



Brief Summary of MS4 Permit Auditor General's Report

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Audit Report

- Results of the Report were Released on March 1
- Auditor Report was made at the urging of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee chaired by Assembly Member Muratsuchi (in response to city complaints about MS4 costs)
- Audit concerned with excessive MS4 Permit costs, especially in Los Angeles County
- Focused on water management plans (viz. EWMPs)
- Report seriously criticized the L.A. and State water boards for not taking into consideration cost impact on local governments

Audit Report

- Op. Ed. Piece in Lancaster Group papers (including the Daily Breeze)
- Caption: *California Cities Risk Being Sunk by Unnecessary stormwater Clean-up Costs*
- Front of the Audit Report reads: They (the water boards) Must Do More to Reduce Stormwater Pollution Are Necessary and Appropriate

Audit Report

➤ Audit Findings

- Water quality pollutant control plans established by regional boards can be expensive and take considerable time to complete.
- Of the 20 pollutant control plans reviewed, the regional boards inadequately considered the costs local jurisdictions would incur to comply with the plans and did not determine the overall cost of storm water management
- Although local jurisdictions must annually report to the regional boards their actual and projected costs in meeting storm water requirements, the State Water Board has not provided guidance on how to track or report that information, and, as a result, reported costs have been inconsistent.
- L.A. Regional Board failed to provide adequate oversight over EWMP compliance submittals
 - local example is the City of Lomita participates in the Dominguez Channel EWMP but is not subject to the DC toxics TMDL (according to LA County Cost Data Lomita is required to pay \$58,456,951 in two years)

Audit Report

- Regional boards have established some pollutant control plans without obtaining key information on how the conditions of the specific water body affect pollutants – talking about TMDLs here
- Regional Board applied improper TMDLs for compliance (e.g., fecal coliform), which resulted in higher than necessary compliance costs
- Audit criticized a statewide policy prohibiting discharging trash into water bodies has caused some local jurisdictions to expend resources to address trash instead of pollutants that are of greater concern to their jurisdictions – affects Dominguez Channel cities that are not subject to a trash TMDL and will add more compliance costs beyond the EWMP.

Audit Report

- Audit Recommendations
 - State board must develop guidelines assessing MS4 Permit costs before imposing them on municipalities
 - State board must develop a standard method for cities to report annual compliance costs
 - Legislation to require water boards to conduct studies accurately assessing water quality problems which would result in lower compliance costs (talks about bogus TMDLs)
- SBCCOG and/or individual cities can request State electeds within their service area to implement the Audit Report's recommendations