

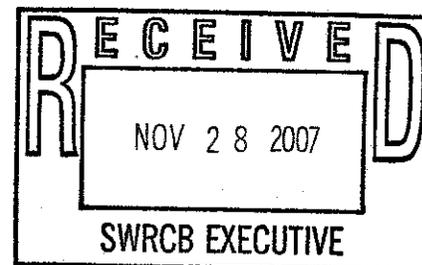
**commentletters - Comments on Caltrans SWMP**

Public Comment  
**Caltrans SWMP**  
 Deadline: 11/30/07 by Noon

**From:** <rangarajan.sampath@acwd.com>  
**To:** <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 28, 2007 12:15:00 PM  
**Subject:** Comments on Caltrans SWMP  
**CC:** <Steven.Inn@acwd.com>, <Michelle.Myers@acwd.com>, <Laura.Hidas@acwd.com>

November 28, 2007

Ms. Jeanine Townsend  
 Acting Clerk to the Board  
 State Water Resources Control Board  
 Division of Water Quality  
 1001 I Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Ms. Townsend:

**Subject:** Comments to California Department of Transportation's Storm Water Management Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed revised Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) submitted by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to your office. The Alameda County Water District (ACWD) is a water provider and also the permitting agency for any drilling projects in the Cities of Fremont, Newark, and Union City in southern Alameda County, all of which is within the boundary of Caltrans District 4.

The SWMP should address the following issues related to groundwater dewatering activities:

1. As the enforcing agency for the Well Ordinance for the three cities mentioned above, any drilling of either observation or pumping wells associated with Caltrans projects requires obtaining a drilling permit from the Alameda County Water District prior to the start of the work. Application for a permit may be obtained from the ACWD, Engineering Department, at 43885 South Grimmer Boulevard, Fremont or on-line at [http://www.acwd.org/engineering/drilling\\_permit.php5](http://www.acwd.org/engineering/drilling_permit.php5). Before a permit is issued, the applicant is required to deposit with ACWD, cash or check in a sufficient sum to cover the fee for issuance of the permit or charges for the estimated costs of field investigation and inspection. All permitted work requires scheduling and inspection; therefore, all drilling activities must be coordinated with ACWD prior to the start of any field work.
2. Since groundwater is an important component of ACWD's water resources, it is critical that the amount of groundwater that may be extracted (either by dewatering wells or by any underdrain systems) be documented. There is no discussion in the SWMP regarding potential water supply impacts of groundwater seepage into drainage and pumping systems. Suitable alternatives should be evaluated in the SWMP that would minimize the amount of groundwater extracted during and after construction projects. It should be noted that the Replenishment Assessment Act of the Alameda County Water District authorizes ACWD to charge operators of water production facilities an assessment based on the quantity of water produced within our service area. The replenishment assessment rate is set annually and the current rate is \$197/acre-foot.

The following ACWD contacts are provided so that Caltrans can coordinate with ACWD in order to properly evaluate the potential impacts discussed above:

Michelle Myers at (510) 668-4454, or by email at [michelle.myers@acwd.com](mailto:michelle.myers@acwd.com) for coordination regarding groundwater  
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11/28/2007

wells and drilling permits.

Rangarajan Sampath at (510) 668-4411, or by email at rangarajan.sampath@acwd.com for coordination regarding replenishment assessment.

ACWD appreciates the opportunity to comment on the SWMP. If you have questions regarding these comments, you may contact me at (510) 668-4411.

Sincerely,

Ranga Sampath, P.E.  
Groundwater Resources Engineer  
Alameda County Water District  
(510) 668-4411 (V)  
(510) 651-1760 (F)