



## State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814

Phone: (916) 341-5254 Fax: (916) 341-5252

Web site: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov> • Email: [info@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:info@waterboards.ca.gov)



# California Water News

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: William Rukeyser

916 341-7365

### New Construction Permit Will Reduce Pollution, Conserve Precious Water

SACRAMENTO-- The State Water Board approved its new construction stormwater permit on September 2, 2009. The statewide permit is designed to protect waterways and conserve water. The Board's vote is the first time California has limited storm water runoff pollution from construction sites by setting numeric limits. The permit is based on the approach that minimal requirements are needed for low-risk projects and become progressively more stringent for projects with a higher threat to water quality. It also identifies appropriate control requirements based on the risk of sediment pollution running off the site.

The purpose of the new permit is to allow construction activity without damaging California's water quality. The permit regulates storm water pollution by controlling discharges from construction projects that disturb an acre or more of land. Residential, private, and public construction projects would be affected by the proposed rules, which are aimed at protecting California waterways. To do that, pollution, like sediment, chemicals, cement, and trash, is kept out of storm drains and waterways that lead to lakes, bays or the ocean. A general construction permit streamlines the construction application process by applying statewide standards while insuring that water quality regulatory requirements are met.

The regulations were developed by State Water Board staff, with input from stakeholders at public workshops.

Construction activities over an acre may present a risk to damage our waters both during the actual construction and afterwards, stemming from the change in runoff caused by altering the landscape. The permit also features requirements to conserve water and to keep pollution out of storm drains after construction is completed. Such low impact development features could include the planting of trees and vegetation, redirecting gutter-downspouts to planter beds, and the installation of rain barrels, green roofs and porous pavement.

(The permit can be viewed under "Item 10" at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/agendas/2009/sept/090109\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/agendas/2009/sept/090109_agenda.pdf))

