



Department of Public Works
Engineering Division
One North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, California 94022-3087
(650) 947-2780
Fax (650) 947-2732

April 1, 2014

Subject: Long-Term Trash Load Reduction (Litter)

Dear Property Owner/Business Owner:

Trash, (i.e., litter), flows into the storm drains, creeks and eventually the Bay and adversely affects wildlife. Trash/litter is a threatened discharge into the City of Los Altos' (City) storm drain system and therefore, a violation of Section 10.08.390 of the Los Altos Municipal Code. The City is required to significantly reduce trash discharged from its stormwater drainage system by the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit (MRP) for Phase I communities in the San Francisco Bay (Order R2-2009-0074). The City's Long-term Trash Load Reduction Plan and Assessment Strategy were submitted to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) on February 1, 2014 in compliance with provision C.10.c of the MRP. The plan includes the delineation of Trash Management Areas (TMAs) and specific actions that the City will take to significantly reduce trash entering its stormwater system.

You are receiving this letter because your property is located in Trash Management Area (TMA) #1, #3A, #3B or #3C as shown on the attached map. These TMAs contain properties that generate medium (yellow) and/or high (red) levels of trash as observed by City staff last year via on-land visual assessments for litter. Trash levels from these TMAs need to be reduced to a low (green) trash generation level.

Please ensure that your property in TMA #1, #3A, #3B or #3C is litter free by performing on-land trash pickups every day or as necessary, and by improving the trash bin/container management activities to prevent overflowing containers that contribute to litter (please remember to keep the trash bin lids closed at all times). You may need to increase the number or size of your trash bins or/and the frequency of the garbage pick-up if your trash bins are

frequently overflowing. We hope that with these trash control measures, the levels of trash at the properties in TMAs #1, #3A, #3B and #3C are significantly reduced. If not, the Water Board will likely require expensive stormwater treatment measures (e.g. full capture devices) in the area and the City will look to recuperate costs from responsible parties. Full capture devices are not desirable due to their high cost, (including installation and on-going maintenance.)

Random assessment visits will be conducted within the next few months, (May and June), by the City to determine if improvements have been made in TMAs #1, #3A, #3B and #3C. The goal is to determine if trash reduction has indeed occurred as a result of enhanced trash management actions implemented by property owners.

Please contact me in the interim at 650-947-2603 or at afairman@losaltosca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Aida Fairman, P.E.
Associate Civil Engineer