



Marin County Department of Public Works
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September 28, 2010

**Member
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County
of Marin

Fairfax

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Seaberry Nachbar
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

RE: Support for EAC Watershed Education Proposal – B-WET – 2011-2012
Academic Year

I am writing to express my support for the Environmental Action Committee's (EAC) proposal to NOAA's B-WET Watershed Education Program 2011-2012 funding to teach West Marin School students about watersheds, stormwater pollution prevention, and creek/watershed protection. The Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP) will provide assistance to EAC on this project and will benefit from their efforts to:

- Provide meaningful, multi-disciplinary outdoor and classroom watershed study experiences to students
- Expand student experience in scientific inquiry and watershed monitoring/watershed health assessment
- Increase student understanding of watershed processes and the impacts from land use activities on watershed health
- Enhance student connection with Tomales Bay and the ocean
- Encourage and facilitate students to share their learning with the wider community, including other students at school, family, friends, visitors, and Partner organizations.

MCSTOPPP is a joint effort of Marin's cities, towns and unincorporated areas. Our goals are to prevent stormwater pollution, protect and enhance water quality in creeks and wetlands, preserve beneficial uses (eg. aquatic life) of local waterways, and comply with state and federal regulations. MCSTOPPP assists all Marin County municipalities to comply with the statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II general stormwater permit. Public outreach and education to students in Marin is essential as we work with partners throughout Marin to protect our watersheds.

During the 2009-2010 school year, MCSTOPPP loaned a large dry-erase Marin Watersheds Map and our watershed diorama to the West Marin B-WET program. The diorama is an effective tool for teaching students about how a watershed

works and how pollutants can make their way through the storm drain system into creeks, bays and the ocean. We also joined EAC and the B-WET program in the classroom to assist students to conduct a rain water infiltration experiment designed to demonstrate the effect of impervious surfaces in the watershed and to discuss stormwater pollution prevention. Finally, we provided EAC with storm drain markers and a storm drain network map. B-WET program students installed the markers in the Point Reyes Station community. We will provide similar assistance during the 2010-2011 and the 2011-2012 school years.

We strongly support EAC's 2011-2012 proposal, and look forward to working with EAC and NOAA in implementing the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Fashing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Terri Fashing
Stormwater Program Manager
MCSTOPPP