



**Linda S. Adams**  
*Secretary for  
Environmental Protection*

# State Water Resources Control Board

## Division of Water Quality

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 341-5537  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1977 • Sacramento, California • 95812-1977  
FAX (916) 341-5543 • Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormwtr/index.html>



**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
*Governor*

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)  
GENERAL PERMIT FOR  
STORM WATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH  
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY (GENERAL PERMIT)  
WATER QUALITY ORDER 99-08-DWQ

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### CHECKLIST FOR SUBMITTING A NOTICE OF INTENT

In order for the State Water Resources Control Board to expeditiously process your Notice of Intent (NOI), the following items must be submitted to either of the addresses indicated below:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ NOI (please keep a copy for your files) with all applicable sections completed and original signature of the landowner or signatory agent;
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Check made out to the "State Water Resources Control Board"  
See reverse for listing of fees by acre. The fee is based on the "Total Acres to be Disturbed" for the life of the project.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Site Map of the facility (see NOI instructions). **DO NOT SEND BLUEPRINTS**  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### U.S. Postal Service Address

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
Attn: Storm Water Section  
P.O. Box 1977  
Sacramento, CA 95812-1977

#### Overnight Mailing Address

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division Of Water Quality  
Attn: Storm Water, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

NOIs are processed in the order they are received. A NOI receipt letter will be mailed to the landowner within approximately two weeks. Incomplete NOI submittals will be returned to the landowner's address within the same timeframe and will specify the reason(s) for return. If you need a receipt letter by a specific date (for example, to provide to a local agency), we advise that you submit your NOI thirty (30) days prior to the date the receipt letter is needed.

Please do not call us to verify your NOI status. A copy of your NOI receipt letter will be available on our web page within twenty-four (24) hours of processing. Go to: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/databases.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/databases.shtml) to retrieve an electronic copy of your NOI receipt letter. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact us at (916) 341-5537.

## Construction Annual Fees by Acre

Partial Acreage rounded to nearest whole number

<u>Acres</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>21% Surcharge</u>	<u>Total Fee</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>21% Surcharge</u>	<u>Total Fee</u>
0	\$238	\$50	\$288	51	\$1,462	\$307	\$1,769
1	\$262	\$55	\$317	52	\$1,486	\$312	\$1,798
2	\$286	\$60	\$346	53	\$1,510	\$317	\$1,827
3	\$310	\$65	\$375	54	\$1,534	\$322	\$1,856
4	\$334	\$70	\$404	55	\$1,558	\$327	\$1,885
5	\$358	\$75	\$433	56	\$1,582	\$332	\$1,914
6	\$382	\$80	\$462	57	\$1,606	\$337	\$1,943
7	\$406	\$85	\$491	58	\$1,630	\$342	\$1,972
8	\$430	\$90	\$520	59	\$1,654	\$347	\$2,001
9	\$454	\$95	\$549	60	\$1,678	\$352	\$2,030
10	\$478	\$100	\$578	61	\$1,702	\$357	\$2,059
11	\$502	\$105	\$607	62	\$1,726	\$362	\$2,088
12	\$526	\$110	\$636	63	\$1,750	\$368	\$2,118
13	\$550	\$116	\$666	64	\$1,774	\$373	\$2,147
14	\$574	\$121	\$695	65	\$1,798	\$378	\$2,176
15	\$598	\$126	\$724	66	\$1,822	\$383	\$2,205
16	\$622	\$131	\$753	67	\$1,846	\$388	\$2,234
17	\$646	\$136	\$782	68	\$1,870	\$393	\$2,263
18	\$670	\$141	\$811	69	\$1,894	\$398	\$2,292
19	\$694	\$146	\$840	70	\$1,918	\$403	\$2,321
20	\$718	\$151	\$869	71	\$1,942	\$408	\$2,350
21	\$742	\$156	\$898	72	\$1,966	\$413	\$2,379
22	\$766	\$161	\$927	73	\$1,990	\$418	\$2,408
23	\$790	\$166	\$956	74	\$2,014	\$423	\$2,437
24	\$814	\$171	\$985	75	\$2,038	\$428	\$2,466
25	\$838	\$176	\$1,014	76	\$2,062	\$433	\$2,495
26	\$862	\$181	\$1,043	77	\$2,086	\$438	\$2,524
27	\$886	\$186	\$1,072	78	\$2,110	\$443	\$2,553
28	\$910	\$191	\$1,101	79	\$2,134	\$448	\$2,582
29	\$934	\$196	\$1,130	80	\$2,158	\$453	\$2,611
30	\$958	\$201	\$1,159	81	\$2,182	\$458	\$2,640
31	\$982	\$206	\$1,188	82	\$2,206	\$463	\$2,669
32	\$1,006	\$211	\$1,217	83	\$2,230	\$468	\$2,698
33	\$1,030	\$216	\$1,246	84	\$2,254	\$473	\$2,727
34	\$1,054	\$221	\$1,275	85	\$2,278	\$478	\$2,756
35	\$1,078	\$226	\$1,304	86	\$2,302	\$483	\$2,785
36	\$1,102	\$231	\$1,333	87	\$2,326	\$488	\$2,814
37	\$1,126	\$236	\$1,362	88	\$2,350	\$494	\$2,844
38	\$1,150	\$242	\$1,392	89	\$2,374	\$499	\$2,873
39	\$1,174	\$247	\$1,421	90	\$2,398	\$504	\$2,902
40	\$1,198	\$252	\$1,450	91	\$2,422	\$509	\$2,931
41	\$1,222	\$257	\$1,479	92	\$2,446	\$514	\$2,960
42	\$1,246	\$262	\$1,508	93	\$2,470	\$519	\$2,989
43	\$1,270	\$267	\$1,537	94	\$2,494	\$524	\$3,018
44	\$1,294	\$272	\$1,566	95	\$2,518	\$529	\$3,047
45	\$1,318	\$277	\$1,595	96	\$2,542	\$534	\$3,076
46	\$1,342	\$282	\$1,624	97	\$2,566	\$539	\$3,105
47	\$1,366	\$287	\$1,653	98	\$2,590	\$544	\$3,134
48	\$1,390	\$292	\$1,682	99	\$2,614	\$549	\$3,163
49	\$1,414	\$297	\$1,711	>100	\$2,618	\$550	\$3,168
50	\$1,438	\$302	\$1,740				

FACT SHEET  
FOR  
WATER QUALITY ORDER 99-08-DWQ

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (SWRCB)  
901 P STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)  
GENERAL PERMIT FOR  
STORM WATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH  
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY (GENERAL PERMIT)

BACKGROUND

In 1972, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also referred to as the Clean Water Act [CWA]) was amended to provide that the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States from any point source is unlawful unless the discharge is in compliance with an NPDES permit. The 1987 amendments to the CWA added Section 402(p) which establishes a framework for regulating municipal and industrial storm water discharges under the NPDES Program. On November 16, 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) published final regulations that establish storm water permit application requirements for specified categories of industries. The regulations provide that discharges of storm water to waters of the United States from construction projects that encompass five (5) or more acres of soil disturbance are effectively prohibited unless the discharge is in compliance with an NPDES Permit. Regulations (Phase II Rule) that became final on December 8, 1999 expand the existing NPDES program to address storm water discharges from construction sites that disturb land equal to or greater than one (1) acre and less than five (5) acres (small construction activity). The regulations require that small construction activity, other than those regulated under an individual or Regional Water Quality Control Board General Permit, must be permitted no later than March 10, 2003.

While federal regulations allow two permitting options for storm water discharges (individual permits and General Permits), the SWRCB has elected to adopt only one statewide General Permit at this time that will apply to all storm water discharges associated with construction activity, except from those on Tribal Lands, in the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit, and those performed by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Construction on Tribal Lands is regulated by an USEPA permit, the Lahontan Regional Water Control Board adopted a separate NPDES permit for the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit, and the SWRCB adopted a separate NPDES permit for Caltrans projects. This General Permit requires all dischargers where construction activity disturbs one acre or more, to:

1. Develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which specifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will prevent all construction pollutants from contacting storm water and with the intent of keeping all products of erosion from moving off site into receiving waters.

2. Eliminate or reduce nonstorm water discharges to storm sewer systems and other waters of the nation.
3. Perform inspections of all BMPs.

This General Permit shall be implemented and enforced by the nine California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs).

The General Permit accompanying this fact sheet regulates storm water runoff from construction sites. Regulating many storm water discharges under one permit will greatly reduce the otherwise overwhelming administrative burden associated with permitting individual storm water discharges. Dischargers shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under this General Permit. It is expected that as the storm water program develops, the RWQCBs may issue General Permits or individual permits containing more specific permit provisions. When this occurs, those dischargers will no longer be regulated by this General Permit.

On August 19, 1999, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) reissued the General Construction Storm Water Permit (Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ referred to as "General Permit"). The San Francisco BayKeeper, Santa Monica BayKeeper, San Diego BayKeeper, and Orange Coast Keeper filed a petition for writ of mandate challenging the General Permit in the Superior Court, County of Sacramento. The Court issued a judgment and writ of mandate on September 15, 2000. The Court directed the SWRCB to modify the provisions of the General Permit to require permittees to implement specific sampling and analytical procedures to determine whether Best Management Practices (BMPs) implemented on a construction site are: (1) preventing further impairment by sediment in storm waters discharged directly into waters listed as impaired for sediment or silt, and (2) preventing other pollutants, that are known or should be known by permittees to occur on construction sites and that are not visually detectable in storm water discharges, from causing or contributing to exceedances of water quality objectives. The monitoring provisions in the General Permit have been modified pursuant to the court order.

#### TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY COVERED BY THIS GENERAL PERMIT

Construction activity subject to this General Permit includes clearing, grading, disturbances to the ground such as stockpiling, or excavation that results in soil disturbances of at least one acre of total land area. Construction activity that results in soil disturbances of less than one acre is subject to this General Permit if the construction activity is part of a larger common plan of development that encompasses one or more acres of soil disturbance or if there is significant water quality impairment resulting from the activity. Construction activity does not include routine maintenance to maintain original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of the facility, nor does it include emergency construction activities required to protect public health and safety. Dischargers should confirm with the local RWQCB whether or not a particular routine maintenance activity is subject to this General Permit.

A construction project which includes a dredge and/or fill discharge to any jurisdictional surface water (e.g., wetland, channel, pond, or marine water) will also need a CWA Section 404 permit

from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB/SWRCB. Storm water discharges from dredge spoil placement which occurs outside of Corps jurisdiction (upland sites) and are part of construction activity which disturbs one or more acres of land are covered by this general permit. Proponents of construction projects which disturb one or more acres of land within the jurisdictional boundaries of a CWA Section 404 permit should contact the local RWQCB to determine the applicability of this permit to the project.

### NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of the landowner to obtain coverage under this General Permit prior to commencement of construction activities. To obtain coverage, the landowner must file an NOI with a vicinity map and the appropriate fee with the SWRCB. In addition, coverage under this permit shall not occur until the applicant develops an adequate SWPPP for the project. Section A of the General Permit outlines the required contents of a SWPPP. For proposed construction activity on easements or on nearby property by agreement or permission, the entity responsible for the construction activity shall file an NOI and filing fee and shall be responsible for development of the SWPPP, all of which must occur prior to commencement of construction activities.

A separate NOI shall be submitted to the SWRCB for each construction site. Owners of new construction shall file an NOI prior to the commencement of construction. Owners of an ongoing construction site that is covered under the previous General Construction Permit (WQ Order No.92-08-DWQ) (1) shall continue to implement their existing SWPPP and monitoring program and (2) shall implement any necessary revisions to their SWPPP in a timely manner but in no case later than 90-calender days from adoption of this General Permit in accordance with Section A of this General Permit.

The NOI requirements of the General Permit are intended to establish a mechanism which can be used to clearly identify the responsible parties, locations, and scope of operations of dischargers covered by the General Permit and to document the discharger's knowledge of the requirements for a SWPPP.

The NOI must be sent to the following address:

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
Storm Water Permit Unit  
P.O. Box 1977  
Sacramento, CA 95812-1977

The Annual fees are established through regulations adopted by the SWRCB. The total annual fee is the current base fee plus applicable surcharges for all construction sites submitting an NOI .

When construction is complete or ownership has been transferred, dischargers shall file a Notice of Termination with the RWQCB certifying that all State and local requirements have been met in accordance with Special Provisions for Construction Activity, C.7, of the General Permit.

Dischargers who fail to obtain coverage under this General Permit for storm water discharges to surface waters will be in violation of the CWA and the California Water Code.

### CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY NOT COVERED BY THIS GENERAL PERMIT

This General Permit does not apply to storm water discharges from (1) those areas on Tribal Lands; (2) the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit; (3) construction under one acre, unless part of a larger common plan of development or sale; (4) projects covered by an individual NPDES Permit for storm water discharges associated with construction activity; and (5) landfill construction that is subject to the general industrial permit.

Storm water discharges in the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit are regulated by a separate permit(s) adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (LRWQCB). USEPA regulates storm water discharges on Tribal Lands. Permit applications for storm water discharges that will be conducted in the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit must be submitted directly to the LRWQCB.

### DESCRIPTION OF GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS

The following is a brief description of the major provisions of the General Permit and the basis for the General Permit.

#### Prohibitions

This General Permit authorizes the discharge of storm water to surface waters from construction activities that result in the disturbance of one or more acres of land. It prohibits the discharge of materials other than storm water and authorized non-storm water discharges and all discharges which contain a hazardous substance in excess of reportable quantities established at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 117.3 or 40 CFR 302.4 unless a separate NPDES Permit has been issued to regulate those discharges. In addition, this General Permit contains provisions that uphold discharge prohibitions contained in water quality control plans, as implemented through the nine RWQCBs.

#### Effluent Limitations

Permits for storm water discharges associated with construction activity shall meet all applicable provisions of Sections 301 and 402 of the CWA. These provisions require controls of pollutant discharges that utilize best available technology economically achievable (BAT) and best conventional pollutant control technology (BCT) to reduce pollutants and any more stringent controls necessary to meet water quality standards.

It is not feasible at this time for the SWRCB to establish numeric effluent limitations. The reasons why it is not feasible to establish numeric effluent limitations are discussed in detail in SWRCB Order Nos. WQ 91-03 and WQ 91-04. Therefore, the effluent limitations contained in this General Permit are narrative and include the requirement to implement appropriate BMPs.

The BMPs shall primarily emphasize source controls such as erosion control and pollution prevention methods. The discharger shall also install structural controls, as necessary, such as sediment control which will constitute BAT and BCT and will achieve compliance with water quality standards. The narrative effluent limitations constitute compliance with the requirements of the CWA.

Elimination or reduction of nonstorm water discharges is a major goal of this General Permit. Nonstorm water discharges include a wide variety of sources, including improper dumping, spills, or leakage from storage tanks or transfer areas. Nonstorm water discharges may contribute a significant pollutant load to receiving waters. Measures to control spills, leakage, and dumping and to prevent illicit connections during construction shall be addressed through structural as well as non-structural BMPs.

This General Permit prohibits the discharge of materials other than storm water and authorized nonstorm water discharges. It is recognized that certain nonstorm water discharges may be necessary for the completion of construction projects. Such discharges include, but are not limited to irrigation of vegetative erosion control measures, pipe flushing and testing, street cleaning, and dewatering. Such discharges are allowed by this General Permit provided they are not relied upon to clean up failed or inadequate construction or post-construction BMPs designed to keep materials onsite. These authorized nonstorm water discharges shall (1) be infeasible to eliminate, (2) comply with BMPs as described in the SWPPP, and (3) not cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards. Additionally, these discharges may be required to be permitted by the local RWQCB (e.g., some RWQCBs have adopted General Permits for dewatering discharges). This General Permit is performance-based to the extent that it prohibits the discharge of storm water that causes or threatens to cause pollution, contamination, or nuisance; but it also allows the owner/developer to determine the most economical, effective, and possibly innovative BMPs.

The requirements of this General Permit are intended to be implemented on a year-round basis, not just during the part of the year when there is a high probability of a precipitation event which results in storm water runoff. The permit should be implemented at the appropriate level and in a proactive manner during all seasons while construction is ongoing.

Weather and storm predictions or weather information concerning the 10-year, 6-hour storm event and mean annual rainfall can be obtained by calling the Western Regional Climate Center at 775-674-7010 or via the internet at [www.wrcc.dri.edu/precip.html](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/precip.html) and/or [www.wrcc.dri.edu/pcpnfreq.html](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/pcpnfreq.html).

#### Receiving Water Limitations Language

The receiving water limitations language is fundamentally different from the language adopted in the SWRCB General Industrial Activities Storm Water Permit on April 17, 1997. Construction related activities which cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality standards must be corrected immediately and cannot wait for the RWQCB to approve a plan of action to correct. The dynamic nature of construction activity allows the discharger the ability to more quickly identify and correct the source of the exceedances. Therefore, the owner is

required to take immediate corrective action and to provide a report to the appropriate RWQCB within 14-calendar days of the violation describing the corrective action.

### Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

This General Permit requires development and implementation of a SWPPP. This document emphasizes the use of appropriately selected, correctly installed and maintained pollution reduction BMPs. This approach provides the flexibility necessary to establish BMPs which can effectively address source control of pollutants during changing construction activities.

All dischargers shall prepare and implement a SWPPP prior to disturbing a site. The SWPPP must be implemented at the appropriate level to protect water quality at all times throughout the life of the project. Nonstorm water BMPs must be implemented year round. The SWPPP shall remain on the site while the site is under construction, commencing with the initial mobilization and ending with the termination of coverage under the permit.

The SWPPP has two major objectives: (1) to help identify the sources of sediment and other pollutants that affect the quality of storm water discharges and (2) to describe and ensure the implementation of BMPs to reduce or eliminate sediment and other pollutants in storm water as well as nonstorm water discharges. The SWPPP shall include BMPs which address source control and, if necessary, shall also include BMPs which address pollutant control.

Required elements of a SWPPP include: (1) site description addressing the elements and characteristics specific to the site, (2) descriptions of BMPs for erosion and sediment controls, (3) BMPs for construction waste handling and disposal, (4) implementation of approved local plans, (5) proposed post-construction controls, including description of local post-construction erosion and sediment control requirements, and (6) nonstorm water management.

To ensure that the preparation, implementation, and oversight of the SWPPP is sufficient for effective pollution prevention, individuals responsible for creating, revising, overseeing, and implementing the SWPPP should participate in applicable training programs and document such training in the SWPPP.

SWPPPs are reports that are available to the public under Section 308(b) of the CWA and will be made available by the RWQCB upon request.

### Monitoring Program

Another major feature of the General Permit is the development and implementation of a monitoring program. All dischargers are required to conduct inspections of the construction site prior to anticipated storm events and after actual storm events. During extended storm events, inspections must be made during each 24-hour period. The goals of these inspections are (1) to identify areas contributing to a storm water discharge; (2) to evaluate whether measures to reduce pollutant loadings identified in the SWPPP are adequate and properly installed and functioning in accordance with the terms of the General Permit; and (3) whether additional control practices or corrective maintenance activities are needed. Equipment, materials, and

workers must be available for rapid response to failures and emergencies. All corrective maintenance to BMPs shall be performed as soon as possible, depending upon worker safety.

Each discharger shall certify annually that the construction activities are in compliance with the requirements of this General Permit. Dischargers who cannot certify annual compliance shall notify the appropriate RWQCB. A well-developed monitoring program will provide a good method for checking the effectiveness of the SWPPP.

#### Retention of Records

The discharger is required to retain records of all monitoring information, copies of all reports required by this General Permit, and records of all data used to complete the NOI for all construction activities to be covered by the General Permit for a period of at least three years from the date generated. This period may be extended by request of the SWRCB and/or RWQCB. With the exception of reporting noncompliance to the appropriate RWQCB, dischargers are not required to submit the records, except upon specific request by the RWQCB.



FACT SHEET  
FOR  
WATER QUALITY ORDER 99-08-DWQ

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (SWRCB)  
1001 I STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)  
GENERAL PERMIT FOR  
STORM WATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH  
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY (GENERAL PERMIT): Sampling and Analysis

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## 1.0 Introduction

This document is an amendment to the Fact Sheet to the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated With Construction Activity (CGP). This Permit was modified in 2001 by Resolution No. 2001-046, "*Modification of Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit For Storm Water Discharges Associated With Construction Activity (CGP)*". The modifications to the CGP require that a sampling and analysis strategy and sampling schedule for certain discharges from construction activity be developed and kept with the project's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The sampling and analysis requirements are found in Section B, paragraphs 7 and 8, of the CGP. Paragraph 7 concerns monitoring for sedimentation/siltation or turbidity and Paragraph 8 concerns monitoring for pollutants that are not visually detectable in storm water. Where required, a sampling and analysis strategy and sampling schedule must be developed regardless of the time of the year that construction occurs.

This document only addresses the modifications and is intended to facilitate the proper implementation of the sampling and analysis requirements. It provides information on when sampling and analysis is required, how to perform sampling and analysis, what conclusions may be drawn from the sampling and analysis results, and it explains the rationale for the required sampling.

SWRCB staff developed this document with consideration of comments from interested persons, including the California Stormwater Quality Association, the Building Industry Legal Defense Foundation, the California Building Industry Association, the San Francisco BayKeeper, the Santa Monica BayKeeper, the San Diego BayKeeper, and the Orange County CoastKeeper. It is based on the CGP, two orders issued by the Sacramento Superior Court in response to a challenge to the CGP, Clean Water Act provisions, regulations, guidance documents and permits issued by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and other documents submitted by interested persons. A full record has been compiled and is available for inspection or copying upon request. A draft guidance document was circulated for public comment and a hearing was held prior to issuance of this final guidance document.

Although sampling and analysis will be required at many construction sites, it will not be required at all construction sites. It is the responsibility of dischargers to evaluate the construction project and, where required, to develop a site-specific sampling and analysis strategy in compliance with the CGP requirements. For further guidance please contact your local Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

The sampling and analysis requirements supplement, but do not replace, the visual monitoring program required by Section B of the CGP. All construction projects must continue the visual monitoring program including inspections before predicted rain events, during extended rain events, and following rain events that produce runoff.

This document provides guidance on complying with the sampling and analysis requirements of the CGP. It does not in any way change these requirements or guarantee compliance with the CGP. The permit has many other requirements such as development of a SWPPP,

implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) programs, and visual monitoring that are not addressed in this document.

## **1.1 Organization**

Section 1: general information and background on the sampling and requirements.

Section 2: non-visible pollutant sampling and analysis.

Section 3: sediment, silt and turbidity sampling and analysis.

Section 4: sampling and analysis procedures.

Section 5: definitions.

Section 6: contact list and additional sources of information.

Section 7: general explanation of and rationale for the sampling and analysis requirements; citations to other documents that form the basis for the SWRCB's conclusions.

## **1.2 Background**

The SWRCB adopted the CGP on August 19, 1999. The CGP is an NPDES permit that implements section 402(p)(2)(B) of the federal Clean Water Act. The San Francisco BayKeeper, Santa Monica BayKeeper, San Diego BayKeeper, and Orange County CoastKeeper filed a petition for writ of mandate challenging numerous aspects of the CGP in the Superior Court, County of Sacramento.

On September 15, 2000, the Court issued a judgment and writ of mandate that upheld most provisions of the CGP, but directed the SWRCB to modify the provisions of the CGP to require permittees to implement specific sampling and analytical procedures to determine whether BMPs implemented on a construction site are:

(1) preventing further impairment by sediment in storm waters discharged directly into waters listed as impaired (Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List [303(d) List]) for sediment, silt, or turbidity; and

(2) preventing other pollutants that are known or should be known by permittees to occur on construction sites and that can not be visually observed or detected in storm water discharges, from causing or contributing to exceedances of water quality objectives.

The monitoring, sampling and analysis provisions in the CGP were modified pursuant to the court order and issued as Resolution No. 2001-046, adopted by the SWRCB on April 26, 2001.

On December 27, 2001, the Court issued an Order Enforcing Writ of Mandate. In that order, the Court acknowledged that the permit had been modified, but required further actions by the SWRCB. Issuance of this fact sheet amendment is intended to respond to the Court's further instructions. In general, the Court expressed concern that certain aspects of the modifications might be ambiguous and might result in misinterpretation by dischargers. This amendment is

intended to avoid such potential ambiguities and misinterpretations and to help explain the requirements and provide suggestions for compliance.

### **1.2.1 Water Quality Standards or Objectives**

The Receiving Water Limitations in the CGP require the SWPPP be designed and implemented so that storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges do not cause or contribute to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standard. (CGP, Receiving Water Limitation B.2.) The modifications to the monitoring program require sampling and analysis procedures to help determine whether BMPs installed and maintained in accordance with the SWPPP are preventing pollutants in discharges from the construction site from causing or contributing to exceedance of water quality standards. In making these determinations, it is necessary to understand what are the applicable water quality standards.

Water quality standards consist of the designation of beneficial uses of surface waters and the adoption of ambient criteria necessary to protect those uses. (40 CFR §131.3(i)) When adopted by the SWRCB or a RWQCB, the criteria are termed “water quality objectives.” (Water Code §13241; the terms are used interchangeably here.) If storm water runoff from construction sites contains pollutants, there is a risk that those pollutants could enter surface waters and cause or contribute to exceedance of water quality standards. For that reason, dischargers should be aware of the applicable water quality standards in their receiving waters. (The best method to ensure compliance with receiving water limitations is to implement BMPs that prevent pollutants from contact with storm water or from leaving the construction site in runoff).

In California, water quality standards are published in the Basin Plans adopted by each RWQCB, the California Toxics Rule (CTR), the National Toxics Rule (NTR), and the Ocean Plan. One way to determine the applicable standards for the receiving water for your runoff is to contact staff from the appropriate RWQCB. (See the contact list in Section 6 of this guidance.)

The SWRCB intends in the future to augment its internet site to further facilitate access to water quality standards. In the interim, dischargers can determine the applicable water quality standards by contacting RWQCB staff or from one of the following sources. The actual plans that contain the water quality standards can be viewed at the site of the appropriate RWQCB for Basin Plans (<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/regions.html>), the SWRCB site for statewide plans (<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plnspols/index.html>), or the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulations for the NTR and CTR (40 CFR Title 131). Basin Plans and statewide plans are also available by mail from the appropriate RWQCB or the SWRCB. The USEPA regulations are available at <http://www.epa.gov/>. Additional information concerning Water Quality Standards can be accessed through [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormwtr/gen\\_const.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormwtr/gen_const.html)

### **1.2.2 Non-Visible Pollutant Sampling**

The monitoring requirements in the CGP require sampling and analysis for pollutants that are not visually detectable in storm water discharges, which are or should be known to occur on the construction site, and which could cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives. As is explained below, the situations where non-visible pollutants may occur in runoff from a construction site are limited. Where such non-visible pollutants are known or

should be known to be present and have the potential to contact runoff and to contribute to an exceedance of a water quality objective, sampling and analysis is required.

A variety of materials are used in construction or are present on construction sites. Examples of such materials include soil stabilizers, paint, and fluids from vehicles. Any of these materials can end up in the storm water runoff and contain pollutants that pose a threat to water quality. Some of these potential pollutants will leave a visible trace. For example, sediment turns water brown and oil and grease leave a sheen. Other pollutants will discolor the runoff or leave a residue or film. For pollutants that are visible in runoff, the CGP requires the discharger to perform visual monitoring of the site and does not require sampling and analysis. The sampling and analysis requirements only apply to pollutants that do not leave a visible trace or are not associated with a visible tracer. Examples of such potential non-visible pollutants include increased pH, pesticides, and nutrients such as nitrogen or phosphorus.

The presence or use of a material on the construction site does not always mean that dischargers must sample for it in runoff. The CGP requires sampling and analysis when non-visible pollutants could "cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives in the receiving water." The most effective way to avoid the sampling and analysis requirements, and to ensure permit compliance, is to avoid the exposure of construction materials to precipitation and storm water runoff. Materials that are not exposed do not have the potential to enter storm water runoff, and therefore do not need to be sampled for in runoff. Preventing contact between storm water and construction materials is one of the most important BMPs at any construction site. Manage any potential pollutants on the site in such a way that the exposure of the pollutant to rainfall or storm water is minimized or eliminated.

Elimination of exposure of pollutants at construction sites is not always possible. Some materials, such as soil amendments, are designed to be used in a manner that will result in exposure to storm water. In these cases, it is important to make sure that these materials are applied according to the manufacturer's instructions at a time when they are unlikely to be washed away. Other materials can be exposed when storage, waste disposal or application are not done in a manner protective of water quality or through accidental spillage. For these situations, sampling is required unless there is capture and containment of all storm water that has been exposed to pollutants. In cases where construction materials may be exposed to storm water but the storm water is contained, and is not allowed to run off the site, then sampling only needs to occur when inspections show the containment failed or is breached and there is potential for exposure or discharge.

Many common good housekeeping BMPs already limit exposure to most materials. Improving these practices to prevent exposure is a better approach to preventing pollution of runoff and will limit the amount of sampling and analysis. Improved BMPs may be less costly than an ongoing sampling and analysis program.

The first step in managing potential pollutants at a construction site is the implementation of well thought out BMP programs that are designed to minimize the mobilization of pollutants such as sediment and to minimize the exposure of storm water to pollutants. The next important step is an aggressive program of inspections both on a regular basis and before and after storms. The inspection program must also be accompanied by an equally aggressive BMP maintenance

program. The receiving water is protected when appropriate BMPs are implemented, inspected and maintained. The role of sampling is to support the visual inspection of the site when necessary.

### **1.2.3 Sediment-Impaired Water Bodies**

Certain lakes, streams, rivers, creeks and other bodies of water in California have been determined by the SWRCB to be impaired by one or more pollutants. (This listing is required by Clean Water Act section 303(d).) One of the pollutants that can trigger a listing is sediment, termed variously as sedimentation, siltation, sediment, or turbidity. The water bodies listed for sediment in California are included in Attachment 3 to the CGP. Additional discharges of sediment to a sediment-impaired water body could contribute to the exceedance of a water quality standard for that pollutant. Following listing of impaired waters, RWQCBs adopt total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) that may include waste load allocations for the impairing pollutant. Effluent limitations in NPDES permits must be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of waste load allocations (40 CFR section 122.44(d)(1)(vii)(B)), and adoption of TMDLs could result in specific requirements in the CGP or an individual or watershed-wide construction permit. Pending completion of TMDLs for sediment-impaired waters, it is necessary to ensure that sediment discharges from construction sites do not cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality. To that end, the modifications require sampling and analysis of discharges from construction activity that directly enters a water body listed in Attachment 3 to the CGP as impaired for sediment. This requirement is generally only applicable to a handful of construction projects each year.

To obtain the latest list of 303(d) water bodies, visit the SWRCB's Web site at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/>.

## **1.3 Purpose of Sampling and Analysis**

The primary method of determining compliance with the CGP is visual inspections. The permit requires regular inspections as well as pre-storm and post-storm inspections to determine if there are areas where storm water can be or has been exposed to pollutants. It is possible to see if there is erosion and movement of soil, or if construction materials, chemicals and waste are exposed. This is the best way to determine if the site is in compliance. In some cases, verification of this compliance through sampling and analysis is appropriate. The purpose of the sampling and analysis requirements is to support the visual observation program and to provide information that can be used to help determine whether the BMPs employed on a construction site are effective in preventing construction site pollutants from causing or contributing to exceedances of water quality objectives in the receiving waters. The modifications to the CGP contain two categories of sampling and analysis requirements, which are illustrated in Figures 1-1 and 1.2.1-4:

Monitoring for non-visible pollutants at any site where the relevant triggering conditions occur. This monitoring is required at any site where there is exposure and where a discharge can cause or contribute to exceedance of a water quality objective, not just those that discharge to water bodies that are listed for a particular pollutant; and

Monitoring for sediment in storm water discharged directly to water bodies listed as impaired for sediment/siltation, sediment, or turbidity on the SWRCB's 303(d) list of water bodies.

The sampling and analysis results are not conclusive proof of compliance or non compliance with the permit. Specifically, Receiving Water Limitations in the CGP provide that the SWPPP must be designed and implemented so that storm water discharges shall not cause or contribute to exceedance of any applicable water quality standards. These provisions also require implementation of corrective measures, and revision of the SWPPP and monitoring requirements if storm water discharges do cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable water quality standard. USEPA has pointed out the difficulties and limitations of using sampling in storm water permits as a measure of compliance. (57 Fed. Reg. 11394, 11402) While sampling and analysis, as required by the CGP, may be a useful tool in pointing to areas of concern, it is of limited use in the storm water context and must be used as a diagnostic tool rather than as conclusive evidence of compliance or non-compliance with the CGP.

## Determine if You Must Perform Sampling and Analysis for Sediment, Silt, or Turbidity

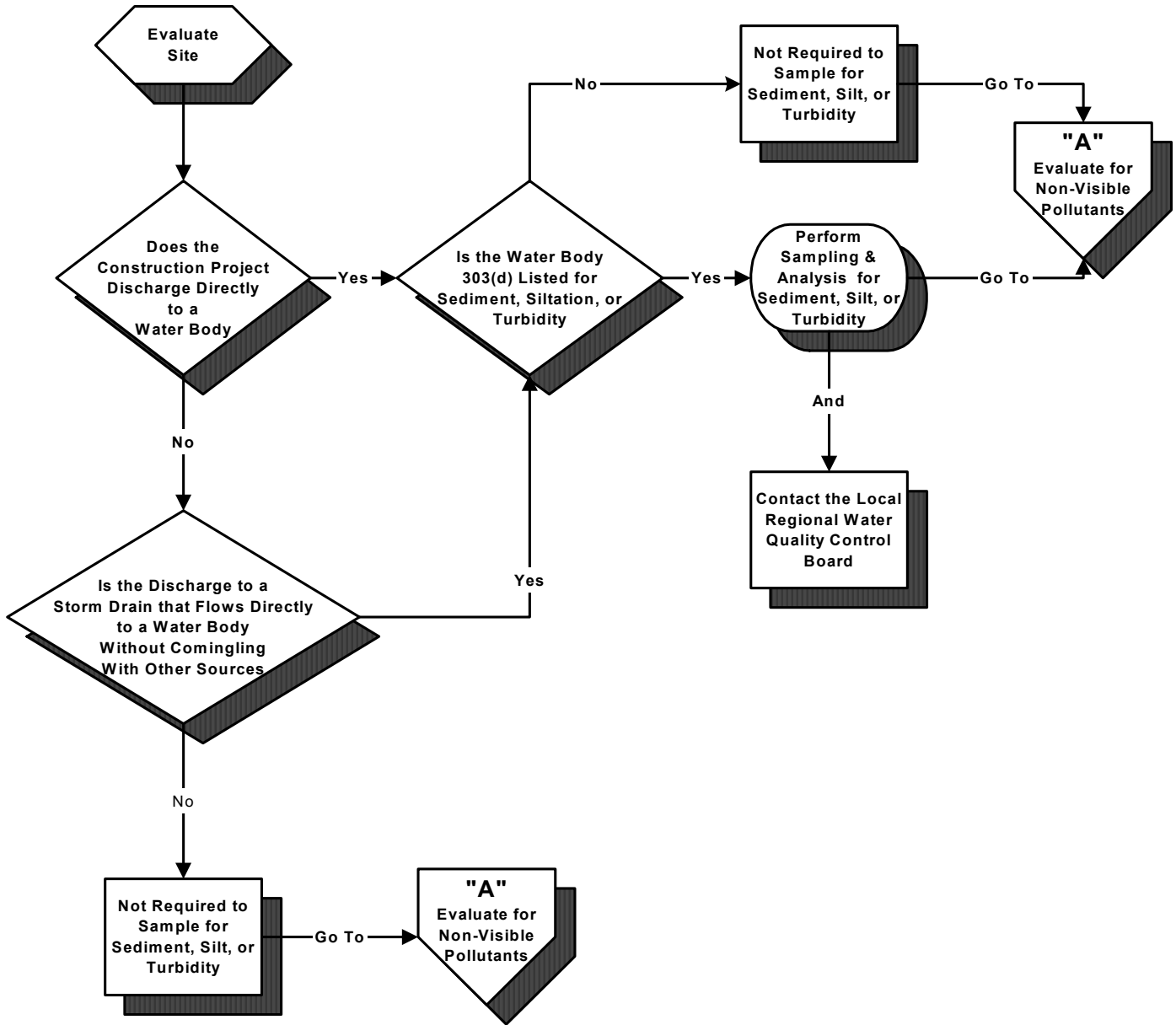


Figure 1.1

**Evaluate Site for Non-Visible Pollutants  
and Determine if You Must Perform  
Sampling & Analysis for Non-Visible Pollutants**

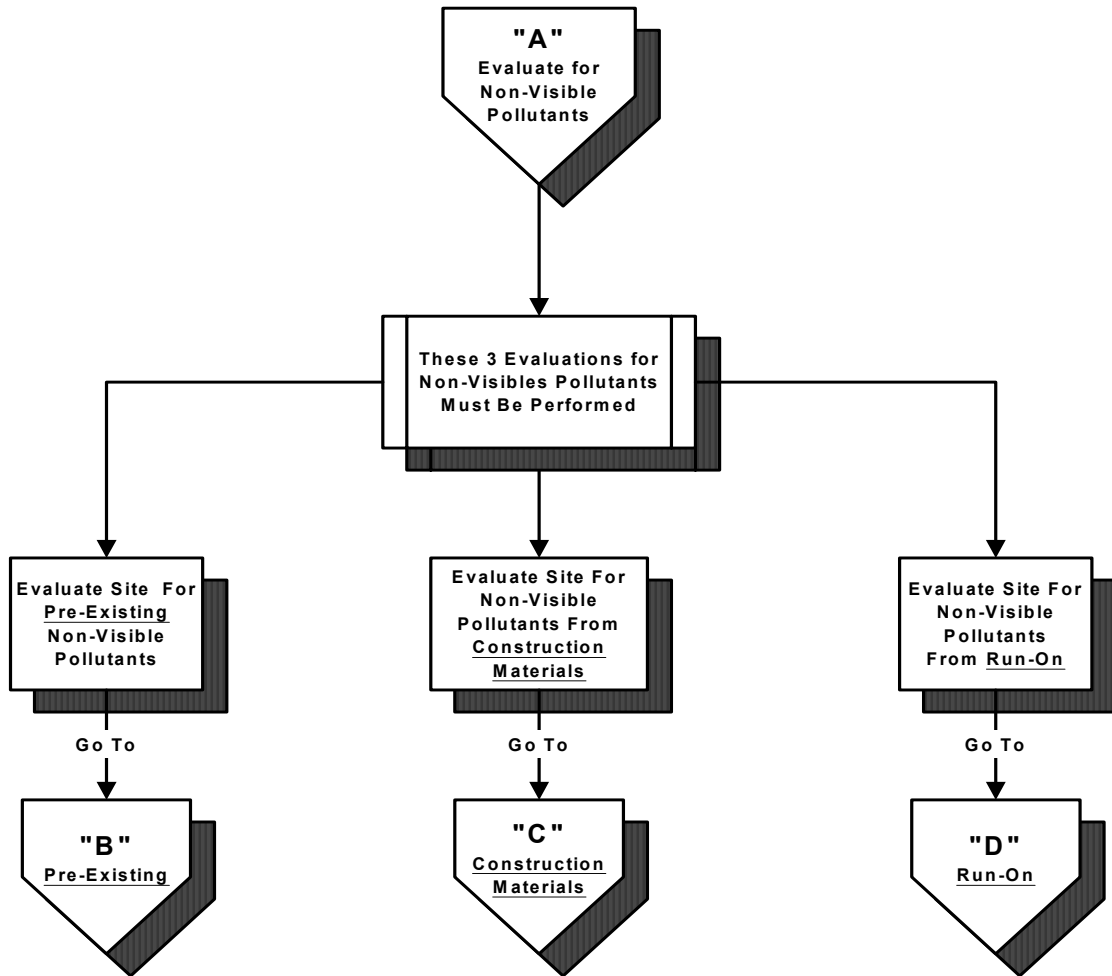


Figure 1.2

**Determine If You Must Perform Sampling and Analysis (S&A) for  
Pre-Existing Non-Visible Pollutants**

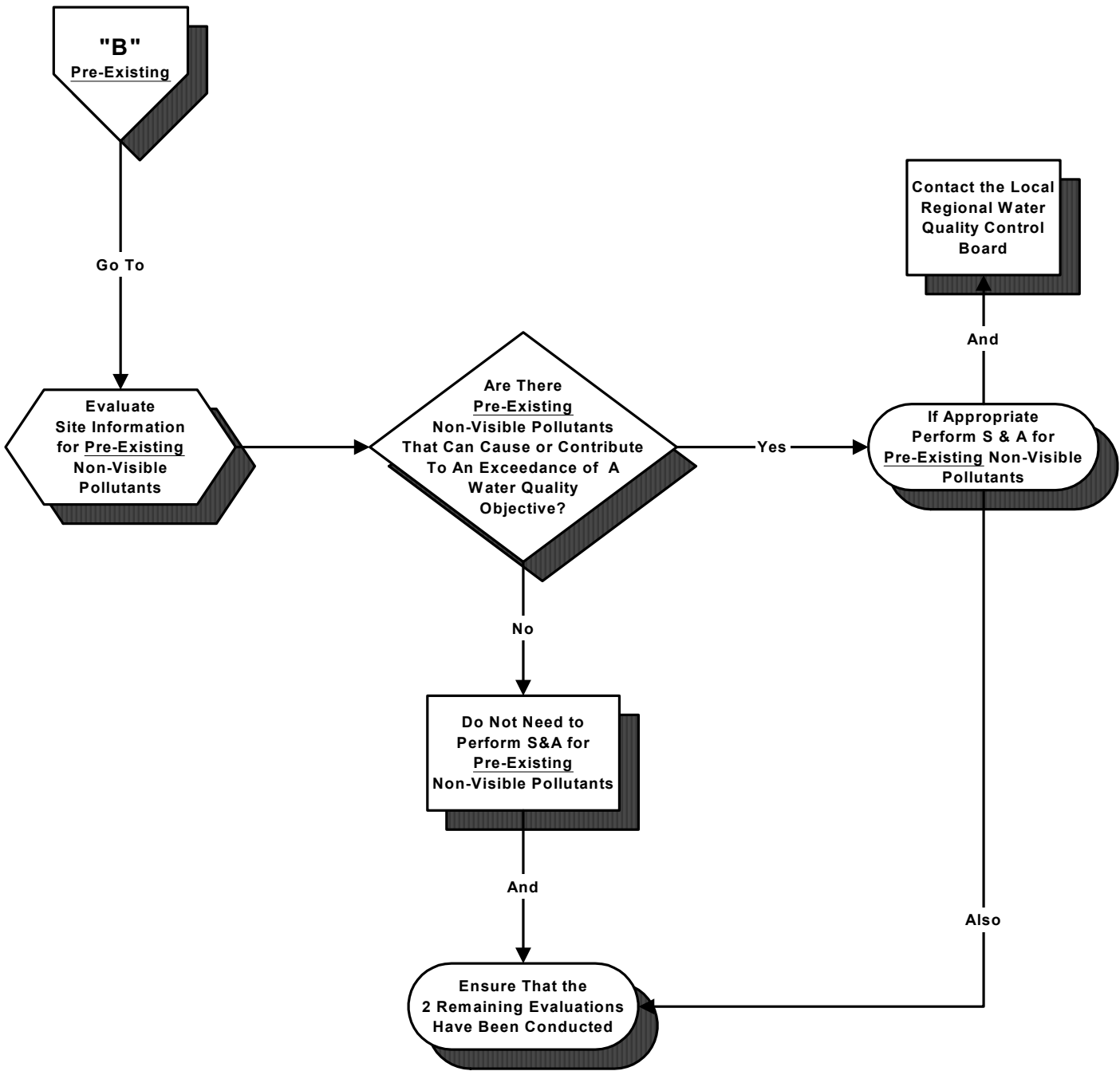


Figure 1.2.1

**Determine If You Must Perform Sampling and Analysis (S&A)  
for Non-Visible Pollutants  
From Construction Material**

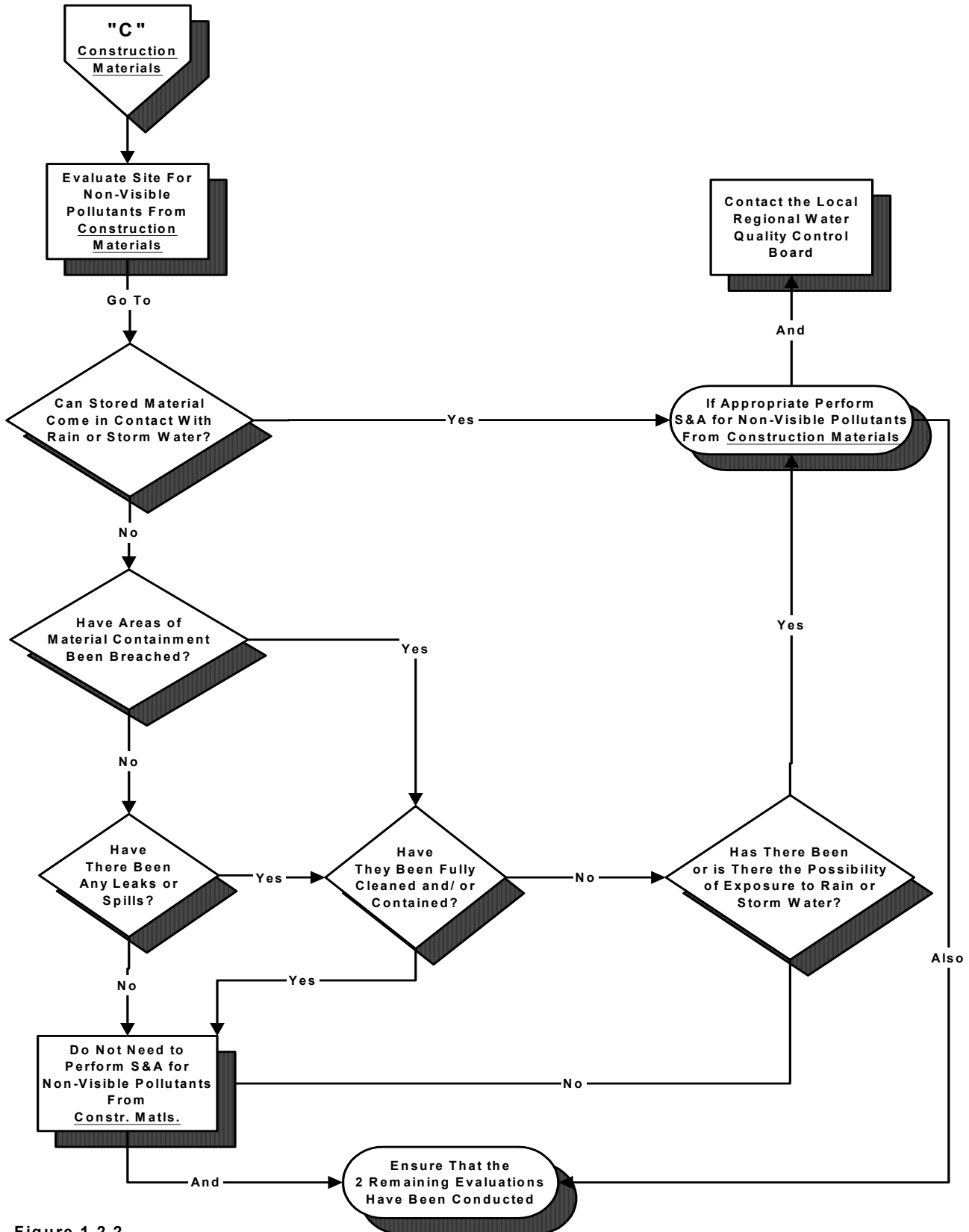


Figure 1.2.2

**Determine If You Must Perform Sampling and Analysis (S&A)  
for Non-Visible Pollutants  
From Run-On**

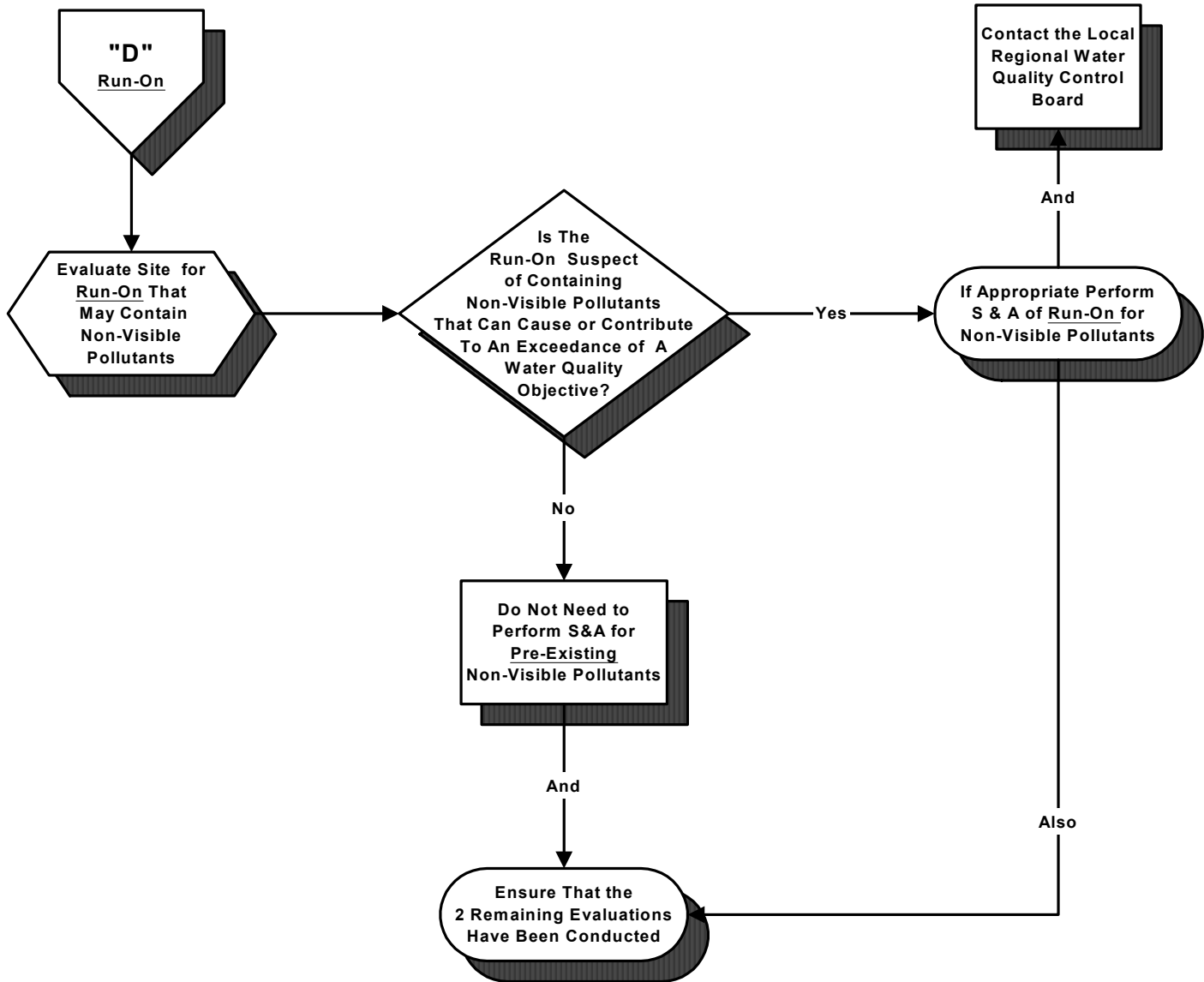


Figure 1.2.3

## **2.0 Sampling Program for Pollutants Not Visually Detectable in Storm Water**

The CGP requires sampling and analysis for pollutants not visually detectable in runoff, but which could cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives in the receiving water. Sample for a constituent if there is reason to expect that it may be in the discharge, regardless of whether or not it is causing or contributing to an exceedance of a water quality objective. First attempt to eliminate the exposure of construction materials to prevent pollution of storm water and thus to limit the requirement for sampling and analysis. Many construction materials, including soil amendments, fertilizers, pesticides, and even things like fencing and wood products, are intended for use outdoors. For such materials, minimize pollutant discharge through implementation of appropriate BMPs. If exposure to these products can contribute pollutants to the runoff at levels that could cause or contribute to exceedance of a water quality objective, then sampling is still required, even if they are used correctly.

### **2.1 What the Permit Says about Sampling**

The CGP requires that a sampling and analysis program be developed and conducted for pollutants which:

- Are not visually detectable in storm water discharges,
- Are known or should be known to occur on the construction site, and
- Could cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives in the receiving water.

Include all pollutants identified in this way in this sampling and analysis strategy and identify them in the SWPPP (as required by Sections A. 5. b. and A. 5. c. of the CGP). The CGP states that the SWPPP must identify a strategy for conducting the sampling and analysis, including the frequency and location(s) at which sampling will be conducted.

Sample for pollutants that would not be visible in runoff if:

- Visual inspections (required before, during and after storm events) indicate that there has been a breach, malfunction, leakage or spill from a BMP that could result in the discharge of pollutants in storm water and the pollutants would not be visually detectable; or
- Storm water comes into contact with soil amendments, other exposed materials, or other on site sources of pollution.

### **2.2 Deciding When to Sample**

Conduct proper inspections throughout the duration of the project to make sure that appropriately selected BMPs have been implemented, are being maintained, and are effective. Sample if non-visible pollutants that are known or should be known to occur on the construction site “could cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives in the receiving water.” As discussed in this document, there are numerous receiving water standards found in different documents, including narrative water quality objectives in basin plans. For that reason,

and because of the difficulties associated with linking a discharge from a construction site to exceedance of water quality standards in the receiving waters, conduct sampling and analysis whenever the above conditions are met.

If a determination is made that sampling is needed, collect storm water runoff samples regardless of the time of year, status of the construction site, or day of the week. Collect samples during the first two hours of runoff (during daylight hours). Storm water inspections and sample collections are required even during non-working days (including weekends and holidays).

### **2.3 Deciding What Constituents to Sample for: What are Pollutants Which are “Known or Should be Known ” to Occur on a Construction Site?**

Pollutants can be considered to be known or should be known to occur on the construction site if they are currently in use or are present as a result of previous land uses. This includes materials that:

- are being used in the construction activities
- are stored on the construction site
- were spilled during construction operations and not cleaned up
- were stored (or used) in a manner that presented the potential for a release of the materials during past land use activities
- were spilled during previous land use activities and not cleaned up
- were applied to the soil as part of past land use activities.

Construction material inventories and the project SWPPP should provide adequate information on materials currently in use or proposed for use on the construction site.

Develop a list of potential pollutants based on a review of potential sources identified in your SWPPP (required by CGP sections A.5.b. and A.5.c.), which will include construction related materials, soil amendments, soil treatments, and historic contamination. Review existing environmental and real estate documentation to determine the potential for pollutants to be present on the construction site as a result of past land use activities. Good sources of information on previously existing pollution and past land uses include Environmental Assessments, Initial Studies, Environmental Impact Reports or Environmental Impact Statements prepared under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act or the California Environmental Quality Act, and Phase 1 Assessments prepared for property transfers. In some instances, the results of soil chemical analyses may be available and can provide additional information on potential contamination.

Identify from this list those pollutants that would not be visible in storm water discharges. These are the constituents that you will likely have to sample for in runoff if the materials are

exposed to storm water. Consult with your analytical laboratory or water quality chemist to determine if there are field tests or indicator parameters that can be used.

## 2.4 Deciding Where to Sample

Sample at all discharge locations that drain the areas from which the pollutants may have entered the runoff and at locations that have not come in contact with the pollutants (reference sampling). This allows a comparison of reference samples with the sample(s) collected from storm water suspected of containing construction-related pollutants. The collection of this sample is important in the interpretation of the potentially contaminated sample because it provides information on the characteristics of the storm water without the exposure. For example, if storm water were to come in contact with hydrated lime products, the indicator parameter for pollution would be an elevated pH. The storm water could also be polluted with other materials or minerals, but the elevated pH will provide information necessary for the discharger to make further determinations as to the cause. In this case, a sample of storm water from the same storm event that did *not* come in contact with the hydrated lime would provide an understanding of what the pH of the uncontaminated storm water was in relation to the polluted storm water.

A more accurate background sample would have also contacted the soil and vegetation of the area, further isolating the lime as the source of the elevated pH. This gives the discharger the necessary information to take immediate steps to detain the polluted storm water or to

minimize or eliminate the exposure. Describe the sampling procedure, location and rationale for obtaining the reference sample of storm water in the SWPPP.

Identify sampling locations that provide information on both the runoff quality that is affected by material storage, historic contamination or other exposed potential pollutants, and the background runoff quality (i.e., reference sample). Material storage may be confined to a small area of the project while historic contamination or exposed materials, such as soil amendments, may be widespread throughout the construction site. For this reason, the sampling locations identified for these two types of potential pollutants may be different.

- Collect samples at locations identified in your SWPPP and in areas identified by visual observations/inspections where there has been a BMP failure or breach and which can be safely accessed.
- Collect samples from a location that is not affected by material storage activities or by runoff as a background or reference location.
- For a widespread potential pollutant, select sampling locations at the perimeter of your site, where storm water is unaffected by your activities and compare this to areas that are affected by your activities on the site. Describe the sampling procedure, the location, and the rationale for selecting these locations in the SWPPP.

If the “reference sample” is taken from on-site and it turns out to be carrying a high level of pollutants this should trigger an evaluation of this drainage area. Are there previously

undetected sources of pollutants? It may turn out that additional BMPs may be necessary on this portion of the site or that the discharge must be managed or contained.

If the “reference sample” is taken from off site and it turns out to be carrying a high level of pollutants take a sample on site to determine if the same pollutants are on site and must be managed.

## **2.5 Types of Test Methods?**

The CGP requires sampling of non-visible pollutants that “could cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives in the receiving waters”. Unlike sediment, for which there are a limited number of applicable water quality objectives, the applicable water quality standards for “non-visible” pollutants will depend on the material and its chemical makeup. This guidance document contains information on what pollutants may occur on construction sites and which water quality standards may be associated with those pollutants. The best assurance of complying with the receiving water limitations is to prevent or reduce runoff of all polluting substances from construction sites through implementation of effective BMPs.

The sampling and analysis language recognizes that sampling and laboratory analysis, in and of itself, does not protect water quality. Rather, field identification and detection of the source of pollution, followed by timely action is ultimately what will protect the receiving waters. Because of the short-term nature of construction, and the use of different materials during the construction period, laboratory sampling will not generally provide the information needed in an adequate time frame. It is preferable to use field-sampling techniques that can provide immediate information and allow a timely solution.

For this reason, the sampling and analysis language for non-visible pollutants contemplates field sampling using indicator parameters. The correct indicator parameter can provide a quick and immediate indication of contamination of storm water to known materials stored or used on a construction site. Field test kits and devices have been commercially available for decades and widely used for water quality applications. As an example, test strips to evaluate for ammonia, phosphate, chlorine, copper, iron, nitrate, nitrite, and low and high range pH are readily commercially available. Manufacturers and distributors provide technical support as well as training to their customers.

## **2.6 Deciding How Often to Sample**

Determine the frequency of sampling for non-visible pollutants based on the exposure of pollutant sources. Sample runoff when BMPs do not effectively prevent or reduce exposure of a non-visible pollutant source to storm water. Sample runoff when inspections identify a BMP failure, which exposed pollutants to storm water. If spills are thoroughly cleaned up and the contaminated material is isolated, eliminating exposure to storm water runoff, sampling is not required. For instances when the potential for previously existing pollution is identified, perform laboratory screening analysis during the first one or two storm events of the season to determine if the potential pollutant is running off the construction site. If construction activity will disturb or mobilize such potential pollutant sources, take samples to determine if the pollutants are being mobilized by the construction activity.

## 2.7 Identification of Pollutant Sources

Information about various construction pollutant sources can be viewed by following the instructions posted on the [swrcb.ca.gov](http://swrcb.ca.gov) web site. In addition, various discharger groups have also produced information that may be useful for determining pollutant sources and sampling parameters for runoff from construction activity. These include a “Pollutant Testing Guidance Table” that lists construction materials, describes whether they would be visible in runoff, and lists pollutant indicators, which will be available on the [swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/gen\\_const.html](http://swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/gen_const.html) web site

## 2.8 Examples of When Sampling and Analysis for Non-Visible Pollutants Is Not Required

Sampling and analysis is not required under the following conditions. However, a contingency sampling strategy should be prepared in the event of an accidental discharge.

- Where construction takes place entirely during a period of time when there are no rainfall events. Timing construction to occur outside of the rainy season is the most effective BMP.
- Where a construction project is “self-contained”, meaning that the project generates no runoff or any potential discharges containing pollutants, including no potential for tracking sediment off-site from vehicle tires, and no potential for discharging products of wind erosion.
- Where construction materials and compounds are kept or used so that they are not in contact with storm water (e.g., in water-tight containers, under a water-tight roof, inside a building, etc.).
- Where for specific pollutants, the BMPs implemented at the construction site fully contain the exposed pollutants (e.g., bermed concrete washout area).
- For building, landscaping and BMP materials that are in their final constructed or in-place form or are designed for exposure (e.g., fence materials, support structures and equipment that will remain exposed at the completion of the project, etc.).
- Where pollutants may have been spilled or released on site, but have been properly cleaned-up and storm water exposure has been eliminated prior to a storm event.
- For stockpiles of construction materials for which both cover and/or containment BMPs have been properly implemented to protect them from run-on and from contributing pollutants to storm water .

## 2.9 Examples of When Sampling and Analysis Is Required

Sampling and analysis is required when non-visible pollutants have the potential to contact storm water and run off the construction site into a storm drainage system or water body at levels that may cause or contribute to exceedance of water quality standards. Some examples of this situation are:

- Where construction materials and compounds are stored or applied such that they may come in contact with storm water runoff.
- For construction projects that utilize soil amendments or soil treatments that can come in contact with storm water runoff. (If you have independent test data available that demonstrates that the soil amendments cannot result in concentration levels in storm water discharges that will cause or contribute to exceedance of applicable water quality standards, sampling and analysis may not be required. Contact the appropriate RWQCB to determine acceptable concentration(s) of the material(s) in question.)
- When a leak or spill occurs that is not fully contained and cleaned prior to a storm event.
- When a leak or spill occurs, during a storm event, and it cannot immediately be isolated and/or cleaned-up, and the possibility of an off-site discharge exists.
- When, during regular inspections, it is discovered that cover and containment BMPs have been compromised and storm water comes in contact with materials resulting in runoff discharging into a storm drain system or water body.
- When material storage BMPs have been compromised, breached, or have failed.

## **2.10 Do I Sample Storm Water Flows Diverted Around My Project for Non-Visible Pollutants?**

Dischargers may be faced with a situation where the disturbed area of their construction site is adjacent to a large area that historically has drained across their site. This happens most frequently in foothill situations where schools or commercial development is undertaken alongside an existing roadway, adjacent to a large undisturbed area. In such a situation, calculate the anticipated volume of the flow in order to size a diversion structure to divert the (usually) clean storm water around or through the site. (CGP section A.5.b.1.) It is unwise to allow a large volume of water to wash across a disturbed area. Not only would the run-on cause erosion and remove the soil from the project, but also the discharge would be turbid and violate the Permit requirements. To the extent that the discharger does allow run-on of polluted water to flow across the site, and contaminants in the run-on are not visible, the sampling and analysis requirements apply. Additionally, the CGP (section A. 5. b.) requires that the RWQCB be contacted in the above situation.

The requirement to divert run-on does not authorize the creation of a new point source of pollutants, however. If the run-on contains pollutants from pre-existing pollution in the watershed, the discharger is responsible to determine this before planning the diversion. Should a discharger divert contaminated water around the site and allow it to enter surface waters, this permit does not authorize such discharge and the discharger should be aware that a separate NPDES permit may be required. (See, *Committee to Save Mokelumne River v. East Bay Municipal Utility District* (9th Cir. 1993) 13 F.3d 305, 309.) If you are planning on diverting flows from entering your site and you suspect that they contain pollutants, contact your local RWQCB for advice.

## **2.11 Deciding How to Sample**

- Only personnel trained in water quality sampling procedures should collect storm water samples.
- Determine sampling methods and locations in advance of the runoff event in order to provide sufficient time to gather the supplies and equipment necessary to sample and plan for safe access by the sampling personnel.
- General guidance for sampling procedures is provided in Section 4 of this document.

## **2.12 How to Use Your Sampling Data**

### **2.12.1 How to Analyze Your Data**

Initiate corrective action where non-visible pollutant sample test results indicate presence of pollutants in the construction site storm water runoff. This can be determined by comparing your construction site's storm water test results with the background sample. BMPs must be used to control offsite discharge of any pollutant (e.g., pesticides) that is not naturally occurring, regardless of background levels of that pollutant.

Where your site's storm water test concentrations for naturally occurring substances are considerably above (or, in the case of pH, considerably above or below) the background concentrations, or where other pollutants are found, evaluate the BMPs to determine the cause. Initiate corrective action by repairing, replacing or supplementing the BMPs on your site. Conduct additional sampling during the next runoff event after corrective actions are implemented to demonstrate and document that the problems have been corrected.

This permit does not contain benchmarks. However, method of data analysis for naturally occurring substances employs a similar concept: determining whether the results are "considerably above" the background levels. The term "considerably above" is based upon guidance contained in USEPA's Multi-Sector General Permit, which does use benchmarks. These benchmarks are not numeric storm water effluent limits, are not related or necessarily protective of any specific receiving water, and exceedances of these benchmarks are not automatically considered permit violations. When sample results exceed one or more of the benchmarks, the USEPA recommends dischargers reevaluate the effectiveness of their BMPs and develop, when appropriate, additional BMPs. The use of such benchmark values is a scientifically valid indicator of the presence of pollutants associated with construction activity in the runoff. Since the non-visual pollutants that may occur on construction sites may be similar in type and cause to those on industrial sites, it is valid to use USEPA's approach here. Where a parameter in a sample is being evaluated, and a benchmark is available, the benchmark may be used for comparison purposes. (USEPA does not require any sampling and analysis in its construction permits, and therefore does not have benchmarks for construction activities.)

### **2.12.2 Coordinating Visual Observations with Sampling Results**

If visual inspection of storm water BMPs used to contain or otherwise manage (i.e., filter or treat) non-visible pollutants at a construction site indicates that a BMP has failed or been compromised, then field monitoring of any impacted storm water from the site for non-visible pollutants is required. Of course, immediately repair or replace any BMP that has been visually inspected and found breached or compromised. If feasible, contain the polluted discharge and prevent it from being discharged off site. After taking steps to correct the failed BMP, conduct field monitoring in the vicinity of the BMP to verify that pollutants are no longer in the storm water.

The intent of conducting field monitoring for non-visible pollutants is to obtain an immediate indication if storm water that is discharging from a site has been polluted. An immediate indication of a polluted discharge requires an immediate response in the form of backtracking from the point of discharge to find the source and take appropriate measures to prevent a recurrence of a polluted discharge.

### **2.12.3 What To Do If The Data Show a Potential Problem**

If your data shows a problem, follow the reporting requirements as shown in the CGP Receiving Water Limitations. In addition, take the following steps as soon as possible:

- Identify the source
- Repair or replace any BMP that has failed
- Maintain any BMP that is not functioning properly due to lack of maintenance
- Evaluate whether additional or alternative BMPs should be implemented

If sampling and analysis during subsequent storm events shows that there is still a problem, then repeat the steps above until the analytical results of “upstream” and “downstream” samples are relatively comparable.

Where your site’s storm water results show test concentrations considerably above (or below) background concentrations, evaluate the BMPs to determine what is causing the difference. Possible solutions may include repairing the existing BMPs, evaluating alternative BMPs that could be implemented, and/or implementing additional BMPs (cover and/or containment) which further limit or eliminate contact between storm water and non-visible pollutant sources at your site. Where contact cannot be reduced or eliminated, retain storm water that has come in contact with the non-visible pollutant source on-site and do not allow it to discharge to the storm drainage system or to a water body. Contact your RWQCB to determine whether it is permissible to discharge the retained storm water. Conduct additional sampling during the next runoff event after corrective actions are implemented to demonstrate and document that the problems have been corrected.

### **2.13 Retention of Data**

Keep results of field measurements and laboratory analyses with the SWPPP, which is required to be kept on the project site until the Notice of Termination (NOT) is filed and approved by the

appropriate RWQCB. Keep field training logs, Chain-Of-Custody (COC) forms and other documentation relating to sampling and analysis with the project's SWPPP. Records of all inspections, compliance certifications, and noncompliance reporting must be retained for a period of at least three years from the date generated or after project completion.

## **3.0 Sampling Program for Sedimentation/Siltation**

### **3.1 What the Permit Says About Sampling**

Soils, sediments, and fine (suspended) particles that result from grading and earthwork activities and soil erosion from disturbed, un-stabilized land areas are potentially significant sources of storm water pollution at construction sites. The CGP requires construction sites to develop, implement and maintain an effective combination of erosion control and sediment control BMPs to prevent soils, sediments, debris and solids fine enough to remain suspended from leaving the construction site and moving into receiving waters at levels above preconstruction levels.

The CGP requires that a visual survey of the site be done before, during and after a storm. If the visual survey indicates either the potential for a discharge of sediment laden water or that sediment is being discharged, steps must be taken to repair or augment the BMPs to prevent the discharge as soon as possible. Discharge of sediment above predevelopment levels is not allowed.

The CGP requires sampling and analysis for sediment/silt or turbidity when the construction site runoff discharges directly into a water body that is impaired by sedimentation/siltation, sediment, or turbidity (that is, the water body is on the 303(d) list for one or more of these pollutants.) A key point is that the discharge of storm water runoff must directly enter the impaired water body or impaired segment of a water body. Construction site runoff that flows through a tributary or storm drainage system and is commingled with other sources of flow, is not considered a direct discharge even if the flow eventually enters an impaired water body. (See the definition of direct discharge in Section 5 for further details.)

The CGP requires that the SWPPP identify a strategy for conducting the sampling and analysis, including the frequency at which sampling will be conducted. The SWPPP must also describe:

- the location(s) of direct discharges from construction activities to a water body listed on the SWRCB's 303(d) list for sedimentation/siltation, sediment and/or turbidity;
- the designated sampling location(s) in the listed water body representing the prevailing conditions up-stream of the discharge; and
- the designated sampling location(s) in the listed water body representing the prevailing conditions down-stream of the discharge.
- the sampling design which describes the sampling devices used; the sample size; the number of samples to be taken at each location, the laboratory protocol employed; and, if applicable, the statistical test used to determine if the upstream/downstream samples differ to a statistically significant degree.

## 3.2 Deciding When to Sample

- Dischargers must perform sampling if the storm water runoff directly discharges from the construction site to a 303(d) listed water body.
- Dischargers must collect samples during the first two hours of discharge (runoff) from storm events which result in a direct discharge to any 303(d) listed water body. But samples need only be collected during daylight hours (sunrise to sunset).
- Dischargers must collect samples regardless of the time of year, status of the construction site, or day of the week. Samples should be taken during the first two hours of a storm event. Storm water inspections and sample collections are required even during non-working days (including weekends and holidays). Samples must be taken from the same storm event for comparison, concentrations are not comparable across storm events.
- Dischargers do not need to perform upstream/downstream sample collection for more than four (4) rain events per month.

## 3.3. Deciding What Constituent(s) Require Sampling

- If the water body is listed as impaired for sedimentation or siltation, analyze samples for Setteable Solids (mL/L) and Total Suspended Solids (mg/L) according to USEPA 160.2 and USEPA 160.5, respectively. Samples may be analyzed for suspended sediment concentration (SSC) according to ASTM D3977-97 instead of or in addition to Total Suspended Solids and Setteable Solids.
- If the water body is listed as impaired for turbidity, analyze samples for turbidity per USEPA 180.1 or analyze in the field using a correctly calibrated turbidity meter.
- It is very important that consistent sampling and analysis methods are used for all sampling locations.

Table 3-1 shows general sample handling and laboratory requirements for sediment sampling.

Table 3-1

LABORATORY REQUIREMENTS<sup>1</sup> FOR STORM WATER MONITORING OF SEDIMENT, SILTATION AND/OR TURBIDITY

Parameters	Analytical Method	Target Method Detection Limit	Minimum Sample Volume <sup>2</sup>	Container	Preservative	Holding Time
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) <sup>2</sup>	EPA 160.2	1 mg/L	100 mL	500 mL polypropylene	Store in ice or refrigerator at 4°C (39.2°F)	7 days
Settleable Solids (SS)	EPA 160.5	0.1 mL/L/hour	1 liter	1 liter mL polypropylene	Store in ice or refrigerator at 4°C (39.2°F)	48 hours
Suspended Sediment Concentration (SSC) <sup>3</sup>	ASTM D 3977-97	Contact Laboratory	200 mL	Contact Laboratory	Store in ice or refrigerator at 4°C (39.2°F)	7 days
Turbidity	EPA 180.1	1 NTU	100 mL	500 mL polypropylene or glass	Store in ice or refrigerator at 4°C (39.2°F), Dark	48 hours

<sup>1</sup> The data in this table is a summary of recommended laboratory requirements. For specific USEPA regulatory requirements, consult the sampling and analysis requirements found in 40 CFR 136.

<sup>2</sup> Minimum sample volume recommended. Specific volume requirements will vary by laboratory; please check with your laboratory when setting up bottle orders.

<sup>3</sup> Use either TSS or SSC, or both, for suspended solids analysis. Upstream and downstream samples should be analyzed by the same method.

### **3.4 Deciding Where to Sample**

In-stream sampling is required, both upstream and downstream of the discharge. The CGP does not require that the effluent be sampled. However, effluent sampling is recommended. Take both upstream and downstream samples within the actual flow of the waterbody. Collect samples at the following locations:

- Sample the 303(d) listed water body upstream of the construction site discharge in a location representative of the sediment load present in the water body before it is impacted by discharge from the construction site.
- Sample the 303(d) listed water body at a point immediately downstream of the last point of discharge from the construction site.

Additionally, for the purpose of interpreting the results of the samples collected from the 303(d) listed water body, collect and analyze samples of the actual discharge from the construction site (effluent sample) prior to it being commingled in the receiving water. This sample can be used to verify whether the source of the sediment in-stream is emanating from the construction discharge. Remember that samples should only be collected from safely accessible locations.

In general, sample away from the bank in or near the main current. Avoid collecting samples directly from ponded, sluggish, or stagnant water. Be careful when collecting water upstream or downstream of confluences or point sources to minimize problems caused by backwater effects or poorly mixed flows. Note that samples collected directly downstream from a bridge can be contaminated from the bridge structure or runoff from the road surface.

Choose the upstream location in water that appears to represent the nature of the flow in the stream.

Downstream samples should represent the receiving water mixed with flow from the construction site. For instance if the flow from the site can be observed by either a color or a flow difference, collect the downstream sample from within the affected water.

### **3.5 What Are the Applicable Water Quality Standards**

The CGP requires sampling of runoff from construction sites that discharge directly to 303(d) listed water bodies to demonstrate that discharges do not contribute to the impairment of the receiving water. Each of the listed waters is subject to water quality objectives in a RWQCB Basin Plan for sediments and solids or for turbidity. The applicable water quality objectives for each RWQCB are listed in Appendix A to this guidance document.

### **3.6 Deciding How to Sample**

- Only personnel trained in water quality sampling procedures should collect storm water samples.

- Determine sampling methods and locations in advance of the runoff event in order to provide sufficient time to gather the supplies and equipment necessary to sample and plan for safe access by the sampling crew(s) and document them in the SWPPP.
- General guidance for sampling procedures is provided in Section 4 of this document.

## **3.7 How to Use Your Data**

### **3.7.1 How to Analyze Your Data**

While it is desirable for sediment concentrations from a site to be as low as possible, the amount that a site can contribute is determined by a TMDL analysis and in the absence of an implemented TMDL, the instream concentrations below the point of discharge cannot be significantly different from the upstream concentrations.

In order to allow for meaningful analysis of the data, it is necessary to establish a statistical framework for it. When sampling a body of water, it is unlikely that two samples, even taken next to each other, will have the same concentration of a pollutant. This is referred to as variability. Concentrations will vary from sample to sample, but the difference between them may not be meaningful. In order to obtain a statistically meaningful set of samples, it is necessary to determine how many samples will be necessary, the greater the variability between samples, the larger the number of samples (N) will be required. This may require that the water body be sampled before the start of construction to determine the variability. Collect sufficient numbers of samples (N) during each storm event monitored to represent the prevailing conditions of both locations (upstream and downstream). Depending upon which statistical test is used, and the variability between the samples, N will usually be more than a single sample. When comparing samples from a single storm event, a range of readings will be obtained. Almost all samples from that source will fall into that range. The likely range of readings can be expressed through the use of a statistical confidence interval for the parameter being sampled. Confidence intervals are expressed as probabilities, such as 95% confidence or 97% confidence. The size of a confidence interval will be determined by the variability in the samples from the single source and the number of samples collected.

Once the sampling is completed and results returned from the laboratory, compare the concentration of the appropriate parameter (see Section 2.3 Deciding What Constituents to Sample for)) derived from the upstream samples to the concentration of the same parameter from the downstream samples (from the same storm event). It is expected that every sample will be different. (This would be true even if there were not construction activities, in light of the variability of stream conditions, explained above.) Rather, compare the samples to see if there is a statistically significant difference between the central tendency (arithmetic mean, geometric mean, median, etc.) of the upstream samples and the downstream samples.

Estimate the magnitude of the difference in the central tendency between the upstream and downstream concentration values. The null hypothesis to be tested is: The difference between the downstream central tendency and the upstream central tendency is less than or equal to zero. The minimum acceptable confidence interval shall be 90%. Using the data, calculate a one-sided lower confidence limit (LCL) on the difference in central tendencies. If the numeric value of zero

is contained within the confidence interval (LCL), then you cannot reject the null hypothesis, and you would conclude that no impairment has occurred. If, however, the data indicates that the downstream central tendencies are significantly higher than the upstream, you cannot accept the null hypothesis. In this case there is the presumption that the discharges are contributing to the existing impairment.

If you did take samples of the effluent, and those samples are not consistent with the conclusion that the discharge is contributing to the existing impairment, take steps to determine what other source(s) is causing the increase in the downstream sampling. If you can show that there is a different source than your discharge, you should contact the appropriate RWQCB.

The hypothesis, sampling methodology, confidence interval, and statistical tests and assumptions must be defensible to the RWQCB. Since construction sites that discharge *directly* into impaired water bodies are not common in California, the local RWQCB will likely ask to review the SWPPP and the sampling and analysis strategy prior to construction activity.

### **3.7.2 Sources of sediment, silt and turbidity in a construction discharge**

Conditions or areas on a site that may be causing sediment, silt, and/or turbidity in your storm water runoff may include:

- Exposed soil areas with inadequate erosion control measures
- Active grading areas
- Poorly stabilized slopes
- Lack of perimeter sediment controls
- Areas of concentrated flow on unprotected soils
- Poorly maintained erosion and sediment control measures
- Unprotected soil stockpiles
- Failure of an erosion or sediment control measure
- Unprotected Clayey soils

### **3.7.3 What To Do If Your Data Shows a Statistically Significant Increase Downstream of the Discharge**

The CGP requires that BMPs be implemented on the construction site to prevent a net increase of sediment load in storm water discharges relative to pre-construction levels. Although the upstream reference (background) sample may not be representative of pre-construction levels at your site, it will provide a basis for comparison with the sample taken downstream of the construction site.

If the statistical tests of the upstream and downstream samples indicate an increase in silt, sediment and/or turbidity, follow the reporting requirements as shown in the Receiving Water Limitations of the CGP. If you have collected samples of the discharge from your site, use these results to help identify if it is your project that is discharging sediment into the receiving water. It is recommended that the following steps be taken as soon as possible.

- Identify the source of the silt, sediment or turbidity
- Review effectiveness of existing erosion control BMPs. The sediment may be coming from locations at the construction site where existing erosion control BMPs have been reduced in effectiveness. These BMPs should be evaluated to determine whether they are in need of maintenance.
- Review effectiveness of existing sediment control BMPs. The sediment may be coming from locations at the construction site where existing sediment control BMPs have been reduced in effectiveness. These BMPs should be evaluated to determine whether they are in need of maintenance.
- Look for evidence that there are too few sediment and erosion control BMPs. In inspecting the site, sources of sediment that either do not have BMPs or for which the BMPs appear to be insufficient in number or type may be identified.
- Repair or replace any BMP that has failed or is in need of maintenance
- Evaluate whether additional or alternative BMPs should be implemented to provide an effective combination of erosion and sediment control measures on the site. Do not rely solely on perimeter sediment controls, particularly where there are fine-grained soils (such as silts or clays) on the site. Implement erosion controls (source controls) that keep the soil in place, even on temporary slopes and rough graded areas, wherever possible and as necessary to prevent sediment from leaving the site.

If sampling and analysis during subsequent storm events shows that there is still a statistically significant difference, then repeat the steps above until the analytical results of the upstream concentration samples are within the confidence interval.

### **3.8 Retention of Data**

Keep results of field measurements and laboratory analyses with the SWPPP, which is required to be kept on the project site until the NOT is filed and approved by the appropriate RWQCB. Keep training logs, Chain-Of-Custody (COC) forms and other documentation relating to sampling and analysis with the project's SWPPP. All records of all inspections, compliance certifications, and noncompliance reporting must be retained for a period of at least three years from the date generated or after project completion.

### **4.0 Sampling Procedures**

The collection and handling of storm water runoff samples requires care to ensure the integrity and validity of the samples. A Chain of Custody (COC) form, must follow the sample from the

collection through the analysis process. Additional documentation to track other information of interest, e.g. field conditions, or required field measurements may also be used. This type of information is recorded on a field tracking form.

Collect all samples with care to ensure that the sample is representative of the runoff being tested, use the correct type of container, preserve samples in accordance with the test method's specifications, and store at the appropriate temperature until delivered to an analytical laboratory. Some types of samples have very short holding times and must be analyzed before this holding time is exceeded. Sample handling requirements and documentation form the basis of your sampling quality assurance program.

Before starting any sampling program, contact the analytical laboratory that you plan to use to analyze your samples. Make sure to select a laboratory that will provide you with the support that you need, such as, properly cleaned and preserved sampling containers and COC forms. Some laboratories can assist in identifying courier services available to transport samples to the laboratory, or may be able to provide sampling service for you. Work out all of these details in advance of sample collection. Consult the analytical laboratory on what additional samples will be required for quality assurance and quality control purposes.

Both field and/or analytical analysis methods can be used to meet the Permit requirements. Field techniques have the advantage of providing immediate results, however, there are only a limited number of analyses that can be done in the field. Analytical laboratories can analyze for a wide range of parameters, but the data may take several weeks or longer to get back.

Some constituents (e.g. pH) can be evaluated in the field with special equipment. Field samples must be collected and analyzed according to the specifications of the manufacturer of the sampling devices employed. Field equipment must be used by trained staff and the equipment must be calibrated and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications.

Laboratory analyses should be conducted by a laboratory that is currently accredited by the California Department of Health Services Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). Analyses must be conducted in accordance with 40 CFR Part 136.

You may refer to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) *Guidance Manual: Stormwater Monitoring Protocols (Second Edition), July 2000* to assist you in developing a sampling and analysis program. This document may be downloaded from the Caltrans Website, at

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/SamplingGuidanceManual.pdf>

Figure 4-1 is an outline for a typical comprehensive storm water sampling and analysis plan. As some laboratories may have specific requirements for sample collection and handling, specific information or requirements on your samples should be checked with your laboratory.

- 1 PROJECT OVERVIEW/DESCRIPTION
    - 1.1 Description of why the project is being conducted
    - 1.2 Description of who is conducting the project
    - 1.3 General scope of monitoring activities
    - 1.4 Project organization/roles and responsibilities
  - 2 MONITORING SITES
    - 2.1 Site location (map)
    - 2.2 Written driving directions
    - 2.3 Site access instructions (gates, locks, keys, combinations)
    - 2.4 Notification procedures
  - 3 ANALYTICAL CONSTITUENTS
    - 3.1 List of constituents for sampling and analysis (including sample collection methods, container type, volume required, preservation and laboratory performing analysis)
  - 4 DATA QUALITY OBJECTIVES (DQOs)
    - 4.1 Analytical reporting limits
    - 4.2 Analytical precision, accuracy and completeness
  - 5 FIELD EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
    - 5.1 Equipment calibration
    - 5.2 Equipment maintenance
    - 5.3 Equipment cleaning (bottles/lids/tubing)
  - 6 MONITORING PREPARATION AND LOGISTICS
    - 6.1 Weather tracking
    - 6.2 Storm selection criteria
    - 6.3 Storm action levels
    - 6.4 Communications/notification procedures
    - 6.5 Sample bottle order
    - 6.6 Sample bottle labeling
    - 6.7 Field equipment preparation
  - 7 SAMPLE COLLECTION, PRESERVATION AND DELIVERY
    - 7.1 Sample collection methods
    - 7.2 Field measurement methods
    - 7.3 Field equipment list
    - 7.4 Sample containers, preservation and handling
    - 7.5 QA/QC sample collection methods
    - 7.6 Sample labeling (site names, codes, etc.)
    - 7.7 Composite sample splitting
    - 7.8 Forms and procedures for documenting sample collection and field measurements
    - 7.9 Laboratory communication procedures
    - 7.10 Sample shipping/delivery, chain-of-custody
  - 8 QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL (QA/QC)
    - 8.1 Field procedures for QA/QC sample collection
  - 9 LABORATORY SAMPLE PREPARATION AND ANALYTICAL METHODS
    - 9.1 Laboratory sample preparation procedures
    - 9.2 Analytical constituent table (including analytical methods, holding times and reporting limits)
  - 10 DATA MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING PROCEDURES
    - 10.1 Analytical data validation
    - 10.2 Electronic data transfer
    - 10.3 Filing of electronic and hard copy data
    - 10.4 Reports
- APPENDICES
- A Clean Sampling Techniques
  - B Health and Safety Plan

Figure 4-1 Outline for a Typical Storm Water Sampling and Analysis Plan

## 5.0 Definitions

### Chain of Custody (COC) Form

The COC Form is a form used to track sample handling as samples progress from sample collection to the analytical laboratory. The COC is then used to track the resulting analytical data from the laboratory to the client. COC forms can be obtained from an analytical laboratory upon request.

### Direct Discharge

Direct discharge means storm water runoff that flows from a construction site directly into a 303(d) water body listed for sedimentation, siltation, or turbidity. Storm water runoff from the construction site is considered a direct discharge to a 303(d) listed water body unless it first flows through:

- 1) A municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that has been formally accepted by and is under control and operation of a municipal entity;
- 2) A separate storm water conveyance system where there is co-mingling of site storm water with off-site sources; or
- 3) A tributary or segment of a water body that is not listed on the 303d list before reaching the 303d listed water body or segment.

### Discharger

The discharger is the person or entity subject to the CGP.

### Electrical Conductivity (EC)

EC is a measure of the ability of water to carry an electric current. This ability depends on the presence of ions, their concentration, valence, mobility and temperature. EC measurements can give an estimate of the variations in the dissolved mineral content of storm water in relation to receiving waters.

### Field Measurements

Field measurements refers to water quality testing performed in the field with portable field-testing kits or meters.

### Field Tracking Form (FTF)

The FTF is a form that serves as a guide to sampling crews to obtain sampling information and to prescribe and document sample collection information in the field. The FTF usually contains sample identifiers, sampling locations, requested analyses, Quality Control (QC) sample identifiers, special instructions, and field notes.

### Holding Time

Holding time is specified by the analytical method and is the elapsed time between the time the sample is collected and the time the analysis must be initiated.

### pH

The pH is universally used to express the intensity of the acid or alkaline condition of a water sample. The pH of natural waters tends to range between 6 and 9, with neutral being 7. Extremes of pH can have deleterious effects on aquatic systems.

### **Reference Sample**

A sample taken from an undisturbed part of the construction site or from an undisturbed site immediately upstream from a construction site. The reference sample is used for comparison with samples taken from the active construction site. It is the same set of samples that is referred to as an uncontaminated sample in the Permit.

### **Sampling and Analysis Plan**

A document that describes how the samples will be collected and under what conditions, where and when the samples will be collected, what the sample will be tested for, what test methods and detection limits will be used, and what methods/procedures will be maintained to ensure the integrity of the sample during collection, storage, shipping and testing (i.e., quality assurance/quality control protocols).

### **Sediment**

Sediment is solid particulate matter, both mineral and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, gravity, or ice and has come to rest on the earth's surface either above or below sea level.

### **Sedimentation/Siltation**

Sedimentation/siltation is the process of sediment/silt deposition.

### **Settleable Solids**

The settleable solids (SS) test measures the solid material that can be settled within a water column during a specified time frame. This typically is tested by placing a water sample into an Imhoff settling cone and allowing the solids to settle by gravity. Results are reported either as a volume (mL/L) or a weight (mg/L).

### **Silt**

Silt are soil particles between 0.05mm and 0.002mm in size. (For the purposes of its use here, it also includes clay, which is categorized by a particle size less than 0.002mm.)

### **Soil Amendment**

Any material that is added to the soil to change its chemical properties, engineering properties, or erosion resistance that could become mobilized by storm water. Certain soil amendments may not be visible in site runoff. Soil amendments likely to fall in this category include lime, cementitious binders, chlorides, emulsions, polymers, soil stabilizers, and tackifiers applied as a stand-alone treatment (i.e., without mulch). Even some of these products may bind with the soil, and thus be visible. In contrast, plant fibers (such as straw or hay), wood and recycled paper fibers (such as mulches and matrices), bark or wood chips, green waste or composted organic materials, and biodegradable or synthetic blanket fibers are soil amendments that are likely to be visible in storm water runoff.

### **Suspended Sediment Concentration (SSC)**

The suspended sediment concentration (SSC) test measures the concentration of suspended solid material in a water sample by measuring the dry weight of all of the solid material from a known volume of a collected water sample. Results are reported in mg/L.

### **Total Suspended Solids (TSS)**

Suspended solids in a water sample include inorganic substances, such as soil particles and organic substances, such as algae, aquatic plant/ animal waste, particles related to industrial/sewage waste, etc. The total suspended solids test (TSS) test measures the concentration of suspended solids in water by measuring the dry weight of a solid material contained in a known volume of a sub-sample of a collected water sample. Results are reported in mg/L.

### **Turbidity**

Cloudiness of water quantified by the degree to which light traveling through a water column is scattered by the suspended organic and inorganic particles it contains. The scattering of light increases with a greater suspended load. Turbidity is commonly measured in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU).

## 6.0 Sources of Further Assistance

### Regional Water Quality Control Boards

Regional Water Quality Control Board	Address	Contact Name E-mail	Telephone/Fax
NORTH COAST REGION	5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A Santa Rosa, CA 95403	John Short <a href="mailto:shorj@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov">shorj@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov</a>	(707) 576-2065 FAX: (707) 523-0135
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION	1515 Clay St., Suite 1400 Oakland, CA 94612	Mark Johnson <a href="mailto:stu36@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov">stu36@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov</a>	(510) 622-2493 FAX: (510) 622-2460
CENTRAL COAST REGION	895 Aerovista Place., Suite 101 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401	Jennifer Bitting <a href="mailto:jbitting@rb3.swrcb.ca.gov">jbitting@rb3.swrcb.ca.gov</a>	(805) 549-3334 FAX: (805) 543-0397
LOS ANGELES REGION	320 W. 4th St., Suite 200 Los Angeles, CA 90013	Ejigu Soloman (Ventura County) <a href="mailto:esoloman@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov">esoloman@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov</a>	213) 576-6727 FAX: (213) 576-6686
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION Sacramento Office	11020 Sun Center Drive, #200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670	Sue McConnell <a href="mailto:mconns@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov">mconns@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov</a>  George Day <a href="mailto:DayG@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov">DayG@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov</a>  Dannas Berchtold <a href="mailto:BerchtD@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov">BerchtD@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov</a>  Rich Muhl <a href="mailto:MuhlR@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov">MuhlR@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov</a>	(916) 464-4798 FAX: (916) 464-4681  (916) 464-6404 FAX: (916) 464-4681  (916) 464-4683 FAX: (916) 464-4681  (916) 464-4749 FAX: (916) 464-4681
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION Fresno Branch Office	E. Street Fresno, CA 93706	Brian Erlandsen <a href="mailto:ErlandsenB@rb5f.swrcb.ca.gov">ErlandsenB@rb5f.swrcb.ca.gov</a>	(559) 445-6046 FAX: (559) 445-5910
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION Redding Branch Office	415 Knollcrest Dr. Redding, CA 96002	Carole Crowe <a href="mailto:crowec@rb5r.swrcb.ca.gov">crowec@rb5r.swrcb.ca.gov</a>	(530) 224-4849 FAX: (530) 224-4857
LAHONTAN REGION South Lake Tahoe Office	2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd. South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150	Jason Churchill <a href="mailto:jchurchill@rb6s.swrcb.ca.gov">jchurchill@rb6s.swrcb.ca.gov</a>	(530) 542-5571 FAX: (530) 544-2271
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State Water Resources Control Board  
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Construction Inquiry Line: (916) 341-5537  
Web Site: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/>  
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**How to Obtain a List of State Certified Laboratories**

[http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ls/elap/html/lablist\\_county.htm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ls/elap/html/lablist_county.htm)

**Other Useful Web Sites**

California Stormwater Quality Association <http://www.casqa.org/>

California Department of Transportation

Environmental Program <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/index.htm>

Storm Water Management Program <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/>

## 7.0 Explanation of Sampling and Analysis Requirements

The sampling and analysis provisions were added to the CGP in response to the writ of mandate issued in *San Francisco BayKeeper v. California State Water Resources Control Board* (Sacramento County Superior Court, No. 99CS01929). The SWRCB has now been directed to provide explanation and direction for dischargers subject to the sampling and analysis requirements. One issue that is at the heart of this direction is that the SWRCB must explain how dischargers should interpret the results of the required sampling and analysis in deciding whether they are in compliance with the permit's receiving water limitations requirements. In essence, can the sampling and analysis results be used to provide a reliable answer to the question whether the discharge is causing or contributing to exceedance of water quality standards? As is explained below, the answer is a qualified "yes," in that the results must be used in concert with other information and in accordance with a logical process exercising best professional judgment. The results from the sampling and analysis will provide information regarding whether or not the BMPs are effective, and may provide some evidence of causing or contributing to exceedance of water quality standards. But the sampling and analysis requirements in a storm water permit are ultimately a diagnostic tool, and are not a guaranteed method of determining compliance with the receiving water limitations.

### 7.1 Requirement for Compliance With Water Quality Standards

The SWRCB is well aware of the requirement that it must issue industrial storm water permits, including the CGP, with requirements that require "strict compliance" with water quality standards. (CWA §402(p)(3)(A).) It is also aware that USEPA has concluded that in general it is not appropriate or legally required to include numeric, water quality-based effluent limitations in storm water permits. (40 CFR 122.44(k)(2).) In addition, we note that USEPA does not require sampling and analysis in industrial storm water permits (40 CFR §122.44(i)(4)) and it has elected not to include any sampling or analysis requirements in its own recently issued general construction permit. (See, <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp.cfm>.) USEPA has explained the limitations of sampling and analysis in industrial storm water permits. (See, 57 Fed. Reg. 11394 et seq. (1992).)

USEPA has addressed the relationship between BMPs and water quality standards, and has determined that almost all storm water discharges can be adequately controlled to meet water quality standards through BMPs. (NPDES Storm Water Program Questions and Answers, 1/21/04.) USEPA states that to evaluate effectiveness, NPDES permits may at the discretion of the permitting authority require visual inspections, evaluation of environmental indicators or measurable goals, effluent monitoring, or in-stream monitoring. (*Id.*) USEPA has made clear, both in its regulations and its guidance documents, that monitoring requirements are not necessary to enforce compliance with water quality standards. (In fact, neither EPA nor any state we are aware of has chosen to include monitoring requirements equivalent to, or more robust than, those already in place in the CGP.) Certainly, there is no legal requirement that the permitting authority must "prove" that a specific monitoring result is conclusive evidence of exceedance of a water quality standard. USEPA has conducted studies and modeling showing that existing permit programs as of 2003 were already capable of controlling approximately 80-90% of sediment runoff from construction sites, and that more stringent rules would remove

only 1% more. (USEPA Withdrawal of Proposed Effluent Limitation Guideline for Construction Industry, Volume 69, Federal Register 22472 et seq., April 26, 2004.) In conducting its state equivalency analysis, USEPA evaluated all states' programs, including California's, and determined that these were adequate and that further requirements were not mandated for compliance with federal law.

In USEPA's analysis of monitoring for construction (EPA-821-R-02-007), it concludes that planning monitoring for storm water is not possible because the flows are highly variable and temporarily stochastic. USEPA also notes that several of the criteria that could be used have special measurement problems because they are based on trapping efficiency, which is very difficult to measure. The most commonly used measurements, such as TSS, also have problems because to measure average or peak TSS it is necessary to measure TSS in the effluent over the duration of the outflow hydrograph as well as the flow rate. This requires that multiple samples be taken and that the samples be centered around the peak discharge. This is time consuming and difficult since the timing of an event and the timing of the peak discharge are not known beforehand. The average concentration is a weighted concentration, using flow rate as a weighting function.

USEPA also conducted an extensive evaluation of the literature to identify pollutants present in storm water discharges from construction sites. They found that while the literature contains extensive information on pollutants present in storm water discharges from urban areas, there were little data available on pollutants present in storm water discharges from construction sites during the active construction phase, other than for sediment, TSS and turbidity. USEPA was not able to identify sufficient data in the literature to warrant development of controls specific to pollutants other than sediment, TSS and turbidity in storm water discharges from construction sites. Some literature suggests that pollutants adhere to sediment, so that regulating TSS should also act as a control for other pollutants.

USEPA also evaluated the inclusion of organics, pesticides, and bacteria as potential pollutants of concern, but the literature indicated that control of these pollutants through conventional storm water management strategies is potentially much more difficult, and that there are little data linking their presence in storm water discharges directly with new land development activities. Source control (implementation of BMPs) may factor greatly into controlling these pollutant sources.

Permit compliance is based on the degree of control that can be achieved using various levels of pollution control technology (BMPs), a visual inspection requirement, coupled with parameter sampling in the instances where exposure has been determined. A storm water sample for non-visible pollutants indicating contamination is not conclusive proof of either a receiving water violation or of compliance with the Permit. But, it should give the discharger enough information to eliminate the source, detain the discharge, improve the BMPs, or take whatever action is necessary to abate the problem.

In the case of a direct discharge of sediment to a water body listed as impaired by sediment, sampling downstream of the discharge that shows a statistically significant increase in sediment over the upstream monitoring is strong evidence that the discharge from the construction site is causing or contributing to the impairment. We have suggested, however, that dischargers who

conduct such sampling should also sample the effluent. They may use the results of such sampling to overcome this presumption should the effluent sampling not be consistent with the downstream results. The case of a direct discharge of sediment to a water body impaired by sediment is a far simpler case than discharges that are indirect, that contain pollutants for which there may be assimilative capacity, or that contain pollutants that may be diluted in the receiving water. In those cases there is no simple way to conclude from sampling and analysis whether an applicable water quality standard is impacted by the storm water discharge. Instead, the data are most useful in alerting the discharger to the need to review BMPs and source control and should trigger a visual inspection.

The final determination as to whether discharges are in compliance with water quality standards will be made by RWQCBs through enforcement and other compliance activities. The sampling and analysis results are relevant, as is visual inspection and evaluation of BMPs. This method of assessment is known as “best professional judgment” and is consistent with USEPA’s approach to regulating storm water discharges. This is the appropriate and lawful method of regulation pending adoption of effluent limitation guidelines by USEPA. (CWA §301.) USEPA proposed such guidelines for construction sites, but decided against adopting effluent limitation guidelines for storm water discharges associated with construction activity. (Effluent Guidelines Construction and Development Fact Sheet: Final Action – Selection of Non-Regulatory Option; EPA 821-F-04-001; March 2004; final action is at Volume 69, Federal Register 22472 et seq., April 26, 2004.) In taking this Final Action, USEPA concluded that the current system that allows states to develop their own programs is adequate and will result in “significant improvements in water quality and in the control of discharges of construction site stormwater runoff.” In conducting its investigation of existing programs, USEPA found that every state already has regulations and programs in place that incorporate most of the provisions that USEPA considered in its most stringent proposal. USEPA further states that the following components of a construction program are: (1) Require preparation of a SWPPP; (2) Require site inspections by dischargers on a regular basis; (3) Require a combination of erosion and sediment controls; and (3) Require stabilization of soils after construction. USEPA decided that the existing programs (which do not require monitoring) are adequate and that any further regulatory requirements imposed by USEPA would be too costly and “would provide only marginal environmental improvements over regulations already in place.” USEPA further concluded that additional controls would make housing unaffordable. Even when USEPA initially proposed adopting an effluent limitation guideline, it rejected even considering any monitoring requirements. In discussing the option of requiring monitoring in construction permits, USEPA listed several concerns, including that a national monitoring requirement would be impractical and that monitoring receiving waters at most construction sites is infeasible. (Effluent Limitation Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards for the Construction and Development Category: Proposed Rule, 67 Federal Register 42644, 42658-9 (6/24/02).) USEPA concluded that: “All of these factors would add significant expense to the construction process, with little or no added assurance in the effectiveness of control measures or expected environmental benefits.” (*Id.*)

## 7.2 Background Contamination

The Court asked the SWRCB to explain the need for background (reference ) sampling for non-visual pollutants. In essence, the Court question is why is it relevant whether the construction activity “increased” the level of pollutants in the runoff if pre-existing pollutants in runoff could also be of concern. There are several responses to this question. First, the CGP is intended to be a permit for storm water discharges associated with construction activity. (CWA §402(p); construction that disturbs greater than one acre is considered an industrial activity (40 CFR §122.26(b)(14)(x) and (15).) At this time, Congress has determined that it is not appropriate to regulate storm water runoff in general, and that only specified types of storm water discharges are subject to permitting. In fact, even at industrial sites, only the portions of the site that are used for industrial activities are subject to permitting. (40 CFR §122.26(b)(14).) Second, the focus of the CGP is on BMPs, and assuring that they are effective in preventing pollutants associated with construction activity from entering receiving waters. Where there are pollutants entering receiving waters, the required action is, through the iterative process in the Receiving Water Limitations, to evaluate and improve BMPs. Eliminating the source of contamination is the most direct and desirable approach to regulating construction runoff.

Regardless of whether a construction site owner *could* be held liable for historical contaminants running off the site, the purpose of the “reference” sample is clear: the permit does not contain numeric effluent limitations and is based on the BMP approach.<sup>1</sup> The two samples compare whether the BMPs that have been installed to prevent the non-visible pollutants associated with construction activity from entering receiving waters are effective. If “control samples” were not taken, the use of sampling to help determine permit compliance would be thwarted. If BMPs, including good housekeeping (source control) BMPs, are properly installed and maintained, they will effectively control the transportation of most pollutants. The background sampling will verify this fact. It is noted that the permit does require identification of historical pollutants, including pollutants that are the result of past usage. (CGP section A.5.b.3.) Sampling for these pollutants is required if the construction activity (e.g., disturbance of soil impacted by prior use) result in the mobilization and runoff of these pollutants.

The Court stated that USEPA documents indicate that reference sample collection and comparison may be unsuitable for persistent bio-accumulative pollutants. (The court cited USEPA’s Water Quality Guidance for the Great Lakes System: Supplementary Information Document (GLSID), at p. 63.) A California Court of Appeal recently had occasion to discuss the appropriate regulation of persistent bio-accumulative pollutants in NPDES permits. In *Communities for a Better Environment v. SWRCB* (2003) 109 Cal. App. 4th 1089 (hrg. denied), the court upheld a permit for a refinery that did not include final numeric effluent limitations for dioxins, which are bio-accumulative pollutants. The court upheld an approach relying on BMPs and a watershed approach to dealing with persistent bio-accumulative pollutants through other methods, such as a TMDL. The GLSID adopted by USEPA describes a watershed approach to controlling and eliminating persistent pollutants, which will include adoption of TMDLs. (See, GLSID at p. 247) It is not limited to adoption of NPDES permits, and does not even address

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<sup>1</sup> The Court has upheld this approach. See, Ruling on Submitted Matter, *San Francisco BayKeeper v. California SWRCB*, p. 5-6.

construction storm water permits in the region. The reference on page 63 concerns the appropriate approaches for TMDLs, not for construction storm water permits. USEPA concludes in the GLSID that the TMDL process is the appropriate means of effectively addressing persistent bio-accumulative pollutants.

Pollutants such as the Persistent Bio-accumulative and Toxic chemicals (PBT) currently being addressed under USEPA's PBT initiative <sup>2</sup> are not closely associated with modern day construction activity. The listed pesticides could possibly be found, however, as historic pollutants in the soil if the construction site had been used for agriculture prior to the 1970s (the 1990s in the case of toxaphene). Information about PBTs can be found through [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormwtr/gen\\_const.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormwtr/gen_const.html) Persistent bio-accumulative pollutants are strongly associated with soils and soil particles, so an aggressive erosion and sediment control program combined with visual inspections is the most understandable and cost-effective approach to controlling the discharge of such pollutants from construction activity.

If the area that the construction site is located in has prior contamination from PBTs, such issues should be dealt with on a watershed-based approach, such as a TMDL for the particular pollutant. The Construction CGP is not intended to address such issues. On the other hand, the permit does require all dischargers to control soil erosion and the movement of products of erosion off the site via the storm water discharge. Mobilization of pesticide residue by construction activity may trigger sampling and analysis requirements.

### **7.3 Parameters to Sample for to Determine the Presence of Non-Visible Pollutants in Runoff**

It has been suggested that construction dischargers should consult the CTR, and then design a sampling strategy to sample their discharge for all non-visible CTR pollutants based on the numerical values provided. The CTR pollutants and numerical limits, however, have limited relevance to construction activity or storm water pollution from construction sites. The CTR pollutants currently known to be used and commonly found on construction sites can be found through [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormwtr/gen\\_const.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormwtr/gen_const.html).

Of greater concern for construction discharges are the pollutants found in materials used in large quantities throughout California and exposed throughout the rainy season such as cement, fly-ash, and other recycled materials or by-products of combustion. (But many of these materials may be visible in runoff, affecting color for example.) The water quality standards for these materials will depend on their composition. Some of the more common storm water pollutants from construction activity such as glyphosate (herbicides), diazinon and chlopyrifos (pesticides), nutrients (fertilizers), and molybdenum (lubricants) are not CTR pollutants. The use of diazinon and chlopyrifos is a common practice among landscaping professionals and may trigger sampling and analysis requirements if applications come into contact with storm water.

Other more common storm water contamination problems resulting from construction activity such as high pH values from cement and gypsum, high pH and TSS from wash waters and

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/pbt/aboutpbt.htm>

chemical and fecal contamination from portable toilets are also not CTR pollutants. Some of these constituents do have numeric water quality objectives in individual Basin Plans, but many do not and are subject to narrative water quality standards such as not causing toxicity. This Fact Sheet provides direction on how to ascertain the applicable water quality standards for the receiving water. Of more use will be information the SWRCB will distribute upon completion of a contract with the University of California, which will list the most common pollutants, describe which construction materials they are associated with, and suggest parameters for sampling. At this time, dischargers are encouraged to discuss these issues with RWQCB staff and their own knowledgeable representative or Storm Water Quality Professionals..

## **7.4 The Watershed Approach to Storm Water Permitting**

USEPA has endorsed a watershed approach to storm water permitting that focuses on BMPs in lieu of numeric effluent limitations and visual inspection and indicator monitoring in lieu of sampling for individual pollutant parameters. (Questions and Answers Regarding Implementation of an Interim Permitting Approach for Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations in Storm Water Permits, 61 Fed. Reg. 57424 (11/6/96)). In a memorandum dated November 22, 2002, USEPA issued guidance on the interaction between storm water permits and TMDLs. The memorandum explains that, even in the case where a TMDL has been finalized and a wasteload allocation established for storm water discharges, the inclusion of numeric effluent limitations will be “rare.” The memorandum therefore discusses monitoring requirements in BMP-based permits. It states that the monitoring should assess the effectiveness of the BMPs (i.e., appropriate monitoring is visual inspection) and *if monitoring for storm water is required*, it should be consistent with the state’s watershed approach.

## **7.5 References and Record for this Guidance Document**

In preparing this guidance document, the SWRCB has relied upon numerous background materials including federal statutes, regulations and guidance materials. These materials include Clean Water Act sections 303(d) and 402(p) and federal regulations implementing section 402(p) including 40 CFR sections 122.26, 122.44, 122.48, and Part 131. The SWRCB has also relied several guidance documents from USEPA. These include the preambles to the various storm water regulatory actions: 55 Fed. Reg. 47990 et seq. (11/16/90), 57 Fed. Reg. 11394 et seq. (4/2/92), and 64 Fed. Reg. 68722 et seq. The SWRCB has relied on the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code section 13000 et seq.), and implementing state regulations at Title 23, California Code of Regulations. The SWRCB has also relied on relevant court decisions, including: *Communities for a Better Environment v. SWRCB* (2003) 109 Cal. App. 4th 1089 (hrg. denied) (Water Boards have broad discretion in adopting effluent limitations for impaired waters). The SWRCB has also reviewed the recently-adopted USEPA general construction permit, published at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp.cfm>. and USEPA’s decision not to adopt effluent limitations guidelines for storm water discharges from construction activities (Volume 69, Federal Register 22472 et seq., April 26, 2004) The SWRCB has also reviewed the USEPA multi-sector general permit for industrial activities (65 Fed. Reg. 64746 et seq. (10/30/00) and a general construction permit issued by USEPA Region IV (65 Fed. Reg. 25122 et seq. (4/28/00)). The record also contains submittals received by the SWRCB from

interested persons including the Keepers organizations, the Building Industry Legal Defense Foundation and the California Building Industry Association.

# **APPENDIX A**

## **WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR SUSPENDED MATERIALS, SETTEABLE MATERIALS, SEDIMENT AND TURBIDITY**

Below is a compilation of the water quality objectives for suspended materials, settleable material, sediment and turbidity as of August 2003 for each of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. The water quality objectives are found in chapter 3 (unless otherwise noted) of the RWQCB's Basin Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan). Some of the weblinks go directly to Chapter 3 and others will go to the Basin Plan.

### **North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board – Region 1**

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb1/down/032202basin-plan.pdf>

#### **Suspended Material**

Waters shall not contain suspended material in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

#### **Settleable Material**

Waters shall not contain substances in concentrations that result in deposition of material that causes nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

#### **Sediment**

The suspended sediment load and suspended sediment discharge rate of surface waters shall not be altered in such a manner as to cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

#### **Turbidity**

Turbidity shall not be increased more than 20 percent above naturally occurring background levels. Allowable zones of dilution within which higher percentages can be tolerated may be defined for specific discharges upon the issuance of discharge permits or waiver thereof.

### **San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board – Region 2**

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb2/Basin Plan/chap\\_3\\_bp.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb2/Basin Plan/chap_3_bp.pdf)

#### **Sediment**

The suspended sediment load and suspended sediment discharge rate of surface waters shall not be altered in such a manner as to cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses. Controllable water quality factors shall not cause a detrimental increase in the concentrations of toxic pollutants in sediments or aquatic life.

#### **Settleable Material**

Waters shall not contain substances in concentrations that result in the deposition of material that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

#### Suspended Material

Waters shall not contain suspended material in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

#### Turbidity

Waters shall be free of changes in turbidity that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses. Increases from normal background light penetration or turbidity relatable to waste discharge shall not be greater than 10 percent in areas where natural turbidity is greater than 50 NTU.

### **Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board - Region 3**

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb3/BasinPlan/BP\\_text%5Cchapter\\_3%5CChapter3.htm](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb3/BasinPlan/BP_text%5Cchapter_3%5CChapter3.htm)

#### Suspended Material

Waters shall not contain suspended material in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

#### Setteable Material

Waters shall not contain setteable material in concentrations that result in deposition of material that causes nuisance or adversely affects beneficial uses.

#### Sediment

The suspended sediment load and suspended sediment discharge rate of surface waters shall not be altered in such a manner as to cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

#### Turbidity

Waters shall be free of changes in turbidity that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

Increase in Turbidity attributable to controllable factors shall not exceed the following limits:

1. Where natural turbidity is between 0 and 50 Jackson Turbidity Units (JTU), increases shall not exceed 20 percent.
  2. Where natural turbidity is between 50 and 100 JTU, increases shall not exceed 10 JTU
  3. Where natural turbidity is greater than 100 JTU, increases shall not exceed 10 percent.
- Allowable zones of dilution within which higher concentrations will be tolerated will be defined for each discharge in discharge permits.

### **Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board - Region 4**

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/meetings/tmdl/Basin\\_plan/el\\_doc/BP3 Water Quality Objectives.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb4/html/meetings/tmdl/Basin_plan/el_doc/BP3%20Water%20Quality%20Objectives.pdf)

#### Solid, Suspended, or Setteable Materials

Waters shall not contain suspended or setteable material in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

### Turbidity

Waters shall be free of changes in turbidity that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses. Increases in natural turbidity attributable to controllable factors shall not exceed the following limits:

Where natural turbidity is between 0 and 50 NTU, increases shall not exceed 20%.

Where natural turbidity is greater than 50 NTU, increases shall not exceed 10%.

Allowable zones of initial dilution within which higher concentrations will be tolerated may be defined for each discharge in specific Waste Discharge Requirements.

### **Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board – Region 5**

Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/available\\_documents/basin\\_plans/bsnplnab.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/available_documents/basin_plans/bsnplnab.pdf)

### Sediment

The suspended sediment load and suspended sediment discharge rate of surface waters shall not be altered in such a manner as to cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

### Settleable Material

Waters shall not contain substances in concentrations that result in the deposition of material that causes nuisance or adversely affects beneficial uses.

### Suspended Material

Waters shall not contain suspended material in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

### Turbidity

Waters shall be free of changes in turbidity that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses. Increases in turbidity attributable to controllable water quality factors shall not exceed the following limits:

- Where natural turbidity is between 0 and 5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs), increases shall not exceed 1 NTU.
- Where natural turbidity is between 5 and 50 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 20 percent.
- Where natural turbidity is between 50 and 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 NTUs.
- Where natural turbidity is greater than 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 percent.

In determining compliance with the above limits, appropriate averaging periods may be applied provided that beneficial uses will be fully protected.

Exceptions to the above limits will be considered when a dredging operation can cause an increase in turbidity. In those cases, an allowable zone of dilution within which turbidity in excess of the limits may be tolerated will be defined for the operation and prescribed in a discharge permit.

For Folsom Lake (50) and American River (Folsom Dam to Sacramento River) (51), except for periods of storm runoff, the turbidity shall be less than or equal 10 NTUs. To the extent of any conflict with the general turbidity objective, the more stringent applies.

For Delta waters, the general objectives for turbidity apply subject to the following: except for periods of storm runoff, the turbidity of Delta waters shall not exceed 50 NTUs in the waters of the Central Delta and 150 NTUs in other Delta waters. Exceptions to the Delta specific objectives will be considered when a dredging operation can cause an increase in turbidity. In this case, an allowable zone of dilution within which turbidity in excess of limits can be tolerated will be defined for the operation and prescribed in a discharge permit.

### **Tulare Lake Basin**

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/available\\_documents/basin\\_plans/bsnpln5c.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/available_documents/basin_plans/bsnpln5c.pdf)

#### **Sediment**

The suspended sediment load and suspended sediment discharge rate of waters shall not be altered in such a manner as to cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

#### **Settleable Material**

Waters shall not contain substances in concentrations that result in the deposition of material that causes nuisance or adversely affects beneficial uses.

#### **Suspended Material**

Waters shall not contain suspended material in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

#### **Turbidity**

Waters shall be free of changes in turbidity that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses. Increases in turbidity attributable to controllable water quality factors shall not exceed the following limits:

- Where natural turbidity is between 0 and 5 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs), increases shall not exceed 1 NTU.
- Where natural turbidity is between 5 and 50 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 20 percent.
- Where natural turbidity is equal to or between 50 and 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 NTUs.
- Where natural turbidity is greater than 100 NTUs, increases shall not exceed 10 percent.

In determining compliance with the above limits, the Regional Water Board may prescribe appropriate averaging periods provided that beneficial uses will be fully protected.

### **Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board - Region 6**

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb6/BPlan/Bplantxt.pdf>

#### Sediment

The suspended sediment load and suspended sediment discharge rate of surface waters shall not be altered in such a manner as to cause nuisance or adversely affect the water for beneficial uses.

#### Setteable Materials

Waters shall not contain substances in concentrations that result in deposition of material that causes nuisance or that adversely affects the water for beneficial uses. For natural high quality waters, the concentration of setteable materials shall not be raised by more than 0.1 milliliter per liter.

#### Suspended Materials

Waters shall not contain suspended materials in concentrations that cause nuisance or that adversely affects the water for beneficial uses. For natural high quality waters, the concentration of total suspended materials shall not be altered to the extent that such alterations are discernible at the 10 percent significance level.

#### Turbidity

Waters shall be free of changes in turbidity that cause nuisance or adversely affect the water for beneficial uses. Increases in turbidity shall not exceed natural levels by more than 10 percent.

### **Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board – Region 7**

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb7/documents/RB7Plan.pdf>

#### Suspended Solids and Setteable Solids

Discharges of wastes or wastewater shall not contain suspended or setteable solids in concentrations which increase the turbidity of receiving waters, unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the RWQCB that such alteration in turbidity does not adversely affect beneficial uses.

#### Sediment

The suspended sediment load and suspended sediment discharge rate to surface waters shall not be altered in such a manner as to cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

#### Turbidity

Waters shall be free of changes in turbidity that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

### **Santa Ana River Regional Water Quality Control Board – Region 8**

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/~rwqcb8/pdf/R8BPlan.pdf>

(See Chapter 4)

#### Solids, Suspended and Setteable

Enclosed bays and estuaries shall not contain suspended or setteable solids in amounts which cause a nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses as a result of controllable water quality factors.

## Turbidity

Increases in turbidity which result from controllable water quality factors shall comply with the following:

<u>Natural Turbidity</u>	<u>Maximum Increase</u>
0-50 NTU	20%
50-100 NTU	10 NTU
Greater than 100 NTU	10%

All enclosed bay and estuaries of the region shall be free of changes in turbidity which adversely affect beneficial uses

## San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board - Region 9

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb9/programs/Chapter 3 Water Quality Objectives.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb9/programs/Chapter%203%20Water%20Quality%20Objectives.pdf)

## Sediment

The suspended sediment load and suspended sediment discharge rate of surface waters shall not be altered in such a manner as to cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

## Suspended and Settleable Solids

Water shall not contain suspended and settleable solids in concentrations of solids that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

## Turbidity

Waters shall be free of changes in turbidity that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

Inland surface water shall not contain turbidity in excess of the numerical objectives described in Table 3-2. (This is reference to the Basin Plan; this table can be found via the weblink to the Region 9 Basin Plan).

Ground waters shall not contain turbidity in excess of the numerical objectives described in Table 3-3. (This is reference to the Basin Plan; this table can be found via the weblink to the Region 9 Basin Plan.)

The transparency of waters in lagoons and estuaries shall not be less than 50% of the depth at locations where measurement is made by means of a standard Secchi disk, except where lesser transparency is caused by rainfall runoff from undisturbed areas and dredging projects conducted in conformance with waste discharge requirements of the RWQCB. With these two exceptions, increases in turbidity attributable to controllable water quality factors shall not exceed the following limits:

<u>Natural Turbidity</u>	<u>Maximum Increase</u>
0- 50 NTU	20% over natural turbidity level
50 - 100 NTU	10 NTU
Greater than 100 NTU	10% over natural turbidity level

In addition, within San Diego Bay, the transparency of bay waters, insofar as it may be influenced by any controllable factor, either directly or through induced conditions, shall not be less than 8 feet in more than

20 percent of the readings in any zone, as measured by standard Secchi disk. Wherever the water is less than 10 feet deep, the Secchi disk reading shall not be less than 80 percent of the depth in more than 20 percent of the readings in any zone.





















































































