

## C-1.0 INTRODUCTION

### C-1.1 Annual Reports

The Orange County Stormwater Program (the Program) is a regulatory compliance partnership comprising the cities of Aliso Viejo, Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Dana Point, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Habra, La Palma, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Los Alamitos, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster, and Yorba Linda, the County of Orange and the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) (collectively the Permittees) who operate an interconnected municipal storm drain system which discharges stormwater and urban runoff pursuant to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permits.

The MS4 Permits, administered by the Santa Ana and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Boards (subsequently referred to as the Santa Ana Regional Board, the San Diego Regional Board or collectively as the Regional Boards), require the Permittees to develop and implement surface water quality protection and management programs and report annually on progress and program effectiveness. Orange County's MS4 Permits were first adopted in 1990 and subsequently renewed in 1996 (Second Term), 2002 (Third Term) and 2009 (Fourth Term<sup>1</sup>). South Orange County, which is under the jurisdiction of the San Diego Regional Board, was added into this Board's Regional Permit (R9-2013-0001 as amended R9-2015-0001 and R9-2015-0100) in February 2015. This Annual Report discusses the Program's activities over the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

### C-1.2 Purpose and Organization of Reports

The purpose of this report is to:

- Describe all activities that were conducted during the reporting period to comply with the Fourth Term Permit<sup>2</sup>;
- Assess program effectiveness, and
- Identify areas of future "Program Focus" which may involve either enhanced implementation or additional areas of program development.

The organization of the annual report reflects the organization and content of the program's principal planning document, which is the Drainage Area Management Plan (DAMP). The DAMP comprises policy and program guidance, jurisdiction specific Local Implementation Plans (LIPs), and watershed plans. Accordingly, this report comprises:

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<sup>1</sup> Order No. R8-2009-0030 was adopted by the Santa Ana Regional Board on May 22, 2009. Order No. R9-2009-0002 was adopted on December 16, 2009

<sup>2</sup> This report excludes activities in South Orange County that are not common to both the Regional Permit and Order No. R8-2009-0030.

- A countywide unified assessment (this Unified Report);
- Jurisdictional assessments completed separately by each Permittee (individual reports prepared by each Permittee; and
- A review of watershed-based initiatives.

This countywide unified assessment discusses activities undertaken by the Principal Permittee as program coordinator and presents an overview of countywide program implementation. The following information is presented:

- A review of the program management framework (committee and sub-committee structure) and a fiscal analysis report (**Section C-2.0**);
- A review of the countywide and watershed planning processes and associated technical studies (**Section C-3.0**);
- A review of the status of program implementation and compliance with the schedules contained in the permits (**Sections C-4.0, C-5.0 and C-7.0 - C-12.0**);
- A review of the status and effectiveness of the public education and outreach program (**Section C-6.0**);
- A review of the status of the control measures established under the Illegal Discharges/Illicit Connections (ID/IC) elimination program (**Section C-10.0**);
- A summary and analysis of monitoring results from the water quality monitoring program (**Section C-11.0**);
- A review of the status and effectiveness of concurrent complementary efforts to manage urban stormwater quality at the watershed scale (**Section C-12.0**);
- A description of the proposed programmatic direction for the July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 reporting period (**Section C-13.0**).

### C-1.3 Background

#### C-1.3.1 Environment

The Program addresses the impacts to creeks, rivers, streams and coastal waters that can arise from the imprint of urban development on the landscape. Urbanization creates rooftops, driveways, roads and parking lots (Schueler and Holland, 2000<sup>3</sup>, use the term *Imperviousness* as the unifying theme for understanding the adverse hydrologic impacts of urbanization), which (1) increase the timing and volume of rainfall runoff (compared to pre-development conditions) and (2) provide a source of pollutants that are flushed or leached by rainfall runoff or dry weather runoff into surface water systems. The environmental consequences of these impacts can be loss or impairment of aquatic beneficial uses due to:

- Water quality degradation from increased loadings of sediment, nutrients, metals hydrocarbons, pesticides, and bacteria;

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<sup>3</sup> *The Practice of Watershed Protection*, 2000, T.R. Schuler and H.K. Holland, The Center for Watershed Protection.

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- Stream channel instability and habitat loss from increased severity and frequency of runoff events;
- Loss of groundwater recharge, and
- Increased water temperatures from solar energy absorption by urban surfaces and elimination of riparian shading.

### C-1.3.2 Clean Water Act

The 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act, subsequently known as the Clean Water Act (CWA), established the NPDES permitting program to regulate the discharge of pollutants to waterways. In 1987, Congress passed an Amendment to the CWA, the Water Quality Act, which brought stormwater discharges into the NPDES permitting program. United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) subsequently promulgated stormwater regulations (40 CFR Parts 122, 123 and 124) on November 16, 1990, which established NPDES permit application requirements for municipal storm drain system operators and industrial dischargers of stormwater.

### C-1.3.3 Municipal NPDES Stormwater Permits

In response to the stormwater regulations, the Permittees have obtained, renewed and complied with NPDES stormwater permits from the Santa Ana and San Diego Regional Boards (see **Table C-1.1, Permit History**). Each permit renewal has required the Permittees to coordinate the development and implementation of a surface water (i.e. creeks, rivers, streams and coastal waters) quality protection and management program to:

- Effectively prohibit non-stormwater discharges into the storm sewers; and
- Reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable (MEP), using management practices, control techniques and system, design and engineering methods, and such other provisions as the Administrator or the State determines appropriate for the control of such pollutants.

The permits have also required the preparation of Annual Progress Reports.

### C-1.3.4 DAMP

The DAMP is the Permittees' primary policy and planning document for municipal NPDES stormwater permit compliance. The DAMP's principal objective is to fulfill the Permittees' commitment to develop and implement a program that satisfies NPDES permit requirements.

To address divergent permit requirements, while maintaining the synergistic cohesion of a countywide program, the DAMP includes LIPs, prepared by the Santa Ana Region Permittees, and LIPs (also termed Jurisdictional Runoff Management Plans (JRMPs)) prepared by the San Diego Region Permittees. The LIPs were created to assist each Permittee in implementing an increasingly complex program within its jurisdiction while maintaining a single overarching policy document that is addressing two sets of

permit requirements.

The requirement to overlay separate, but nonetheless, highly interrelated water quality protection and planning processes based on hydrologic rather than political boundaries has been addressed through the creation of watershed plans.

### **C-1.4 Program Effectiveness Assessment (PEA) Strategy**

Programmatic achievements can be characterized in terms of six levels of outcome. **Figure C-1.1** shows these levels as a gradation from activity-based to water quality-based outcomes and illustrates the progression in each level toward the ultimate goal of confirmation of environmental improvement. In general, Levels 1 to 3 can be considered *Implementation Outcomes*, Levels 5 and 6 *Water Quality Outcomes* and Level 4 a combination of the two types. Each level can have value in informing the management process. However, it bears emphasis that not all are necessary or possible in every instance (CASQA, 2007 and 2015)<sup>4</sup>.

#### C-1.4.1 Assessment Measures

In this Annual Progress Report, two basic categories of assessment measure are recognized, related to (1) the shorter term confirmation of BMP implementation corresponding to CASQA Outcome Levels 1-3 and (2) the longer term verification of environmental improvement corresponding to CASQA Outcomes Levels 4-6. In essence, this categorization of measures reflects two basic assessment questions:

- Are program elements being implemented correctly?
- Are environmental improvements being realized?

Key attributes of the assessment measures include:

- Measurability (statistically measurable on a frequent basis);
- Relevance (significant, demonstrable relation to strategy and objectives);
- Reliability (easily documented and reproducible);
- Availability (based upon data obtainable at reasonable cost);
- Scientific validity (based on sound science), and
- Replicability (capable of being regularly updated).

Headline Indicators are intended to be a sub-set of assessment measures that reflect in simple terms how a stormwater program is progressing towards its goals and are intended to be easily understood. The Program's Headline Measures are described in **Table C-1.2**.

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<sup>4</sup> *Municipal Stormwater Program Effectiveness Assessment Guidance (CASQA, 2007) and A strategic approach to planning for and assessing the effectiveness of stormwater programs (CASQA, 2015)*

### C-1.4.2 Effectiveness Assessment

Effectiveness assessment requires the initial establishment of a set of baseline conditions. Thereafter, effectiveness can be evaluated by comparisons of successive years of indicator information against the baseline data. Where the evaluation period is characterized by the implementation of new program requirements, determinations of program effectiveness will initially be limited to confirmation of program implementation. It must be recognized that direct measures of program effectiveness may not be available within the timeframe of any one permit term because:

- Baseline water quality conditions are not readily established;
- Water quality changes in response to program implementation are likely to be very slow; and
- Establishing a link between receiving water condition and program activities is difficult at the watershed scale when re-construction of the urban landscape is occurring primarily and incrementally with the development/redevelopment cycle.

The process of program effectiveness assessment is conducted at two scales (**Figure C-1.2**). At the jurisdictional or Permittee level, the assessment is conducted annually and focuses on program implementation. Inferences about the connection of management program elements to water quality improvements made in these assessments will predominantly be drawn from the assessment of programmatic indicators and indirect measures of progress. The outcome of these individual assessments is proposed revisions to the LIPs described in the Permittees' **Exhibits** to this report.

At the countywide program level, the major assessment is done principally on a five yearly basis with an emphasis on using direct measures of progress. This assessment is targeted at informing the review and revision of the DAMP during preparation of the Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) using information from the water quality monitoring program. In the intervening periods, this information may be used to direct LIP revision contingent upon its availability.

While program effectiveness assessment is a key step in the iterative process of program implementation, it should be realized that effectiveness assessment itself is a part of the management process that is also evolving. Assessing program effectiveness is recognized as a challenge for program managers across California, and the Program has supported CASQA's effort to develop guidance in this area at a statewide level (CASQA, 2007 and 2015).

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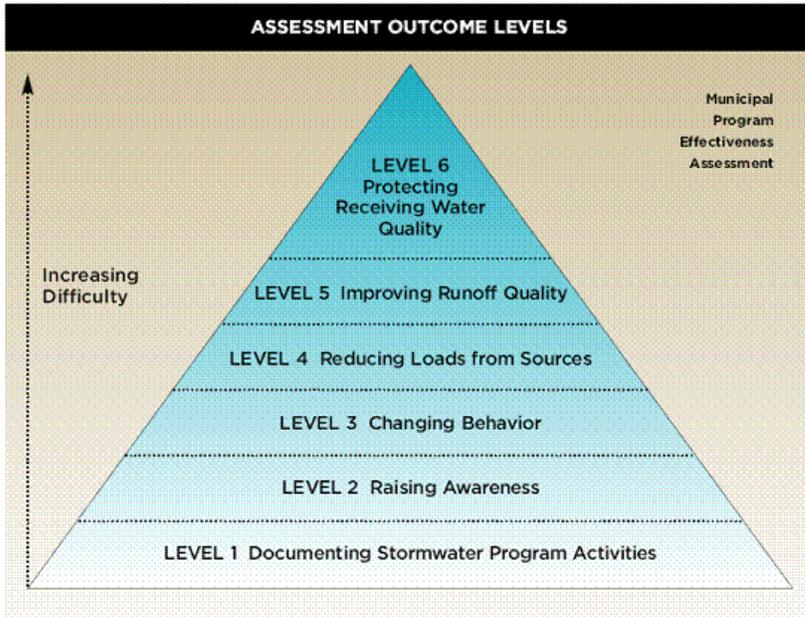
**Table C-1.1: Permit History**

Permit Term	Santa Ana Regional Board			Permit Term	San Diego Regional Board		
	Order No.	NPDES No.	Date Adopted		Order No.	NPDES No.	Date Adopted
First (1990-1996)	90-71	CA 8000180	July 1990	First (1990-1996)	90-38	CA 0108740	July 1990
Second (1996-2002)	96-31	CAS618030	March 1996	Second (1996-2002)	96-03	CAS0108740	August 1996
Third (2002-2009)	R8-2002-0010	CAS618030	January 2002	Third (2002-2009)	R9-2002-0001	CAS0108740	February 2002
Fourth (2009- )	R8-2009-0030	CAS618030	May 2009	Fourth (2009-2015)	R9-2009-0020	CAS0108740	December 2009
Fifth	NA	NA	NA	Fifth (2015 - )	R9-2013-0001 as amended by R9-2015-0001 and R9-2015-0100	CAS0109266	February 2015 (Amended November 2015)

Table C-1.2: Headline Measures

Program Element	Headline Measure	Process Measure	Result Measure	
			Indirect	Direct
C-2.0 Program Management	Participation in General Permittee Committee	X		
C-5.0 Municipal Activities	Solid Waste Collected		X	
	Drainage Facility Maintenance - Solid Waste Collected		X	
	Catchbasin Stenciling	X		
	Street Sweeping - Solid Waste Collected		X	
	Household Hazardous Waste Collected		X	
	Used Oil Collected		X	
	# of Facilities Inspected	X		
	Prioritization (High, Medium, Low) of Facilities		X	
	Reduction in Total Pesticide Application		X	
	Reduction in Total Fertilizer (Nitrogen) Application		X	
	Reduction in Total Fertilizer (Phosphorus) Application		X	
C-6.0 Public Education	# of Impressions	X		
	Changes in Public Awareness and Behavior		X	
C-7.0 New Development	# of WQMPs processed	X		
	Area (Acreage) to which BMPs have been Applied		X	
	# of BMPs Implemented		X	
C-8.0 Construction	# of Sites Inspected	X		
	Extent of Compliance		X	
	# and Level of Enforcement Actions	X		
C-9.0 Existing Development	# of BMPs Implemented		X	
	Prioritization of Facilities		X	
	# and Level of Enforcement Actions	X		
C-10.0 ID/IC	# of Complaints		X	
	# and Level of Enforcement Actions	X		
C-11.0 Water Quality	Monitoring: Aquatic chemistry and stream system biology.			X

Figure C-1.1: General Classification of Outcome Types (CASQA, 2007 and 2015)

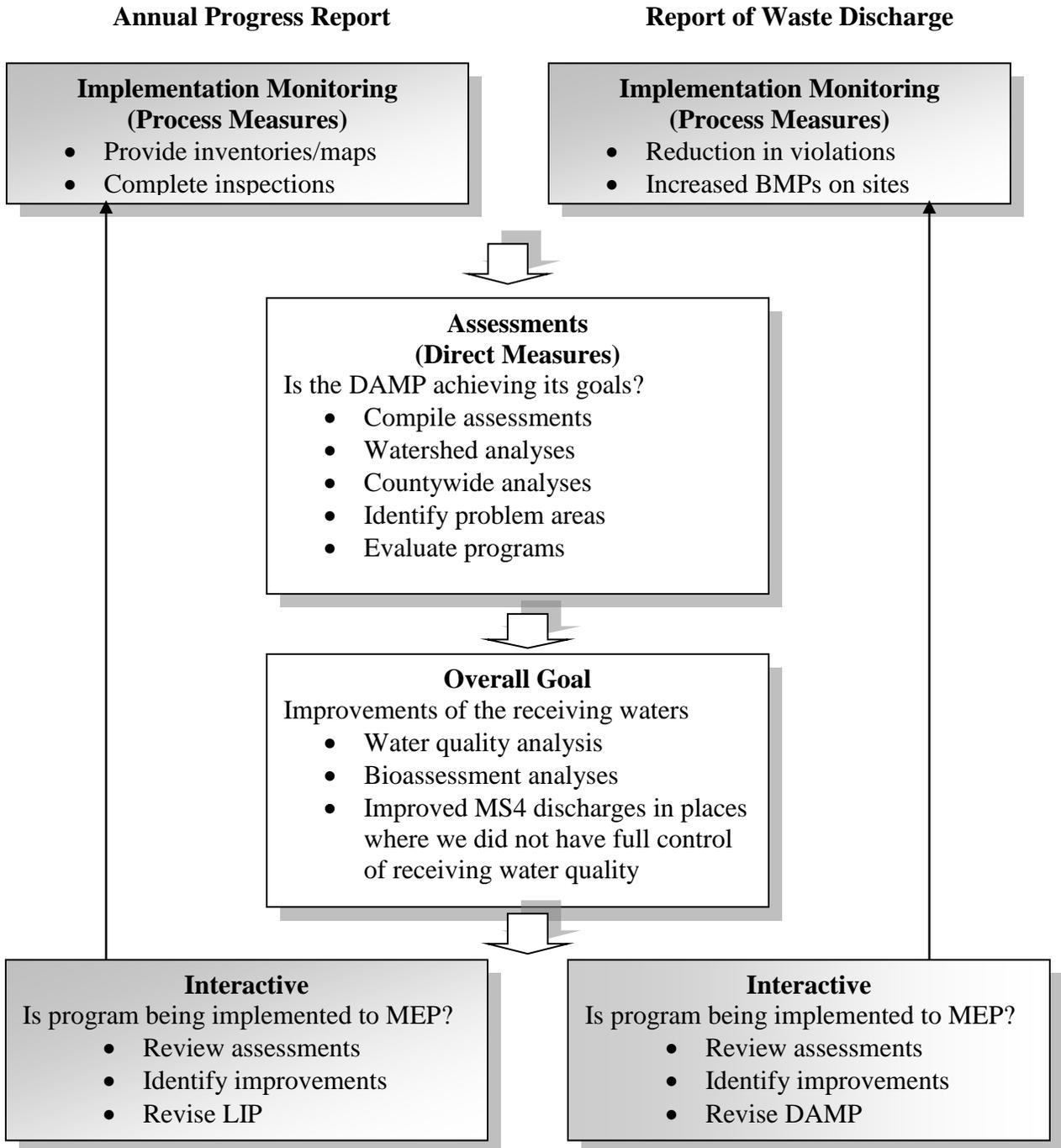


From CASQA, 2007



From CASQA, 2015.

Figure C-1.2: Program Effectiveness Assessment Flow Chart



Shaded boxes are explicitly within the Permittee program effectiveness assessments. Unshaded boxes are within Principal Permittee program effectiveness assessments.