### August 3, 2011 Regional Advisory Committee

A Local Perspective on Stormwater Permitting

Jon Van Rhyn County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program

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### **Permit Reissuance Process**

- ☐ Copermittee visioning workshops (September November 2010)
- ☐ Meetings with RWQCB Staff (Feb. April 2011)
- ☐ Copermittee reissuance meetings / workshops (March June 2011)

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### Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD)

REPORT OF WASTE DISCHARGE
Application for Renewal of NPDES Municipal
Stormwater Permit for San Diego County

Submitted to the San Diego Regional Water Classify
Counted Board on Manifer Committees to Own

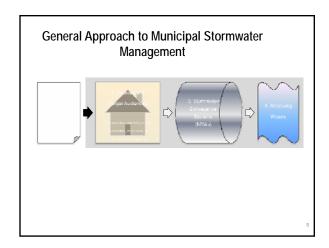
- KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
- Simplified reporting
- ☐ Streamlined and more meaningful assessment
- ☐ Better coordinated water quality monitoring
- ☐ Enhanced watershed and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) focus

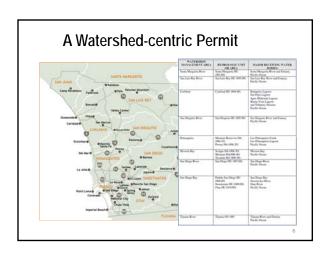
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Prepared with the Assolution of Larry Walter Associates

☐ Increased emphasis on strategic

# Key Drivers for Continued Discussion Single region-wide permit Watershed emphasis Adaptive management





### Potential Benefits of a Watershed Approach

- Narrower geographic focus
- ☐ Well-defined set of problem conditions
- ☐ Movement in emphasis away from preventive approaches
- Fewer plans and reports
- ☐ Flexibility in implementation approaches (jurisdictional, watershed, & regional)
- ☐ Alignment with Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
- □ Conceptual simplicity

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### Individual and Group Functions Under a Hypothetical Watershed Urban



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# Where is this inevitably leading us? Potential for more complexity / cost increases Need for tradeoffs / prioritization / increases in efficiency Need for strategic and adaptive approaches

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### **Adaptive Management**

"learning to manage by managing to learn"

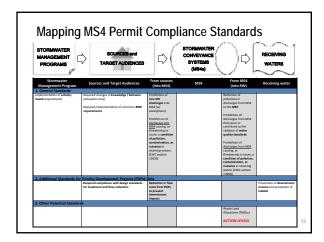


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## **Compliance versus Success**

- $\hfill \square$  Success can be defined as compliance with Water Quality Standards, but only on a long-term basis.
- $\hfill \square$  Compliance and success cannot be equated on a permit timeframe.
- ☐ Permits don't require success; they set compliance standards
- ☐ Compliance standards set minimums (and maximums)

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### **Desirable Attributes of Compliance Standards**

- Clear and enforceable
- Actionable (rather than immediately enforceable)
- Achievable (within immediate, intermediate, or longer-term time frames)
- Measurable and supported by feedback
- Useful in <u>guiding</u> program design, assessment, and modification

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### MS4 Action Levels (South Orange and Riverside Permits)

- Clear and enforceable?
- Actionable (rather than immediately enforceable)?
- Achievable (within immediate, intermediate, or <u>longer-term</u> time frames)?
- Measurable and supported by feedback?
- Useful in <u>guiding</u> program design, assessment, and modification?

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### Many Options for Defining success

- Targeted Changes
   Have program implementation commitments been met?
   Have changes occurred in sources / target audiences (knowledge, behavior, source reductions)
   Have urban runoff and receiving water quality improved?
   Has interim progress toward established objectives been achieved?

# Process / Program Improvement More strategic (priorities, etc.)? More effective?

- More measurable?

- LearningHypothesis testing?Adaptation?

### **Questions?**

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