



Dominguez Channel Watershed Management Area Committee Annual Assessment: 2010-2011

The Dominguez Channel Watershed Management Area Committee (DCWMAC) includes the following MS4 permittees: cities of Carson, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Los Angeles and Torrance and the County of Los Angeles (the Principal Permittee). The City of Redondo Beach also submitted assessment information. Although it is not assigned to the Dominguez Channel Watershed, it occupies a small portion of the watershed and is subject to the trash, nutrients and toxics TMDLs for Machado Lake – which falls within the Dominguez Channel Watershed. Redondo Beach has attended and participated in DCWMAC meetings as have the cities of Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates and Caltrans.

The annual assessment includes a summary of Storm Water Quality Management Program (SQMP) implementation efforts and Permittee highlights. In general, DCWMAC Permittees continue to fully meet MS4 Permit requirements and have even exceeded them. It also discusses efforts made by affected Permittees to comply with various total maximum daily loads.

- *Continued Implementation of Stormwater Quality Management Programs*

As mentioned in last year's watershed assessment, Dominguez Channel MS4 Permittees continue to implement their respective SQMPs including: development planning; development construction; illicit connection and discharge detection and elimination, and public information and participation; public agency activities; and industrial/commercial inspections.

Individual DCWMC Permittee Highlights

- **City of Carson**

In summary terms the City of Carson continues to implement SQMP programs mandated under the current Los Angeles County MS4 permit. Emphasis during the 2010-2011 permit year was placed on addressing TMDLs -- including bacteria, metals, and trash TMDLs for the Los Angeles River; the trash, nutrients and toxics TMDLs for Machado Lake; and the

Dominguez Channel/Harbors toxics TMDL. A great deal of time and energy have been spent on identifying cost-effective best management practices to address waste load allocation compliance, with an emphasis placed on source control.

The city of Carson's affiliation with Keep America Beautiful continues to be a source of grant funds for storm water related projects including demonstration projects and cleanup events.

- ☑ Keep Carson Beautiful successfully competed for the Keep America Beautiful 2011 Beautification and Community Greening Grant in the amount of \$2,000.00. The project, which must be completed by November, will include a demonstration rain garden and a rain barrel at the entrance to the Public Works building to showcase Best Management Practices designed to reduce stormwater runoff and re-use rainwater. Any remaining funds may be used to provide rain barrels to the community through a city wide public education program.
- ☑ Keep Carson Beautiful, Adopt a Storm Drain and Goodyear (blimp) teamed up in April and June this year to hold clean-up events in Dominguez Channel. During each event, volunteers removed over 350 pounds of small trash from along the banks of the channel as well as grocery carts from the water. In addition, the June cleanup resulted in recycling 15 computer terminals and a glass door that had been illegally dumped at the channel. Earlier in the fiscal year, the city participated in Heal the Bay's Coastal Cleanup Day in partnership with Adopt a Storm Drain. Each event serves as an opportunity to educate the public. The event (shown below) was sponsored *by Keep Carson Beautiful, Adopt a Storm Drain and the Goodyear Blimp.*



Water conservation is another area where the city of Carson is focusing its energy.

- ☑ The city of Carson successfully competed for a \$15,000.00 water conservation grant from the West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD). The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California provided funding to the WBMWD to award to cities in its service area for the purpose of retrofitting street medians to be more water efficient and reduce runoff. The \$15,000.00 grant will go toward the estimated \$1.25M cost of retrofitting nearly two miles of street median on Del Amo Boulevard between Wilmington and Avalon Boulevards which should be completed in early 2012.
- ☑ The city continues to promote and assists developers, property owners and businesses in implementing post construction storm water controls that infiltrate storm water, reduce runoff and conserve water on all planning projects not just those categories of development described in the NPDES permit where Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plans are required.

Educating city employees, especially field staff, continues to be an excellent means of minimizing the impact of illicit discharges and eliminating illicit connections. Engineering, Public Works and Public Safety employees are all trained first responders and routinely respond immediately to the usual spills and/or overflows. However, this year especially, the Public Works employees made an enormous difference in minimizing the quantity of one illicit discharge in particular that could have otherwise significantly impacted the waters of Dominguez Channel by reporting the discharge immediately, sandbagging the large outfall and assisting in the source tracking.

- *City of Hawthorne*

The City continues to implement programs to improve the quality of stormwater runoff. These include events that will educate the community on how to prevent storm water pollution. By implementing such programs, the City has successfully reached residents and the general public. This year's highlights include the following:



- ☑ Earth Day was held on April 9th, stormwater information booth was set up and educational materials provided to the public. Local schools and businesses were also invited to participate.

- ☑ A mailer was sent out to all schools during the month of April to offer educational materials and encouraged them to be more environmentally concerned.
- ☑ Local animal hospitals and pet related businesses are part of the pollutant specific outreach venues for material distribution. At the Rabies Clinic Event held in June stormwater educational material was also distributed to pet owners.
- ☑ The City also continues to distribute educational materials to the general public and businesses through partnership programs with businesses, community groups, direct mailing to business owners and displays at the City hall and local events.
- ☑ The stormwater information web page & an animated web banner continue to be used.
- ☑ The City continues to implement a variety of BMPs to improve quality of runoff into ocean. City crew members are trained to implement proper BMPs while cleaning the streets and removing graffiti.
- ☑ Illicit discharge and illicit connection (ID/IC) program continues to be in effect. The City implements a rapid response to citizen complaints about possible ID/IC's.



- ***City of Lawndale***

The City continues to implement an aggressive educational and outreach programs. During the 2010-2011 permit year the City voluntarily conducted an additional round of industrial/commercial inspections to verify compliance with required BMPs and to identify illicit connections and discharges.



On May 7th, the City held a Health & Safety Fair which included a stormwater pollution prevention venue where BMP pamphlets and other stormwater-related materials were handed out to event attendees.

- *City of Los Angeles*

The City of Los Angeles continues to play a leading role in stormwater management in the watershed. Los Angeles follows a multifaceted approach to comply with the provisions of the Stormwater NPDES Permit with increased emphasis placed on complying with newly established as well as anticipated TMDL standards.

- ☑ The City has committed \$136.5 million from the City's Proposition O – Clean Water Bond Program for five projects in the watershed designated to improve water quality as well as provide additional benefits. These projects are the Inner Cabrillo Beach Bacterial Water Quality Improvement, Machado Lake Ecosystem Rehabilitation, Wilmington Drain Multi-use, Peck Park Canyon Enhancement, and Rosecrans Recreation Center Stormwater Enhancements projects. The Machado Lake restoration project continued in the design stage, while the Wilmington Drain Multi-use and the Rosecrans Recreation Center Stormwater Enhancements started the Bid & Award phase and finally, construction continued on the Peck Park Canyon Enhancement project during this FY.
- ☑ With respect to the Inner Cabrillo Beach, the City of Los Angeles conducted a bird dropping pick up study from November 28 to December 28, 2010 and from January 10 to February 10, 2011. The intent of the study was to pick up bird droppings along the entire beach where birds are still foraging. Also the City held a stakeholder workshop on May 16, 2011 to discuss completed activities and

additional alternatives that can be taken in an effort to achieve compliance with the Inner Cabrillo Beach Bacteria TMDL.

- ☑ For Machado Lake Nutrient TMDL, the City received approval of its Lake Water Quality Management Plan from Los Angeles River Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) on February 14, 2011 and its implementation on April 15, 2011.
- ☑ The City installed about 400 catch basin opening covers within the watershed primarily within the Machado Lake sub-watershed.
- ☑ The City of Los Angeles continues to implement an aggressive public information outreach program. Please refer to its annual report submittals for details.

- *City of Gardena*

The City continues to promote stormwater awareness to its residences and businesses. The City completed installation of debris excluders in all of its catch basins. It has also installed additional catch basin debris exclusion controls for the Willows Wetlands, an environmentally sensitive area (ESA) located in the City. The City, which is not subject to a trash TMDL, voluntarily performed this task.

- *City of Lomita*

The City continues to implement its public education outreach program by relying on materials it has developed as well as those furnished by the Principal Permittee.

- *City of Inglewood*

The City of Inglewood continues to implement an aggressive public education program as is more particularly described in its annual report submittal. The City was approved for Proposition 84 Funds to install Catch Basin Debris Excluders at 205 locations within the City to address the Ballona Creek trash TMDL. The project will be completed within 2 years.

- *City of Torrance*

Torrance is moving forward with the *Madrona Marsh Restoration and Enhancement Project*. This project involves the installation of a sub-surface wetland treatment system to remove various pollutants in urban runoff for marsh application and to remove sediment from the Madrona

Sump. The project also includes the City's first phase of installing catch basin debris excluder grates. The sediment removal and treatment system are structural controls that facilitate compliance with the Machado Lake Nutrient and Toxics TMDLs, while the catch basin debris grates address the Machado Lake Trash TMDL. Torrance is proud of these efforts and expects a significant reduction of the targeted pollutants of concern.

- *City of Redondo Beach*

- ☑ The City is the lead agency for Jurisdictions 5&6 of the SMBBB TMDL, a group effort that developed the joint monitoring and the Implementation Plan to comply with the TMDL's. The Implementation Plan includes programmatic and structural programs and BMPs. These tasks have been individually distinguished and separately assigned with specific deliverables for proper implementations.
- ☑ The first task of the programmatic program which was the "Restaurant Certification Program" was launched and developed. The city jointly with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and the neighboring agencies implemented the "Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program". This program has been designed to target restaurants and modify the operator's behaviors by providing incentives to encourage the implementation of appropriate BMPs.
- ☑ Programmatic tasks such as outreach to schools, graphic art contest, conducting a survey, design of inspection manual, inspectors round table, Parks and Recs activities evaluation and checklist, website design, compiling a list of available stormwater educational videos and DVDs, identifying appropriate speakers, designating targeted audience, developing restaurant and pet waste BMP brochures, website design, installation and monitoring it have been the main accomplishments of the Implementation phase of the Plan.
- ☑ The City has also started implementing the structural BMP tasks of the Plan by conducting initial studies and obtaining samples to determine the most adequate catchments for such BMPs. The study included samples of dry weather at various locations of the storm drain system within the Jurisdictions as wells as samples near the sanitary sewers to determine any possible leakages. The J5/6 agencies have already completed Phase I of the Site-Specific Structural BMP management approach of the IP utilizing available grant funding to pilot various structural BMPs. Consistent with Phase II of the Site-Specific Structural BMP management approach of the IP, evaluation of the performance of these pilot projects were completed. Based on experience with the BMP pilot projects, the agencies decided to move forward with Phase

III of the Structural BMP management approach *utilizing infiltration-based structural BMPs in the two high priority drainage areas* if funds are available. A structural BMP siting study is underway and the study will be complete in FY 11/12. *The structural BMPs for the IP are a major component in achieving compliance with the SMBBB TMDL. However, it is anticipated that the Programmatic Solutions and Source Identification and Control components will also help achieve compliance through less intrusive, less expensive routes and therefore it should not be necessary that 100% compliance be achieved with the Structural BMPs alone. A full report of findings is available at the City.*

- ☑ The City has inspected the restaurants regularly with the goal of visiting each establishment at least twice per year. This is far above and beyond the NPDES permit requirement of once every thirty months. The critical sources have also been the target establishments to be inspected by the City at a minimum of once every 30 months.
- ☑ The City has received a state grant for \$600,000 to install structural BMPs designed to reduce the accumulation of trash. The construction of the first BMP continuous deflection system (CDS) was completed in November of 2002. A second CDS unit was installed in Oct. 2003. A Third CDS unit was installed in April 2005 and a fourth was installed in May 2005.
- ☑ The \$350,000 State Grant was received for improving water quality around the City's Municipal Pier. Improvements funded by the grant include replacing sewer mains under the pier, installation of a fish cleaning station, constructing covered trash enclosures and replace trash receptacles on the pier. Installation of a low flow diversion on a storm drain that discharges under the pier was completed in April 2005.
- ☑ The City has continued the pet waste awareness program in conjunction with the animal control and pet related businesses (i.e. veterinarians, pet stores). The City's website provides helpful tips for the pet owners.
- ☑ The City's Quarterly Newsletter ads published information regarding the City's storm water program as well as promoting the various related events and helpful tips.
- ☑ The Mayor and City Council formed a Water Quality Task Force in August 2005 made up of a diverse cross section of the community include individuals from teachers, youth, boaters, non-profit, general public, chamber of commerce, and harbor businesses. The Task Force is to provide the City Council with recommendations that

will address water quality in the harbor and other waterfront areas of the City.

- ☑ The Green Task Force was established in January 2007, for the purpose of improving community knowledge of environmental topics and encouraging practices which protect the environment. This task force has been served as a model in the region which considers the tremendous growth of interest in green issues and environmental concerns.
- ☑ The City council approved an increase in the wastewater sewer user fee. This fee increase will help fund new State sewer system operational mandates to reduce sewer overflows.
- ☑ The City has obtained a permit from the Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors Department and installed a Dry-Weather diversion facility to stop all discharges from the Sapphire Street storm drain during dry weather year around. This facility was made operational in July 2010.
- ☑ The City completed the installation of two pilot projects in the harbor area. These projects include the installation of trash filters in the drain inlets and re-routing roof gutters on the pier so that they don't directly discharge in to the ocean. Construction was completed in February 2010.
- ☑ The City worked with the Sanitation District and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to conduct a study of ocean water quality around the pier in order to identify the source or sources of bacteria. The study was completed in February 2010.
- ☑ The City adopted the Non-Smoking Beach Ordinance.
- ☑ The City has installed thirty eight (38) smart manhole covers that monitor the sewer level and alarm the City when the level rises.
- ☑ Rain Water Harvesting is an important means of helping meet the water needs of Southern California. The City operates a facility that captures rain since May 2011. This facility can divert and capture up to six million gallons of rain water a year for irrigation use or infiltration into the underground soils. Diversions from the storm drain system will reduce the amount of rain water, along with the bacteria and other pollutants it carries, from being discharged into the Santa Monica Bay – thus improving water quality and reducing the number of days bacteria concentrations in the water exceed healthful standards.