

2018-2019 Watershed Annual Report



RIVERSIDE COUNTY
WATERSHED PROTECTION

March 1, 2020



2018 - 2019

WATERSHED ANNUAL REPORT

WHITEWATER RIVER REGION MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMIT
(BOARD ORDER No. R7-2013-0011)
(NPDES No. CAS617002)

For
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN

By
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, County of Riverside,
Coachella Valley Water District, and the Cities of Banning, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert
Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage

March 1, 2020

CERTIFICATION

Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Watershed Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2018-2019



I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signed: Richard J. Boon
RICHARD J. BOON
Chief of Watershed Protection Division
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

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Section 1.0

Watershed Summary

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WHITEWATER RIVER WATERSHED MS4 PERMIT (NPDES NO. CAS 617002)

COLORADO RIVER REGIONAL BOARD (ORDER NO. R7-2013-0011)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

For the reporting year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, the following list represents the most significant tasks accomplished by the Whitewater River (WWR) Region Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permittees within the MS4 Permit region. The WWR MS4 Permit specifies the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) and County of Riverside (County) as the Principal Permittees, and the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and Cities in the Coachella Valley as Co-Permittees. The Principal and Co-Permittees are collectively referred to as the Permittees.

1. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Permittees continued implementing the WWR Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). The SWMP provides the Permittees direction and guidelines on various programmatic activities required by the MS4 Permit. It is the Permittees' goal to effectively manage urban and stormwater runoff for the protection and enhancement of the watershed's creeks, rivers, streams and lakes as well as encourage water conservation in this arid region. The District continued administering the regional Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), the Public Education and Outreach Program, and the Permittee Implementation and Cost-Sharing Agreement (IA)¹, while the Co-Permittees continued administering their respective jurisdictional programs. The Permittees are committed to reviewing and improving, if necessary, reporting of program metrics. An evaluation of effectiveness for these programmatic activities are found within this report.
2. The Permittees continued surveying outfalls for Illicit Connection/Illegal Discharges (IC/ID) and collectively received and responded to 127 IC/ID incident reports, from which 135 enforcement responses were generated. During the previous reporting period, the Permittees received and responded to 185 incident reports resulting in 134 enforcement responses. Enforcement responses could range from education to monetary citations as outlined in the Enforcement and Compliance Strategy included in the SWMP.
3. The County and Cities reported 370 business inspections resulting in 28 enforcement responses which could range from education to monetary citations. During the previous reporting period, 342 inspections were reported resulting in 42 enforcement responses.

¹ The District and CVWD do not retain legal land use authority or enforcement capability, which preclude the District and CVWD from implementing and enforcing the development planning program, private construction program and commercial/industrial program, and municipal facilities inspection program.

4. The County and Cities reported 5,140 inspections at private construction sites which yielded 107 enforcement responses which could range from education to monetary citations. During the previous reporting period, 1,123 inspections were reported resulting in 59 enforcement responses.
5. The County and Co-Permittees continued implementing housekeeping practices at their respective municipal facilities in accordance with their respective Facility Pollution Prevention Plans (FPPP)². During this reporting period, 482 inspections were conducted at MS4 facilities (inlets, basins, storm drains, drywells, etc.). Annual inspections were also conducted at each of the 38 municipal facilities requiring FPPPs. During the previous reporting period, 651 inspections were conducted at MS4 facilities and an additional 38 inspections were conducted at each of the FPPP facilities.
6. The Permittees continued collaborating with the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWVG) in support of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and Stormwater Resources Plan (SWRP). The IRWMP and SWRP have been combined into one document because of the regional approach, overlap of stakeholder interests and existing stakeholder network, and similar grants and project scoring processes for the two plans. The missing SWRP components were incorporated into the existing Coachella Valley IRWMP in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's SWRP Guidelines and the California Water Code § 10560 et seq. This effort enables the Coachella Valley stakeholders (including the WWR Permittees) to apply for grants from the Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and Bureau of Reclamation. As a result of this participation, several of the IRWMP members and stakeholders were awarded grant funding for jurisdiction-specific projects during this reporting period.
7. The Permittees convened as the NPDES Desert Task Force (DTF) on eight (8) occasions, exceeding the quarterly requirement specified in the WWR MS4 Permit. DTF meetings serve as a forum to provide compliance-related updates to the Permittees and discuss compliance issues with Regional Board staff. During this reporting period, the District reported over 17 compliance-related updates to the Permittees.
8. Household hazardous waste (HHW) collection is generally regarded as one of the most effective Best Management Practices (BMPs) for residential areas. With cost-share contributions by the County and Co-Permittees, the District administered cooperative agreements that supported the operation of regional collection centers. Within the WWR MS4 Permit area, the County operated five collection centers in the cities of Cathedral City, Coachella, Indio, La Quinta, and Palm Springs that were accessible to all County residents. These centers collectively prevented 293,080 pounds of HHW from entering the Whitewater River. The Cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, and Indio operated additional HHW centers that were accessible to their respective residents, and Burttec Waste Industries Inc. operated Anti-freeze, Batteries, Oil and Latex Paint (ABOP) collection centers at their waste transfer stations in Cathedral City and the city of Coachella.

² The District does not own or maintain municipal facilities in the WWR region that require Facility Pollution Prevention Plans (FPPP).

9. The District continued sampling and monitoring its Low Impact Development (LID) Best Management Practices (BMPs) at its headquarters in Riverside, California. The District's LID Facility also serves as a research campus to educate residents, regulators, developers, municipal employees, engineers, and other interested stakeholders in California as well as throughout the county and even internationally. In 2019, the facility won the 2019 California Stormwater Quality Associate Award for Outstanding Stormwater BMP Implementation Project for the Bioretention Basin Retrofit which redesigned the onsite facility to improve performance. The District plans on continuing to monitor the LID BMPs and to reach out to the community by giving tours. The LID BMPs demonstrate stormwater capture, management, and treatment capabilities of its porous pavements, pervious pavers, bioretention basin, and biofiltration planters.
10. The District, in coordination with the Coachella Valley Water District, conducted wet and dry weather monitoring at the Ramsey Street outfall, Portola Avenue outfall, and the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC) receiving water station during this reporting period. These efforts did not identify a persistent region-wide water quality problem due to urban runoff nor establish a nexus between urban runoff and the impairments listed for the CVSC on the State's 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. The Monitoring Annual Report for FY18-19 contains the data from these monitoring efforts and is included in Section 3.0 herein.
11. During the 2018-2019 year, the District continued participating with the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC), a regional monitoring group that consists of southern California agency members. The overall goal of the SMC is to increase the compliance and effectiveness of existing NPDES monitoring programs by integrating information among agencies to achieve a large-scale assessment of the watershed condition. Additionally, the SMC collaborates in development of effective and meaningful stormwater monitoring techniques, coordination among data collection programs, and evaluation of the effects of stormwater discharges to receiving waters. A member of the District team currently serves as the co-chair to the executive steering committee and as representative of the Riverside County Co-Permittees. In this role the co-chair can highlight what it means to implement stormwater monitoring programs in a semi-arid to arid region.
12. The District also continued participating with CASQA, California Stormwater Quality Association, an association composed of stormwater quality management organizations and individuals, including cities, counties, special districts, industries, and consulting firms throughout the state. District involvement included serving in various subcommittees, such as the Legislative, Monitoring and Science, Pesticides, Policy and Permitting, and Conference subcommittees. The Watershed Protection Division Chief also continued to serve as a member of the CASQA Board of Directors.
13. With cost-share contributions by the County and Co-Permittees, the District continued administering annual NPDES training for municipal staff. Training was presented as formal courses that reviewed NPDES regulations, MS4 permit requirements, BMP implementation, and how to recognize, correct, and enforce non-compliance. Courses focused on construction projects, commercial and industrial sites, municipal facilities, new

development, transportation projects, and IC/ID identification and mitigation. Courses offered in the WWR region were attended by 85 municipal staff. In addition, the District also administered annual training to its sampling staff and to staff at CVWD as a means to implement consistent sampling protocols and procedures.

14. Public education is an essential part of a municipal stormwater program because changing public behavior can create a real reduction in pollutants. When a community has a clear understanding of where the pollution comes from, how it can affect them, and what they can do to stop it, they will be more likely to support the program, change their own practices, and help educate others. The Watershed Protection Program's strategic plan for public education has been developed by the Public Education Strategic Taskforce (PEST) to engage Riverside County residents in actions protective of the County's streams, rivers, which is built upon the many successes of the current program and carries out activities and projects that include:
- Maintaining the 24/7 illegal dumping hotline
 - Monthly eNews Bulletin
 - Program website rcwatershed.org
 - Business outreach to landscape professionals
 - Continuation of a school-aged children education outreach program

The Program's goals consist of continued efforts to increase stormwater pollution prevention awareness and its impact on the environment. Outreach and local events educate residents and local businesses with the goal of shaping their attitude towards minimizing stormwater pollution and to maintain compliance with the MS4 Permit. In addition to improving water quality, helping the public understand the problems associated with stormwater runoff can help build overall support for the stormwater program.

15. The District completed a trash assessment of its facilities (channels, storm drains, culverts, outfalls, inlets) throughout the cities of Banning, Desert Hot Springs, and Palm Springs, which represent municipal jurisdictions within the operational boundaries of the District that drain urban areas within Priority Land Uses. Findings from this assessment were included in a Trash Assessment Report and submitted to the Regional Board. The results of this assessment revealed that the District's facilities, in and of themselves, do not generate trash. Most of the facilities surveyed showed only trace amounts of wind-blown trash and vegetative debris that had settled onto these facilities or along their fence lines from out-of-channel sources while a few facilities contained discrete disposals, which were immediately removed, or no signs of trash at all. The report is currently in review with the Regional Board and confirms that the District is not subject to selecting a compliance track pursuant to the amendment of the Trash Provision Order 13383.
16. The Permittees continued maintaining NPDES information or applicable links on their respective websites. The District completed redesigning its public education webpage (www.rcwatershed.org) to enhance the effectiveness, usability, and quality of information and received 7,766 visits during this reporting period. The District also utilized Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to further engage citizens and stakeholders.