



Protect Creeks and the Bay: Keep Sediments and Contaminated Water out of the Storm Drain System

**MARIN COUNTY STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM
Best Management Practices for TRENCH DEWATERING**

Requirements for Dewatering Discharges from Minor Street Excavations

- The Federal Clean Water Act, the California Water Code, and local ordinances **prohibit** non-stormwater discharges to the storm drain system.
- Non-stormwater discharges include water that is actually or potentially contaminated with any pollutant, including, but not limited to, sewage, grease, drilling mud and oil.
- Uncontaminated pumped groundwater or accumulated rainwater may be discharged to the storm drain system but must be managed to minimize sediment reaching storm drains and ensure downstream creeks, wetlands, and the Bay are not polluted.
- The storm drain system includes streets, gutters, storm drain inlets, ditches, creeks, and wetlands.

IF YOUR SITE OR PROJECT REQUIRES DEWATERING, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL STORMWATER COORDINATOR BEFORE DISCHARGING WATER TO THE STORM DRAIN SYSTEM. *CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE REVERSE PAGE.*

As necessary, local municipal staff will determine whether flows from dewatering a particular excavation may be discharged to the storm drain system and what measures must be taken to reduce sediment in the discharge.

Depending on circumstances, holders of encroachment or building permits may be directed to use one or more of the following measures:

- Avoid the discharge. Disperse pumped water to a level dirt or landscaped area to allow infiltration or use for dust control. Be sure to prevent damage to landscaping.
- Build a sediment trap (temporary basin formed by excavation or earthen embankment across a low drainage area to detain sediment-laden runoff and allow sediment to settle out before discharging).
- Use a mobile weir tank, dewatering tank, or sand filter (follow vendor instructions).
- At minimum, use a gravity bag filter (dewatering bag) or similar filtration device (follow vendor instructions).

Odors, discoloration, or an oily sheen can indicate contaminants in the water. Dewatering discharges containing contaminants may need to be captured and treated or hauled to a suitable disposal site.

Some dewatering discharges require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). For more information, call the RWQCB or visit their website:

Phone: 510-622-2300

Web: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/npdes_gen_permit.shtml



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Marin County Local Municipal Stormwater Coordinators (415 Prefix)

Town of San Anselmo
258-4616 or 258-2600 (M-Th)

City of Sausalito
289-4111 or 289-4100 ext. 106

Town of Corte Madera
927-5069 or 927-5057 (M-Th)

City of San Rafael
485-3355

City of Belvedere
435-3838 (M-Th)

County of Marin
499-3748 or 499-6528

Town of Ross
453-8287 or 453-1453 ext. 163

Town of Tiburon
435-7354 or 435-7399

Town of Fairfax
458-0291 or 453-1584 (M-Th)

City of Larkspur
927-5028 or 927-5017 (M-Th)

City of Novato
899-8246

City of Mill Valley
388-4033 ext. 116



References:

California State Water Resources Control Board, *Municipal Phase II Stormwater NPDES Permit CASQA, Dewatering Operations*: <http://www.cabmphandbooks.com/Documents/Construction/NS-2.pdf>

Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program,
http://www.mcstoppp.org/acrobat/AP2010_20050520%20.pdf

Caltrans, *Construction Site Best Management Practices Manual, Dewatering Operations NS-2*
(<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/NS02Update.doc>)

Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
P.O. Box 4186 • San Rafael, CA 94913 • 415-499-6528
www.mcstoppp.org

If you require materials in alternative formats, please contact:
415-473-4381 voice/TTY or disabilityaccess@co.marin.ca.us