

Executive Summary

This Annual Report discusses the Permittees' Permit compliance activities for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. For the time period of July 1, 2021 to September 10, 2021 NPDES Permit No. CAS004002/Order No. 10-108 was effective. On September 11, 2021, NPDES Permit No. CAS004004/Order No. R4-2021-0105 (collectively 'Permit') became effective for the remainder of the reporting period. Each Permittee's required Attachments as part of Order No. R4-2021-0105 are included in Attachment F of this Annual Report. All Ventura County Permittees chose the option to participate in the development of a Watershed Management Program (WMP), which is due to the Regional Board by September 11, 2023. Implementation and reporting of modified minimum control measures as defined in the WMP will occur after approval of the WMP by the Regional Board. This report includes a description of all activities conducted during the reporting period, and the efforts to improve water quality throughout Ventura County by the Permittees. The purpose of this Annual Report is to show compliance with the Permit, and to meet the reporting requirement that an Annual Stormwater Report be submitted by December 15th of each year; in its entirety this Report also serves as the Receiving Water Limitations Report. Since the Permit did not require a Stormwater Management Plan this Annual Report also serves to clarify the Permit's requirements and the efforts put forth by the Permittees to meet them. Finally, program effectiveness assessment of the implementation of the Permit requirements are examined with potential areas for improvement identified.

The Permittees, who contributed the information and data regarding their programs, were instrumental in the preparation of this Annual Report. Cooperating through the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program (Program) the Permittees ensure information and workloads are shared, economies of scale achieved, and an efficient and effective Program is realized. Together through the implementation of various comprehensive program elements we have strived for improved water quality through compliance with all requirements of the Permit. Each program element has a subcommittee working to develop needed forms, protocols, and procedures to ensure future Permit compliance. The programs, methods, and this Annual Report are continually being refined to improve effectiveness, apply lessons learned, identify and address additional sources of stormwater pollutants, and therefore improve water quality.

Notable accomplishments made by the Permittees and the Program over this reporting period include:

- Continued engagement with Regional Board members and staff during Regional Permit renewal in the hopes of ensuring a Permit that is right for Ventura County, including the submittal of comprehensive comment packages and testimony at Permit adoption hearings.
- Submitted Notices of Intent to develop a Watershed Management Program and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program including draft Water Body-Pollutant Combination tables to the Regional Board. Executed contracts for Watershed Management Program development, and other Regional Permit implementation efforts.
- Water quality at beaches throughout Ventura County remained above average for Southern California in Heal the Bay's 2021/22 Annual Beach Report Card (BRC). 97% of Ventura County Beaches earned an A grade for summer dry weather and wet weather grades were "great and above average", with 87% receiving an A grade.
- Completed effort in SCCWRP's Bight '18 Microbiology Coliphage Study and Trash Assessment.
- Stakeholders are submitting new projects in the Stormwater Resource Plan using a tool developed by the Program that automatically calculates the quantitative and qualitative benefits.
- Continued to inform and engage the highest levels of management about the programmatic and financial impacts of a new Regional Permit through new and refined communication tools.

- The Public Outreach program made over 14.4 million impressions. New creative material was created, in both English and Spanish, focusing on pollutants of concern: trash/litter, pet waste, and yard chemicals. Over 3,400 elementary school age students were educated through virtual and in class performances by the EcoHero Show and his engaging and interactive eco-friendly songs.
- Conducted an adult effectiveness evaluation survey to assess the public's awareness, understanding, behaviors, and attitudes toward the Program's goals, innovative initiatives, and key messages. Findings will be used to better inform future outreach efforts.
- Continued to grow the new Community for a Clean Watershed public outreach Instagram account: www.instagram.com/cleanwatershed, including the addition of professional high quality local images.
- Coordinated the 2021 Ventura County Coastal Cleanup Day Event, as part of the California Coastal Cleanup Day. Individual neighborhood self-guided cleanups were encouraged throughout the month of September in addition to the cleanup sites on September 18, 2021. 2,127 volunteers participated either on their own or at an event, and together they picked up 19,503 pounds of trash and recyclables.
- Continued updating the Water Quality Index distilling the over 200 constituents monitored into an easy to communicate form and continued the comprehensive data analysis effort to prioritize pollutants of concern in outfalls and receiving waters that in turn will be used to prioritize Program activities.
- Eight Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plans Annual/Semiannual Reports were submitted to the Regional Board.
- Active participation in the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC) of Southern California, California Stormwater Quality Association, and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, including representation as Chair of SMC, Vice-Chair of SCCWRP CTAG and Co-Chair of CASQA Policy and Permitting subcommittee.

Three wet weather events were sampled at each of the fourteen monitoring stations. Nine of fourteen stations were sampled during dry weather and it can be inferred no pollutants were being discharged at the dry/unsampled stations. Aquatic toxicity samples were analyzed for all fourteen sites during the first sampled wet event of the monitoring year and no toxicity was observed. Biological assessments were performed in accordance with the new 2021-2025 Bioassessment Workplan, and at the Principal Permittee's fixed (Integrator) sites at the three receiving water stations.

The Water Quality Index (Index) shows generally good water quality scores across the County in dry weather, with the overall Index showing A and B grades at the mass emission stations during 2021/22. Wet weather overall scores decreased for ME-SCR and ME-VR, mostly due to lower salts, nutrients and metals scores at ME-SCR, and organics and metals scores at ME-VR. Bacteria (E. coli), metals, and/or salts concentrations continued to be the main contributor(s) at sites with lower overall scores for both wet and dry weather. Other constituents that were found at elevated levels in relation to applicable water quality objectives (WQO) at least once during wet-weather events include chloride, total dissolved solids, total cyanide, dissolved oxygen, total aluminum, nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen, and pentachlorophenol. Constituents not meeting dry-weather WQO at least once include pH, chloride, total dissolved solids, dissolved copper, total selenium, and bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate. Data from the Stormwater Monitoring Program (SMP) is used to identify pollutants of concern and direct efforts to reduce their discharge from the storm drain system.

Continued in this Annual Report are the Performance Standards for specific Permit requirements identified in each section along with the Permittees' status on achieving that standard. Permit compliance cannot be directly inferred solely by these Performance Standards as the complete effort of the Permittees cannot be reflected through these discrete metrics. Rather, the information is more suitable for use by the Permittees to gage their efforts and identify areas of needed improvement.