



Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program

January 24, 2012

Participating Agencies

Camarillo

County of Ventura

Fillmore

Moorpark

Ojai

Oxnard

Port Hueneme

San Buenaventura

Santa Paula

Simi Valley

Thousand Oaks

Ventura County
Watershed Protection
District

Laura McLean
Division of Financial Assistance
Loans and Grants Branch
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 84 STORMWATER GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FLOW CRITERIA TO SUPPORT FRESHWATER BIO-OBJECTIVES, HYDROMODIFICATION MANAGEMENT, AND NUTRIENT NUMERIC ENDPOINTS

Dear Ms. McLean:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the proposal titled, *Technical Support for Development of Numeric Flow Criteria to Support Freshwater Bio-objectives, Hydromodification Management, and Nutrient Numeric Endpoints*, being submitted for consideration for the State Water Resources Control Board's Proposition 84 Storm Water Grant Program by the team from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and Colorado State University (CSU). The proposed work will support development of regulatory and management programs that will help protect stream beneficial uses from the effects of flow modification.

Hydrologic changes associated with urban development, infrastructure, agriculture, and energy have resulted in impacts to the physical, chemical, and biological structure of streams throughout California. A variety of new and emerging regulatory and management programs aim to address this issue through requirements on new development and/or retrofit or restoration efforts. Success of these programs can be best evaluated by measuring biological endpoints which not only provide a direct measure of many beneficial uses, but also integrate conditions over time. The goal of this project is to develop an approach for establishing instream environmental flow requirements necessary to meet ecological benchmarks as defined by measures of benthic macro invertebrate community composition and structure. These requirements can then be used to help establish criteria for use in hydromodification management, nutrient numeric endpoints, and freshwater Bioobjectives and to evaluate progress toward meeting these criteria.



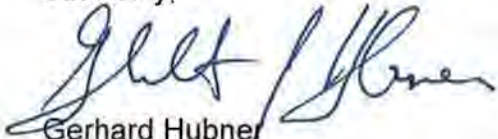
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The Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Program would directly benefit from the results of this work. We perform bioassessments as part of the Southern California Regional Bioassessment Program. Understanding where benthic macroinvertebrate communities are impacted is only the first step to making improvements. This project will help provide tools to understand what other than water chemistry may be causing those impacts. Only then can resources be confidently dedicated to making needed improvements.

The SCCWRP-CSU team brings unique interdisciplinary expertise and scientific rigor to the project. The principle scientists involved have been working on issues of hydromodification and bioassessment in California for close to ten years have a proven record of producing quality products of relevance. Their past work has emphasized close coordination with agencies and end users to ensure that the results are not only technical valid, but directly applicable to meet agency needs. We are confident that this project will similarly achieve these objectives

I am pleased to offer our endorsement and support for the proposed project and look forward to using the results in meet our mandates in the future. If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (805)654-5051.

Sincerely,



Gerhard Hubner
*On Behalf of the Entire
Ventura Countywide Stormwater Management Committee*

CC: Dr. Eric Stein, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project