

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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April 23, 2010

Alexis Strauss  
Director, Water Division  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Dear Director Strauss:

This letter is in response to the final Compliance Audit Report for the Caltrans Stormwater Management Program (Program). The Compliance Audit Report notes compliance findings where substantial improvements are needed, and recognizes certain positive examples, which may serve as "model" practices.

In 2007, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized the Caltrans Stormwater Management Program with a national award for its strategies to control a large number of pollutants that vary across the complex geography, geology, climate, and population of California. The Compliance Audit Report notes that Caltrans has experienced challenges in implementing a consistent statewide Program in a large complex organization with both owner-operator responsibilities as well as substantial capital construction program. The Compliance Audit Report identifies a number of deficiencies and presents an opportunity to establish lines of authority and responsibility for stormwater compliance throughout Caltrans.

Caltrans has already developed a draft remedial action strategy and is using the audit findings as a guide for program and process improvements. We are developing near and long term corrective measures to improve elements of our Program.

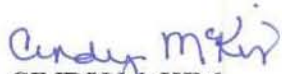
In addition, we have notified all twelve districts and Headquarters of our efforts to improve the process. Headquarters and District management are initiating programmatic improvements and communicating the importance of these efforts to front-line Caltrans staff. Furthermore, Executive management is in the process of establishing "partnering groups" with construction industry representatives and with the State Water Board management to foster dialogue on regulatory expectations and on overcoming the challenges of implementing a consistent Program for the statewide highway system.

Caltrans looks forward to working with the EPA and the Water Boards to improve our Program and in turn to improve the quality of the State's water resources.

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If you need additional information regarding this response, please contact Scott McGowen, Chief Environmental Engineer, at (916) 653-4446. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Compliance Audit Report.

Sincerely,



CINDY McKIM  
Chief Deputy Director  
California Department of Transportation