



# WATERSHED UPDATE:

## The City of Paramount

January 2018

### LOCAL INSPECTIONS

#### Construction Inspections:

NPDES inspections are required to be conducted monthly for active construction sites over one acre. Paramount has one (1) active construction site that is currently subject to these inspections. Good housekeeping practices are necessary to keep sediment on-site and out of storm drains.

#### Industrial/Commercial Inspections:

The City is required to conduct two cycles of industrial and commercial business site inspections during the 5-year span of the MS4 Stormwater Permit. The City completed this requirement by conducting over 900 inspections. Follow-up inspections ensured all observed violations were corrected.



**Location:** Auto shop on Alondra Avenue.  
**Non-compliance (9/19/17):** Discharge from an auto-washing station is entering a storm drain.  
**Follow-up inspection (10/19/17):** Auto-washing station was moved, and the wash water drains instead to the sanitary sewer.

### LA RIVER TRASH TMDL

The City submitted an Alternative Compliance Plan to the Regional Board for “final approval.” The Regional Board subsequently required the City to conduct a “Daily Generation Rate” (DGR) Study to confirm the reduction in trash being discharged to the storm drain system. The trash study was conducted during the summer of 2017 by walking through specific sections of the City, collecting trash, and then weighing the trash collected over a 30-day period. The City achieved a 99.74% reduction in baseline trash load reduction.

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### ANNUAL REPORT

Paramount’s NPDES MS4 Annual Report for the fiscal year (July 2016 – June 2017) was submitted to the Regional Board by the December 15, 2017 deadline. The submittal was in two parts: (1) the City’s individual stormwater pollution prevention projects and practices, and (2) the Watershed Group’s cumulative efforts.

## NEXT MS4 PERMIT STATUS

The 2012 MS4 Permit Order expired on December 28, 2017. All requirements of the 2012 Permit will continue in perpetuity until a new MS4 Permit is in effect. The Regional Board has indicated that the new MS4 Permit will probably apply to both Los Angeles County and Ventura County, and be similar to the current MS4 Permit. The new MS4 Permit process might be more accelerated than the previous process, with a draft MS4 Permit potentially being distributed for comments around summer of 2018.

## STORMWATER FUNDING

### State:

Senate Bill 231 (Hertzberg) modified Proposition 218 by including the storm drain system in the list of exempt (from requiring ballot approval) utilities. The Senate passed the bill, and Governor Brown signed it into law on October 10, 2017. The bill does not raise taxes or fees, leaving it up to local government to decide when and how to use it as a tool for funding stormwater projects.

### LA County:

As a result of the multi-year drought, in May 2016, the Board of Supervisors had county staff prepare a Water Resilience Report. The report was released in September 2017, characterizing and evaluating water practices throughout LA County. The report will work as an informational background for the Safe, Clean Water Program, which is a proposed ballot measure that would levy a tax upon parcels to fund stormwater programs and projects.

Stakeholders from municipalities, COGs, and other groups are meeting monthly to discuss what the ballot measure should entail. To pass, the measure would need a 2/3 yes vote of the general population. Everything at this point is in development, and will likely change as public comments are received. The Board of Supervisors is expected to vote in July 2018 on the precise wording of the November 2018 ballot.

Key points of the Safe, Clean Water Program measure currently in discussion include:

- Fund sharing arrangement – previous effort had a 50/40/10 fund sharing arrangement
- Tax rate - previous effort set the rate at \$54 per year per average residential parcel
- Schools and municipal facilities will be exempted from the parcel tax

## UNFUNDED STATE MANDATES

The California Court of Appeal found some requirements in the San Diego MS4 Permit to be unfunded state mandates, and could be potentially reimbursed by the State. The Courts found that the Regional Boards must connect MS4 permit requirements to federal requirements of the Clean Water Act regulations and EPA-issued NPDES permits. If the MS4 requirements cannot be connected, then the requirements are considered unfunded state mandates. This decision could impact the pending LA Region MS4 Permit claim, tentatively set for hearing on November 30, 2018.

## POINT-OF-PURCHASE (POP) OUTREACH

From December 2017 – January 2018, the City distributed educational stormwater pollution prevention materials to city hall, other governmental facilities, and 8 POP businesses. These businesses (which include auto shops, hardware and home improvement stores, lawn and gardening centers, and pet stores) sell what are considered to be common contributors to stormwater pollution. The program encourages store owners to display and distribute materials, such as brochures (right), that offer resources for proper management of stormwater pollutants to customers.

