



Gray Davis
Governor



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Santa Ana Region

Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

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The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb8.

November 13, 2003

Rini Ghosh
Environmental Contact
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Comments on Environmental Assessment, Docket No. AB-416(Sub-No.3X)

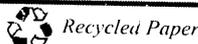
The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (RWQCB) reviewed the Environmental Assessment document received on November 5, 2003. The project proposes abandonment of rail line formerly operated by The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, which extends 1.92 miles in the City of Redlands, California. The San Bernardino Associated Government (SANBAG) will be able to salvage track, ties and other railroad appurtenances. This will involve disturbance of land through demolition of existing structures. The right-of-way ranges between 50-100 feet.

The requirements have changed since we provided our comments on this proposed project. The State Water Resources Control Board has revised Order No. 99-08-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS 000002 (General Permit) effective March 10, 2003, to comply with Phase II of the federal storm water regulations. Where it previously applies to land disturbance that are five acres and greater, the revised Order now requires coverage under the General Permit for construction sites that disturb land equal to or greater than one acre. The construction activity subject to this General Permit includes clearing, grading and disturbances to the ground that results in soil disturbances of at least one acre of total land area.

Since the disturbed area of the proposed project is greater than one acre, the entity responsible for the project must file a Notice of Intent to obtain coverage under this General Permit and is required to:

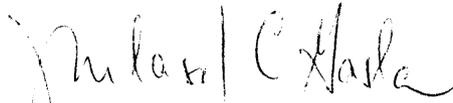
- Develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which specifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will prevent all pollutants from contacting storm water.
- Eliminate or reduce nonstorm water discharges to the storm sewer system and other waters of the nation.
- Perform inspections of all BMPs.

California Environmental Protection Agency



If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Muhammad Bashir at (909) 320-6396.

Sincerely,



Milasol C. Gaslan, Chief
Inland Storm Water Section

