



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: 510-622-2329

Web: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay> or

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

Marin County Local Municipal Stormwater Coordinators

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



Remember: Some municipalities may be closed on Fridays – Call first! All numbers below are in 415 area code.

Town of San Anselmo
258-4616

City of Sausalito
289-4192

Town of Corte Madera
927-5057

City of San Rafael
485-3355

City of Belvedere
435-3838

County of Marin
473-6528

Town of Ross
453-8287 ext. 163

Town of Tiburon
435-7354

Town of Fairfax
453-1584

City of Larkspur
927-5017

City of Novato
899-8246

City of Mill Valley
388-4033



References:

California State Water Resources Control Board: Municipal Phase II Stormwater NPDES Permit:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.html

CASQA, Dewatering Operations: https://www.casqa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NS-02_2023.pdf

Caltrans, Construction Site Best Management Practices Manual, Dewatering Operations:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/construction/storm-water-and-water-pollution-control/manuals-and-handbooks>

Marin Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, Construction Projects:

<https://mcstoppp.org/2020/03/construction-projects/>

Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
P.O. Box 4186 ▪ San Rafael, CA 94913 ▪ 415-473-6528
www.mcstoppp.org

If you require materials in alternative formats, please call:
415-473-4381 (Voice) or CRS 711 or email disabilityaccess@marincounty.org

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