Fact Sheet #9

Watershed-Based Permitting Case Study: Final Permit

Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, and Placer County Storm Water/Urban Runoff Discharge

NPDES Permit No. CAG616001 Board Order No. 6-00-82

Watershed
Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit

Permitting Authority
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 6a)

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Permit Information
www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb6/files/00-82.pdf

Date Issued
October 12, 2000

Background

- Storm water discharges contribute a significant amount of the sediment and nutrients responsible for the decline in Lake Tahoe's water quality.

Permit Type

- General permit covering all storm water discharges from residential, commercial, industrial, municipal, and construction areas within the City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, and Placer County (the co-permittees).

Permitting Strategy

- The permit area includes all of the Lake Tahoe Basin (the Basin)[1] that is included in the State of California. This incorporates all of South Lake Tahoe, but only the Basin portions of Placer and El Dorado counties.
- Eliminated the need for multiple Board Orders and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)[2] within the Project Area.
- Each permittee is only responsible for the discharges originating within its jurisdiction boundaries, within the Basin.
- Excludes discharges from federal lands or other jurisdictions including state lands. The permit states that the Regional Board has the discretion and the authority to require other entities within the Project Area to obtain their own individual permits.
- Caltrans is covered separately under a state-wide NPDES permit.

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[1]Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahonton Region, North and South Basins. Lahonton Regional Control Board. 10/94.

[2]As per the state's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, any person discharging or proposing discharge within a region is required to apply for and obtain Waste Discharge Requirements. They can be adopted for individual or general permits. These requirements can be waived by the Regional Board. WDRs are in addition to NPDES requirements where applicable.

Permit Overview

- The permit requires co-permittees to comply with the water quality standards established for the Basin contained in the Basin Plan and any amendments.

Permit Limits

- Effluent limitations for total nitrogen, total phosphorus, total iron, turbidity, and grease/oil.
- The effluent limitations for all storm water/urban runoff flows generated within the permit area (except those construction projects subject to a separate permit) must be met by November 30, 2008 (not within the current permit term).

Parameter	Effluent Limits for Discharge to:	
	Land Treatment Systems	Collection Systems and Surface Waters
Total Nitrogen	5 mg/L (as N)	0.5 mg/L (as N)
Total Phosphorus	1 mg/L (as P)	0.1 mg/L (as P)
Total Iron	4 mg/L	0.5 mg/L
Turbidity	200 NTU	20 NTU
Suspended Solids	—	50 mg/L
Grease and Oil	40 mg/L	2 mg/L

Monitoring Requirements

- Each permittee must submit and comply with a Storm Water/Urban Runoff Monitoring Program Plan, developed in accordance with the Monitoring and Reporting Program requirements included in the general permit.
- The Monitoring and Reporting Program outlines the inspections, California Toxics Rule water quality monitoring, special monitoring projects and reporting requirements for all co-permittees.
- Each permittee is required to submit a list of "storm water/erosion control projects" scheduled for the permit term. Each permittee must submit a plan for a special monitoring project each permit year.

Special Conditions

- None.

Measures of Success

- Annual Reports provide information regarding sand application and recovery; this data will be used to develop a Lake Tahoe basin-wide sand specification for low phosphorus material.
- Incorporates storm water effluent limitations developed for the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit.
- Requires permittees to provide annual workplan of erosion control and stormwater treatment projects to treat runoff from existing roads and subdivisions.
- Requires comprehensive monitoring project to determine effectiveness of stormwater treatment projects; data from monitoring is used to improve future projects.