permit. While the Watershed Protection District is not responsible for ensuring Copermittee compliance with Permit requirements, enhanced coordination with

the Copermittees appears necessary to support the Copermittees efforts to comply with the TMDL provisions of the Permit.

Appendix A – Additional Inspection Report Materials

	Page
A.1 – INSPECTION SCHEDULE	2
A.2 – INSPECTION SIGN-IN SHEET	3

A.1 – Inspection Schedule

Tentative Agenda for MS4 Program Inspection Ventura County Watershed Protection District, California June 27, 2012		
Day	Time	Program Area/ Agenda Item
Wednesday June 27, 2012	8:00 am – 8:30 am	Kick-off Meeting & Program Management Overview (Office)
	8:30 am – 10:00 am	Program Management (Office)
	10:00 am – 10:15 am	Break
	10:15 am – 11:00 pm	Program Management (Office)
	11:00 am – 11:45 pm	Monitoring and Reporting Program (Office)
	11:45 am – 12:00 pm	Logistics Planning for Afternoon
	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break
	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Monitoring and Reporting Program (Office)
	3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Open Period for Additional Activities ¹ and Internal Discussion ² (Tentative time slot)
	4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Informal Out-brief (Tentative time slot)

¹ Open Period for Additional Activities – Will be decided by the EPA Audit Team during the audit activity in collaboration with City staff.

² Internal Discussion – Time for inspectors to arrange notes and prepare information to be discussed with County of Ventura Watershed Protection District staff at the out-brief. County of Ventura Watershed Protection District participation is not expected.

A.2 - Inspection Sign-in Sheet

MS4 PROGRAM EVALUATION SIGN-IN SHEET (PLEASE PRINT)				
Permittee:	County of Ventura Watershed Protection District		Date conducted:	6/27/12
Permit No.				
Name	Title	Company	Department	Phone
Martina Overton	EPA Contractor	P6 Environmental		(805) 572-2941
Brian Sever	Water Resources Specialist	VC-WPD		805-227-1000
WILLIAM CAREY	"	"		805-662-6835
KELLY HAHS	"	"		805-658-4387
ARNE ANSELM	WATER QUALITY MGR Senior Env. Scientist	VCWPD		805-654-3942
J. Van K. Ridgeway	Water Quality MGR	RWP6B-6A	Storm Water Permitting	(213) 620-2150
Nerdy Liu	Eng. Geologist	"	SW Compliance	415-660-2219
Greg Galton	Env. Scientist	USEPA	CWA (VTR-7)	415-947-4209

Appendix B – Catalog of Reference Materials

The materials listed in this appendix are relevant to the evaluation but have not been included in the submittal of this inspection report. Copies of materials noted below are maintained by U.S. EPA Region 9 and can be made available upon request.

- B.1 – NPDES Implementation Agreement Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program, 1992
- B.2 – NPDES Implementation Agreement Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program, 2010
- B.3 – Ventura Principal Permittee Overview Presentation, dated June 27, 2012
- B.4 – Youth Public Outreach Panel Survey #2, dated December 2010
- B.5 – #4 Residential Panel Survey Illustrated Response Data, dated June 2012
- B.6 – Fact Sheet Distribution, dated December 21, 2009
- B.7 – Outreach and Education Tracking, dated September 2010
- B.8 – Retail Breakdown Brochure, dated December 21, 2009
- B.9 – Annual Report Data Summary Sheet – Industrial and Commercial Business Inspections, 2011-2012
- B.10 – Annual Report Data Summary Sheet – Construction Inspections, 2011-2012
- B.11 – Annual Report Data Summary Sheet – Illicit Discharge and Illicit Connections, 2011-2012
- B.12 – Annual Report Data Summary Sheet – Land Development, 2011-2012
- B.13 – Annual Report Data Summary Sheet – Program Management, 2011-2012
- B.14 – Annual Report Data Summary Sheet – Public Agency Activities, 2011-2012
- B.15 – Annual Report Data Summary Sheet – Public Outreach, 2011-2012
- B.16 – Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program Annual Report, Attachment F – Water Quality Monitoring Report, 2010-2011 Permit Year
- B.17 – Stormwater Program: Water Quality Monitoring Standard Operating Procedures 2009-2014, Revised February 2011
- B.18 – Email from Arne Anselm (Watershed Protection District) to Ivar Ridgeway (Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board), Subject: Stormwater Monitoring Event 3, 2011-12 Summary, dated May 22, 2012

