
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 6, 2016

RE: Letter of Support for the Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program

To Santa Monica Bay Watershed Cities:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, I am writing in support of The Bay Foundation's Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program (Clean Bay Certified) as a practical and effective method to improve coastal water quality of Los Angeles County by reducing runoff pollution generated by restaurants. Our staff has worked with The Bay Foundation to refine certification requirements under the program so that a city's participation demonstrates a commitment to strategic stormwater management and reduction of non-point source discharge into our waterways.

Clean Bay Certified requires annual city inspections of restaurants following the Clean Bay Certified Inspection Checklist, which is a 36-point inspection form for pollution prevention Best Management Practices (19 items are required by law and 17 additional items). Certified Clean Bay restaurants must achieve 100% compliance by properly diverting stormwater runoff from daily maintenance practices, implement exterior dry sweeping, appropriately manage FOG, and follow any additional city restrictions such as adhere to plastic bag bans, among other program requirements.

Specifically, the Clean Bay Certified Program supports the following:

- Increased knowledge of restaurateurs, their staff, and the general public regarding municipal stormwater regulations, the adverse impacts of stormwater pollution on receiving waters and potential solutions to mitigate the impacts.
- Changes in waste disposal and stormwater pollution generation behavior by developing and encouraging implementation of appropriate alternatives, and an involvement and engagement of a diversity of socio-economic groups and ethnic communities in Los Angeles County to participate in mitigating the impacts of stormwater pollution.
- Collaboration with other watershed groups to decrease stormwater pollution (i.e. J5 and J6 collaboratively participate in Clean Bay Certified).
- Organization of events to educate and involve the community in stormwater and non-stormwater pollution prevention and clean-up.
- Implementation of a program to prevent illicit discharges to sewer and stormwater systems and receiving waters and reduce discharges of stormwater to the maximum extent practicable.

- Inspection and notification of restaurants regarding sewer and stormwater BMP requirements (i.e. participating cities conduct rigorous annual inspections as part of Clean Bay Certified program requirements).
- Inspection of restaurants to confirm that stormwater and non-stormwater BMPs are being effectively implemented in compliance with municipal ordinances. Verification that restaurants are implementing effective source control BMPs for their activities.
- Provision of technical information to restaurants to facilitate their efforts to reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater, including on-site technical assistance and distribution of stormwater pollution prevention educational materials to operators of restaurants.

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board applauds the cities currently participating in Clean Bay Certified as they continue efforts to reduce stormwater pollution, and strongly encourage other cities to follow suit. We look forward to working with all jurisdictions towards water quality improvements, successful implementation of integrated watershed management plans, and the ultimate goal of preventing harmful pollutants from entering our coastal waters.

If you have any questions about Clean Bay Certified, please contact Grace Lee with The Bay Foundation at (213) 576-6757/glee@santamonicabay.org.

Sincerely,



Samuel Unger
Executive Officer