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Mr. Roger Briggs
Executive Officer
RWQCB, Central California Region
896 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

January 25, 2009

Re: Monterey Coastkeeper's public comments on the draft Stormwater Management Plan for Scotts Valley, submitted October 27, 2008

Dear Mr. Briggs,

I am writing to offer commentary on the Scotts Valley draft Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP), which was posted for public review in November of 2008. **The Monterey Coastkeeper opposes the approval of this draft, which we feel is overly vague, missing major components, and therefore does not meet the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) on several levels.**

Even recognizing the limitations of a small city in putting together and implementing an effective stormwater management program, we feel that the City of Scotts Valley could make a much more targeted effort that would identify the specific areas of concern and address them appropriately. The SWMP in its current form is ambiguous and lacks specificity; a combination which we fear will lead to a vague and unambitious effort towards curbing stormwater pollution.

In addition to the weakness of language that prevents the inclusion of specific implementation details and goals, the existing plan lacks specific components required by the National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit that mandates it. Missing components include: measurable goals, a clear and timely implementation plan, and the inclusion of responsible parties for actionable items, as well as some major components such as a commitment to effectiveness assessment, a commitment to suitable hydromodification criteria, the application of Design standards that meet the requirements of Attachment 4 to the General Permit, or the development and implementation of Wasteload Allocation Attainment Plans to address the City's impaired water bodies.

Even with the required revisions enacted, we question the plan's ability to meet the MEP. For example, only three BMPs are selected for important minimum control measures such as Illicit Discharge

Connection Investigation and Abatement. Furthermore, the City's commitment to public education is limited to publishing three brochures and informing schools of the availability of field trips to a Waste Water Treatment plant which does not currently address stormwater. These (and other) actions seem passive at best, and we doubt that they are truly the maximum extent practicable.

We stand in support of the Board staff's Required Revisions to the plan as outlined in the November 24th 2008 letter sent to the City. However, we are concerned with the schedule by which the plan will be reviewed. The nature of the required revisions are such that once they are written into the plan, the document will be virtually a new SWMP. For this reason, we chose not to give the level of detailed commentary that we have engaged in over other SWMPs in the region.

For this reason, the Monterey Coastkeeper would like to request a hearing on the Scotts Valley SWMP, with the intention of reserving the right to participate in the discussion on the future of the Scotts Valley SWMP. If an agreement between Board staff and the City is reached that is acceptable to the Monterey Coastkeeper, we will rescind our request for a hearing. The Monterey Coastkeeper shares the Regional Board's desire to see stormwater programs approved and implemented in a timely fashion, however we would like to ensure that the plans that are given Board approval are truly up to the task of improving water quality throughout the Monterey and Santa Cruz region, where challenges abound.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allison Ford".

Allison Ford
Program Manager

CC: Mr. Ken Anderson, City of Scotts Valley