

October 8th, 2020

Irma Muñoz, Board Chair
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 W 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Sent via email to: MS4StormwaterRB4@waterboards.ca.gov

RE: COMMENTS ON THE TENTATIVE REGIONAL MS4 PERMIT

To Chair Muñoz and Members of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board:

My name is Aminah Grant, and I am a student at Pomona College located in Claremont, CA. I would first like to thank the Board members and your staff for all the work you do to protect Los Angeles' water resources and for taking the time to read my public comment. I am writing to request that the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board include clear and enforceable requirements for the renewed MS4 permit that hold permittees accountable and ensures the health of humans and marine environments.

Throughout my academic career, I have been able to learn about and experience the effects of drought in southern California and Cape Town in South Africa. These experiences have showed me how vital water is in our everyday lives. Having access to water, especially clean water, is a luxury in many places including parts of the United States, but California has recognized that access to clean water is a human right. Furthermore, the Earth's marine environments are being devastated by all kinds of pollution from oil spills to stormwater runoff. These ecosystems are worth protecting not only because they benefit human and the planet but also because they deserve the same autonomy human society has.

Given the uncertainties of climate change and the heavy demand for water in a place as big as Los Angeles County, we must invest in efficient and innovative water management systems that prioritize access to clean water as well as the health and protection of marine environments.

Stormwater is the leading source of pollution right now. If we want to ensure clean water for everyone, we have to reduce stormwater pollution, and a strong MS4 Permit will help us get there. All humans have a fundamental right to a clean and healthy environment, and it is the Board's job to ensure our fundamental rights are protected; therefore, permittees must be held accountable for achieving the water quality objectives under the federal Clean Water Act. To achieve these goals, this renewed MS4 permit must include clear and straightforward goals, requirements, and deadlines that are enforceable and transparent to everyone, especially the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Tentative MS4 Permit.

Sincerely,
Aminah Grant