

**COMMISSION ON STATE MANDATES**

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September 3, 2009

Mr. Leonard Kaye  
County of Los Angeles  
Auditor-Controller's Office  
500 W. Temple Street, Room 603  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mr. Howard Gest  
David W. Burhenn & Gest, LLP  
624 S. Grand Ave., Suite 2200  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

*And Interested Parties and Affected State Agencies (See Enclosed Mailing List)*

**RE: Adopted Statement of Decision and Timeline for Submission of Proposed Parameters and Guidelines or Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology**

*Municipal Storm Water and Urban Runoff Discharges*

03-TC-04, 03-TC-19, 03-TC-20, 03-TC-21

Los Angeles Regional Quality Control Board Order No. 01-182

Permit CAS004001; Parts 4C2a., 4C2b, 4E & 4F5c3

County of Los Angeles, Cities of Artesia, Beverly Hills, Carson, Norwalk, Rancho Palos Verdes, Westlake Village, Azusa, Commerce, Vernon, Bellflower, Covina, Downey, Monterey Park, Signal Hill, Co-claimants

Dear Mr. Kaye and Mr. Gest:

The Commission on State Mandates adopted the enclosed Statement of Decision on July 31, 2009. State law provides that reimbursement, if any, is subject to Commission approval of parameters and guidelines for reimbursement of the mandated program, approval of a statewide cost estimate, a specific legislative appropriation for such purpose, a timely-filed claim for reimbursement, and subsequent review of the claim by the State Controller's Office.

Following is a description of the responsibilities of all parties and of the Commission during the parameters and guidelines phase.

- **Claimant's Submission of Proposed Parameters and Guidelines.** Pursuant to Government Code section 17557 and California Code of Regulations, title 2, sections 1183.1 et seq., the claimant is responsible for submitting proposed parameters and guidelines to the Commission by **October 5, 2009**. For guidance in preparing and filing a timely submission see Government Code section 17557 and California Code of Regulations, title 2, sections 1183.1 et seq. Also, the claimant may include a "reasonable reimbursement methodology," a formula for reimbursing local agency costs mandated by the state in the Proposed Parameters and Guidelines. (See Gov. Code, § 17518.5 and Cal. Code Regs., tit.2, 1183.13.)
- **Review of Proposed Parameters and Guidelines.** Within ten days of receipt of completed proposed parameters and guidelines, Commission staff will send copies to the Department of Finance, Office of the State Controller, affected state agencies, and interested parties who are on the enclosed mailing list. Interested parties may propose a "reasonable reimbursement methodology" pursuant to Government Code section

- 17518.5. All recipients will be given an opportunity to provide written comments or recommendations to the Commission within 15 days of service. The claimant and other interested parties may submit written rebuttals. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1183.11.)
- **State Agencies and Interested Parties Comments.** State agencies and interested parties may submit recommendations and comments on staff's draft proposal and the claimant's modifications and/or comments within 15 days of service. State agencies and interested parties are required to submit an original and two (2) copies of written responses or rebuttals to the Commission and to simultaneously serve copies on the test claimant, state agencies, and interested parties on the mailing list. The claimant and other interested parties may submit written rebuttals. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1183.11.)
- **Adoption of Parameters and Guidelines.** After review of the draft parameters and guidelines and all comments, Commission staff will recommend the adoption of an amended, modified, or supplemented version of staff's draft parameters and guidelines. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1183.14.)
- **Review of Statewide Cost Estimate.** Commission staff may develop the statewide cost estimate based on initial reimbursement claims filed with the Office of the State Controller, application of a reasonable reimbursement methodology, or use a different methodology based on recommendations from the test claimant, the Department of Finance, or other interested parties. Before presenting a statewide cost estimate to the Commission for adoption, Commission staff shall disclose to the parties and interested parties the methodology, basis for any assumptions made, and sources of any data used to develop the estimate. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 1183.3.)
- **Adoption of Statewide Cost Estimate.** At least ten days prior to the next hearing, Commission staff shall issue a final staff analysis and a staff recommendation for adoption of the statewide cost estimate.

#### **Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology and Statewide Estimate of Costs**

- **Test Claimant and Department of Finance Submission of Letter of Intent.** Within 30 days of the Commission's adoption of a Statement of Decision on a test claim, the test claimant(s) and the Department of Finance may notify the executive director of the Commission in writing of their intent to follow the process described in Government Code sections 17557.1–17557.2 and section 1183.30 of the Commission's regulations to develop a *reasonable reimbursement methodology* and *statewide estimate of costs* for the initial claiming period and budget year for reimbursement of costs mandated by the state. The letter of intent shall include the date on which the test claimant and the Department of Finance will submit a plan to ensure that costs from a representative sample of eligible claimants are considered in the development of a reasonable reimbursement methodology.

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- **Test Claimant and Department of Finance Submission of Plan.** Pursuant to the letter of intent, the test claimant and the Department of Finance shall submit an original and two copies of the *jointly developed plan* for development of a reasonable reimbursement methodology and statewide estimate of costs to the Commission.
- **Test Claimant and Department of Finance Submission of Draft Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology and Statewide Estimate of Costs.** Pursuant to the plan, the test claimant and the Department of Finance shall submit an original and two copies of the *Draft Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology and Statewide Estimate of Costs* to the Commission. See Government Code section 17557.1 for guidance in preparing and filing a timely submission. Any filings made pursuant to Government Code section 17557.1 shall be simultaneously served on the other parties and interested parties on the mailing list.
- **Review of Proposed Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology and Statewide Estimate of Costs.** Upon receipt of the jointly developed proposals, Commission staff shall notify all recipients that they shall have the opportunity to review and provide written comments or recommendations concerning the draft reasonable reimbursement methodology and proposed statewide estimate of costs within fifteen (15) days of service. Claimants, state agencies, and interested parties shall submit an original and two copies of any written responses to Commission staff and shall simultaneously serve a copy on the other parties and interested parties. The test claimant and Department of Finance may submit written rebuttals to Commission staff and simultaneously serve a copy on the other parties and interested parties.
- **Adoption of Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology and Statewide Estimate of Costs.** At least ten days prior to the next hearing, Commission staff shall issue review comments and a staff recommendation on whether the Commission should approve the draft reasonable reimbursement methodology and adopt the proposed statewide estimate of costs pursuant to Government Code section 17557.2.

Please contact Heidi Palchik at (916) 323-8218 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



PAULA HIGASHI  
Executive Director

Enclosure

J:mandates/2003/tc/03tc04/sod/sodtrans

