



## Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 5, 2013

Mary Anne Skorpanich  
Manager, OC Watersheds Program  
County of Orange  
2301 N. Glassell  
Orange, CA 92865

Dear Ms. Skorpanich:

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF NSMP BMP STRATEGIC PLAN: SANTA ANA-DELHI AND SAN DIEGO CREEK SUB-WATERSHEDS, DECEMBER 4, 2013**

This is to provide the Regional Board's approval of the BMP Strategic Plan for the Santa Ana-Delhi and San Diego Creek sub-watersheds in the Newport Bay watershed. The Plan was prepared for the Nitrogen and Selenium Management Program (NSMP) Working Group and submitted in final form on December 4, 2013.

We recognize the substantial effort of the Working Group to prepare the Plan and, more importantly, we appreciate the commitments of Working Group members made therein to the implementation of the Plan.

We acknowledge and agree with the phased approach identified in the Plan, which will allow time for BMP implementation and assessment, monitoring of watershed effects, scientific investigations needed to address uncertainties regarding the sources and effects of selenium, continued investigation of potential selenium treatment technologies, and adaptive management of further BMP implementation. The Working Group is also committed to assist the Board with work necessary to formulate new selenium TMDLs and site-specific objectives. As the Plan recognizes, once new TMDLs are in place, waste discharge permits will be revised accordingly. The Plan recognizes, properly, that changes to the BMP Strategic Plan may be necessary to address the revised TMDLs/permit requirements.

We look forward to working with the Working Group as the Group proceeds with implementation of the Strategic Plan, and our joint efforts to develop revised selenium TMDLs and site-specific objectives that are scientifically defensible and will assure the protection of beneficial uses in these sub-watersheds in an effective, responsible, and fair manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kurt V. Berchtold".

Kurt V. Berchtold  
Executive Officer