

THE CITY OF
POMONA

Public Works Department



December 12, 2018

Mr. Samuel Unger, P.E.
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Attention: Mr. Ivar Ridgeway ✓

**SUBJECT: SUBMITTAL OF FORTERRA BIO-CLEAN MODULAR WETLANDS SYSTEM
EQUIVELANCY ANALYSIS AND DESIGN CRITERIA FOR REVIEW AND
APPROVAL**

Dear Mr. Unger:

The NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit Order No. R4-2012-0175 (Permit) requires biofiltration Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be designed in accordance with the design specifications provided in Attachment H of the Permit. Alternatively, if the proposed project design does not meet the specifications outlined in Attachment H, an approval can be sought from the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Executive Officer for use of an alternative design.

The City of Pomona is seeking approval for use of Modular Wetland Systems, manufactured by Bio-Clean, a Forterra Company, as an alternative design to the specifications outlined in Attachment H of the Permit. We have enclosed an Equivalency Analysis and Design Criteria report for the Modular Wetland Systems prepared for Bio Clean, by Geosyntec Consultants.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Rae Beimer at (714) 788-6936 or via email Rae_Beimer@ci.pomona.ca.us. We look forward to your review and approval of these biofiltration systems for use in the City of Pomona, pursuant to the Permit.

Sincerely,

Rene Guerrero, P.E.
City of Pomona
City Engineer

Enclosures

1. Equivalency Analysis and Design Criteria for the Modular Wetland Systems

**EQUIVALENCY ANALYSIS
AND DESIGN CRITERIA for
MODULAR WETLANDS SYSTEMS
(MWS LINEAR)**

Pursuant to:
**Los Angeles County MS4 Permit
(Order R4-2012-0175)**

Prepared for
Bio Clean, a Forterra Company

Prepared by
Geosyntec 
consultants
engineers | scientists | innovators

621 SW Morrison Street, Suite 600
Portland, Oregon 97205

July 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction.....	4
2	BMP Descriptions.....	4
2.1	Conventional Biofiltration.....	4
2.2	MWS Linear.....	5
3	Methodology for Evaluating Equivalency.....	7
3.1	Basis for Equivalency.....	7
3.2	Methods and Assumptions for Establishing Baseline for Conventional Biofiltration Performance.....	7
3.2.1	Hydrologic Performance (Capture Efficiency and Volume Reduction).....	7
3.2.2	Concentration Reduction.....	8
3.3	Modular Wetland System Analysis to Determine Equivalent Design Criteria.....	9
3.3.1	Capture Efficiency.....	9
3.3.2	Equalization Provided by Internal Storage.....	10
3.3.3	Volume Reduction (MWS and Supplemental Infiltration Storage).....	11
3.3.4	Pollutant Treatment.....	11
3.3.5	Additional Capture In Lieu of Volume Reduction.....	12
4	Design Methodology and Equivalency Criteria.....	14
	Step 1: Characterize Site and Determine Key Attributes.....	14
	Step 2: Adjust the Drainage Area Time of Concentration to Account for Internal Detention Storage (Total Effective Time of Concentration for Drainage Area plus Storage).....	14
	Step 3: Select Design Approach for MWS Linear for Equivalent Long-Term Performance...	15
	Step 4A: MWS Linear Sizing with Supplemental Retention Storage (Option A).....	16
	Step 4B: MWS Linear Sizing for Excess Capture In Lieu of Volume Reduction.....	17
5	Discussion and Conclusions.....	18
5.1	Key Observations and Findings.....	18
5.1.1	Capture Efficiency and Volume Reduction.....	18
5.1.2	Water Quality Treatment.....	19
5.2	Reliability and Limitations.....	19
6	References.....	21
	Appendix A – Conventional Biofiltration Design Assumptions for Performance Modeling.....	23
	Appendix B – SWMM Modeling Methodology and Assumptions.....	25

Overview of SWMM Analysis Framework.....	25
Meteorological Inputs	27
Precipitation	27
Evapotranspiration	27
Runoff Parameters	28
Supplemental Infiltration Unit	30
BMP Representation	30
Conventional Biofiltration	30
MWS Linear.....	32
Supplemental Infiltration Unit	33
Appendix C – Datasets and Analysis Methods for Pollutant Treatment Evaluation.....	34
Data Development and Analysis Framework	34
Compilation and Screening of Conventional Biofiltration Studies	34
Screening Process for Developing Conventional Biofiltration Sample Pool	35
Screening Results.....	37
Inventory of Bioretention Studies and Screening Results/Rationales	37
Compilation of MWS Linear Monitoring Studies	37
Data Analysis Method.....	38
Land Use Stormwater Quality Inputs and Assumptions.....	39
Appendix D – Results of Pollutant Treatment Data Analysis	43

1 INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles County MS4 Permit (Order No. R4-2012-0175) (MS4 Permit) requires that new development and redevelopment projects infiltrate 100 percent of the Stormwater Quality Design volume (SWQDv) on-site as the preferred approach unless technical infeasibility or alternative approaches apply (Provision 7.c). When it is not technically feasible to fully infiltrate the SWQDv, the MS4 Permit allows for on-site biofiltration to be used if it meets the specific criteria in Attachment H of the MS4 Permit. The MS4 Permit also allows for Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) Executive Officer to approve alternate biofiltration design criteria.

The purpose of this report is to develop a design basis for Modular Wetland Systems Linear (MWS Linear) such that these systems will provide equivalent performance to biofiltration BMPs as defined in Attachment H of the MS4 Permit. This report is intended to serve as technical support for requests to the Executive Officer of the Regional Board for approval of alternative design criteria for MWS Linear systems. This report describes the basis for evaluating equivalency, details the design approach and equivalency criteria for MWS Linear systems to achieve equivalent performance to conventional biofiltration, and provides the supporting rationales for these equivalency criteria.

The remainder of this report is organized as follows:

Section 2 – BMP Descriptions (Conventional Biofiltration and MWS Linear)

Section 3 – Basis and Methodology for Evaluating Equivalency

Section 4 – MWS Linear Design Approach and Equivalency Criteria

Section 5 – Discussion and Conclusions

Section 6 – References

Appendix A – Design Assumptions for Conventional Biofiltration

Appendix B – SWMM Modeling Methodology and Assumptions

Appendix C – Datasets and Analysis Methods for Pollutant Treatment Evaluation

Appendix D – Results of BMP Treatment Performance Evaluation

2 BMP DESCRIPTIONS

2.1 Conventional Biofiltration

Biofiltration (also known as bioretention with underdrain) consists of shallow landscaped depressions that capture and filter stormwater runoff through engineered media. These facilities function as soil and plant-based filtration systems that remove pollutants through a variety of physical, biological, and chemical treatment processes. Biofiltration facilities normally consist of a ponding area, mulch layer, soils, and plantings (Figure 1). An optional gravel layer added below

the planting soil coupled with an upturned elbow (or similar hydraulic control approach) can provide additional storage volume for infiltration. As stormwater passes through the planting soil pollutants are filtered, adsorbed, and biodegraded by the soil media, microorganisms living in the soil and optional gravel layer, and plants. Conventional biofiltration is typically designed as a “volume-based” BMP, meaning that it is sized based on capture of the runoff from a specific size of storm event (the SWQDv).

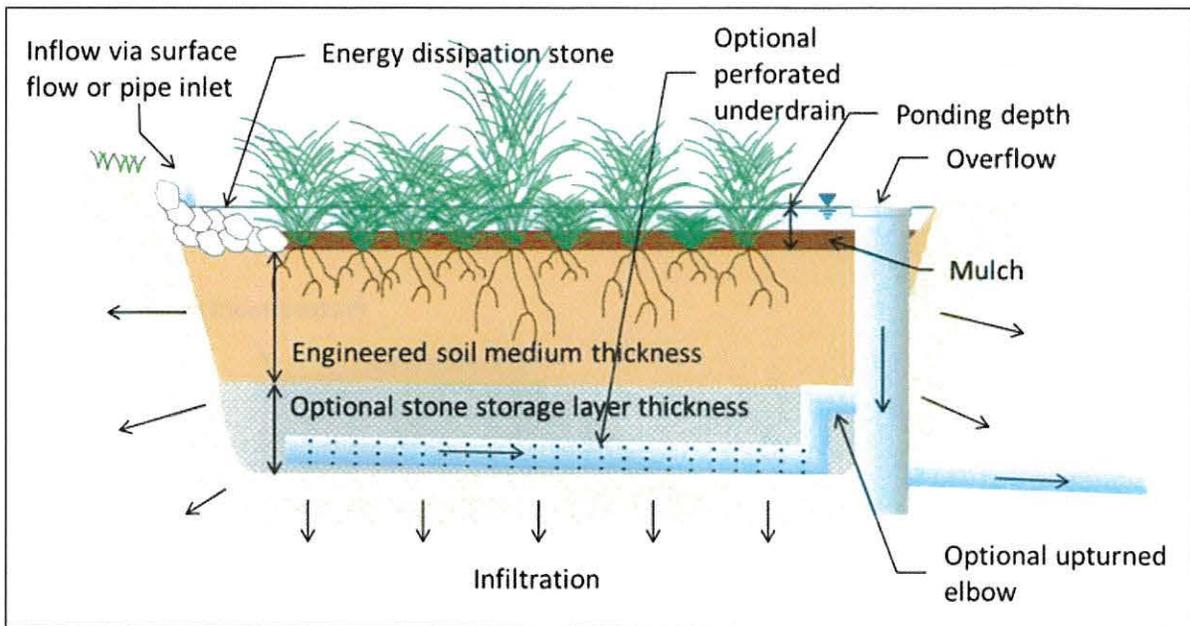


Figure 1: Cross sections of typical biofiltration system

2.2 MWS Linear

MWS Linear consist of a pre-treatment chamber, a horizontal flow biofiltration zone, and a discharge structure (Figure 2). The pre-treatment chamber separates trash and debris from smaller contaminants and includes pre-filter cartridges that utilize BioMediaGREEN filter material for reduction of TSS and hydrocarbons. This step helps to prevent clogging of the biofiltration media and acts as a small detention/equalization basin that can increase the effective time of concentration in small watersheds. The wetland biofiltration zone provides similar contaminant removal mechanisms to conventional biofiltration but uses a horizontal flow pattern to prevent clogging and improve filtration. The discharge structure provides flow control through the system. The flowrate of the system is limited by an orifice at the flow control structure. When the system fills, and the inflow rate exceeds the treated discharge rate through the orifice, flows in excess of the treatment capacity bypass treatment. MWS Linear units are available in a variety of configurations and sizes, but each has these common elements.

The MWS Linear technology has a General Use Level Designation (GULD) approved for Basic (TSS), Enhanced (dissolved metals), and Phosphorus treatment by the Washington State

Technology Assessment Protocol – Ecology (TAPE) program. It has approved treatment efficiencies and/or authorization for use as a BMP from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Maryland Department of the Environment, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, and City of Portland (Oregon) Environmental Services. These approvals are provided for reference only. The equivalency analysis presented in this report is based on an independent evaluation of MWS Linear performance. It is not contingent on approvals in other jurisdictions.

MWS units are typically designed as “flow-based” criteria, meaning that they are sized based on capture of the runoff from a specific rainfall rate (intensity) or runoff flowrate. However, the volume in the system upstream of the discharge structure provides some equalization of peak inflow rates.

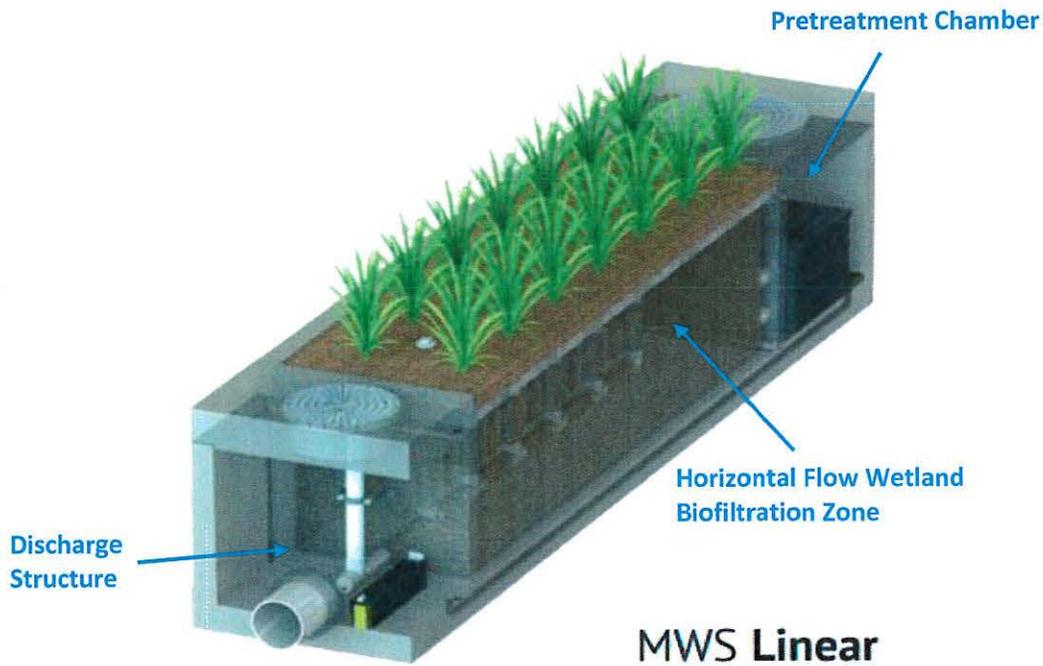


Figure 2: Typical MWS Linear Configuration

3 METHODOLOGY FOR EVALUATING EQUIVALENCY

3.1 Basis for Equivalency

The equivalency of MWS Linear to conventional biofiltration as described in Attachment H of the MS4 Permit was evaluated based on the following factors that influence pollutant load reduction performance of stormwater BMPs:

- **Capture efficiency:** The percent of long-term stormwater runoff volume that is treated by the BMP vs. bypassed.
- **Volume reduction:** The percent of long-term stormwater runoff volume that is removed from the system via infiltration or evapotranspiration and does not discharge directly to the storm sewer or surface waters.
- **Concentration reduction:** The difference in contaminant concentration between the raw stormwater runoff and the BMP-treated stormwater runoff.

The equivalency analysis consisted of three parts:

- 1) The baseline performance of conventional biofiltration was estimated, including representative estimates of capture efficiency, volume reduction, and concentration reduction provided by conventional designs.
- 2) Sizing criteria were developed for MWS Linear (with supplemental infiltration systems if needed) such that MWS Linear would provide equivalent load pollutant reduction performance to conventional biofiltration.
- 3) A design methodology for MWS Linear was developed to ensure consistent application of the equivalent sizing criteria in the design of MWS Linear systems.

3.2 Methods and Assumptions for Establishing Baseline for Conventional Biofiltration Performance

3.2.1 *Hydrologic Performance (Capture Efficiency and Volume Reduction)*

Attachment H of the MS4 Permit specifies several criteria that influence the hydrologic performance of the conventional biofiltration BMPs:

- 6 to 18-inch ponding area above media
- Optional layer of mulch
- 2 to 3 feet of engineered filter media (2 feet typical) with a design infiltration rate of 5 to 12 inches/hour; the Attachment H specification calls for a mix of 60 to 80% fine sand and 20 to 40% compost
- Gravel storage layer below the bioretention media to promote infiltration
- Underdrain placed near the top of the gravel layer (or an infiltration sump otherwise provided via an equivalent hydraulic control approach) in cases where underlying soil allows incidental infiltration
- Underdrain discharge to the storm drain system

- Capacity (including stored and filtered water) adequate to biofilter 150 percent of the portion of the SWQDv not reliably retained (i.e., infiltrated or evapotranspired).

Within the bounds established by these criteria, a range of actual conventional biofiltration designs could result as a function of site infiltration conditions as well as designer and local jurisdiction preferences. An example of potential design variability is illustrated in Appendix A. For this analysis, representative design assumptions were developed within the range of potential design assumptions. These assumptions are also presented in Appendix A with supporting rationales. Long-term continuous simulation SWMM 5.1 modeling was conducted using 18 years of 5-minute resolution precipitation data, as described in Appendix B, to estimate the long-term capture efficiency and volume reduction of the baseline biofiltration design scenario for a range of site infiltration rates. Biofiltration BMPs will tend to provide more volume reduction when installed in sites with higher incidental and allowable infiltration rates. Table 1 describes the baseline hydrologic performance of biofiltration BMPs.

Table 1. Conventional Biofiltration Hydrologic Performance

Site Soil Infiltration Rate, in/hr	Long-Term Capture Efficiency (percent of total runoff volume)	Long-Term Volume Reduction (percent of total runoff volume) (ET + Infiltration)
0	92 to 94% ¹ (93% capture is representative)	4%
0.01		5%
0.05		10%
0.15		21%
0.30 ²		33%

1 - Capture efficiency varies slightly as a function of soil infiltration rate (and associated differences in design profile) and land use imperviousness. These differences are relatively minor and are less important than the variability in performance that may result from different design approaches and maintenance conditions that may be encountered. Therefore, a single baseline value of 93 percent long-term capture was used in this analysis.

2 - A maximum soil infiltration rate of 0.3 inches per hour was evaluated because for soil infiltration rates greater than 0.3 inches per hour the MS4 Permit requires that infiltration be evaluated.

3.2.2 Concentration Reduction

Pollutant concentration reduction performance for baseline biofiltration was evaluated based on analysis of bioretention with underdrain studies in the International Stormwater BMP Database. Analyses were conducted based on a screened subset of studies that were considered most representative of MS4 Permit Attachment H design criteria (16 studies). Additionally, four peer-reviewed research studies (Davis 2007; Li and Davis 2009; David et al., 2011; Gilbreath et al. 2012) not contained in the International BMP Database were added to the sample pool for analysis. Two of these studies were conducted in the San Francisco Bay area based on biofiltration design standards and media specifications very similar to Attachment H of the Los Angeles MS4 Permit. The two other additional studies were included due to their similarity to the MS4 Permit Attachment H design criteria. Note that this is the same set of conventional biofiltration studies

that were considered in the Filterra Equivalency Analysis (Geosyntec Consultants, 2015). The resulting number of studies is adequate to estimate representative concentration reduction performance of conventional biofiltration.

Concentration reduction performance was characterized using a moving window bootstrapping method (Leisenring et al., 2009; see details in Appendix C) that accounts for the influence of influent concentration on effluent concentration and characterizes the relative uncertainty in performance estimates within each range of influent quality. Both the median and mean summary statistics were evaluated using these methods. Additionally, literature on the influence of biofiltration design variables on performance was summarized to support the criteria that were used to select the 20 BMP studies that were included in the screened dataset. The pollutant treatment evaluation was based on total suspended solids, total phosphorus, total nitrogen, total copper, and total zinc. Influent concentrations characteristic of single family, multi family, commercial, and light industrial land uses were applied to estimate effluent concentrations and concentration change.

Generally, biofiltration provides good removal of TSS, moderate removal of copper and zinc, and generally shows export of nutrients. Export of nutrients tends to be greater when influent concentrations are low. Details about pollutant treatment analyses are provided in Appendix C, and results of these analyses are provided in Appendix D.

3.3 Modular Wetland System Analysis to Determine Equivalent Design Criteria

This section provides information on how MWS Linear performance was analyzed to determine the conditions under which these systems provide equivalent performance to conventional biofiltration.

3.3.1 Capture Efficiency

Capture efficiency by MWS Linear is a function of the tributary area and runoff coefficient of the tributary area, the time of concentration of the associated watershed and internal equalization storage, and the design precipitation intensity used to size the MWS. A fully impervious catchment was used for all simulations. Continuous simulation with EPA SWMM 5.1 using the same 18 years of 5-minute resolution precipitation data (as was used for conventional biofiltration), as described in Appendix B, was used to determine the effect of time of concentration and MWS Linear sizing criteria on capture efficiency. The effect of time of concentration was determined by changing the modeled width of a one-acre catchment to match a range of time of concentrations. The treatment rate (and associated design precipitation intensity) of the unit was accounted for by using a flow rate-based flow splitter. The details of this analysis are provided in Appendix B. Figure 3 presents the results of the simulations.

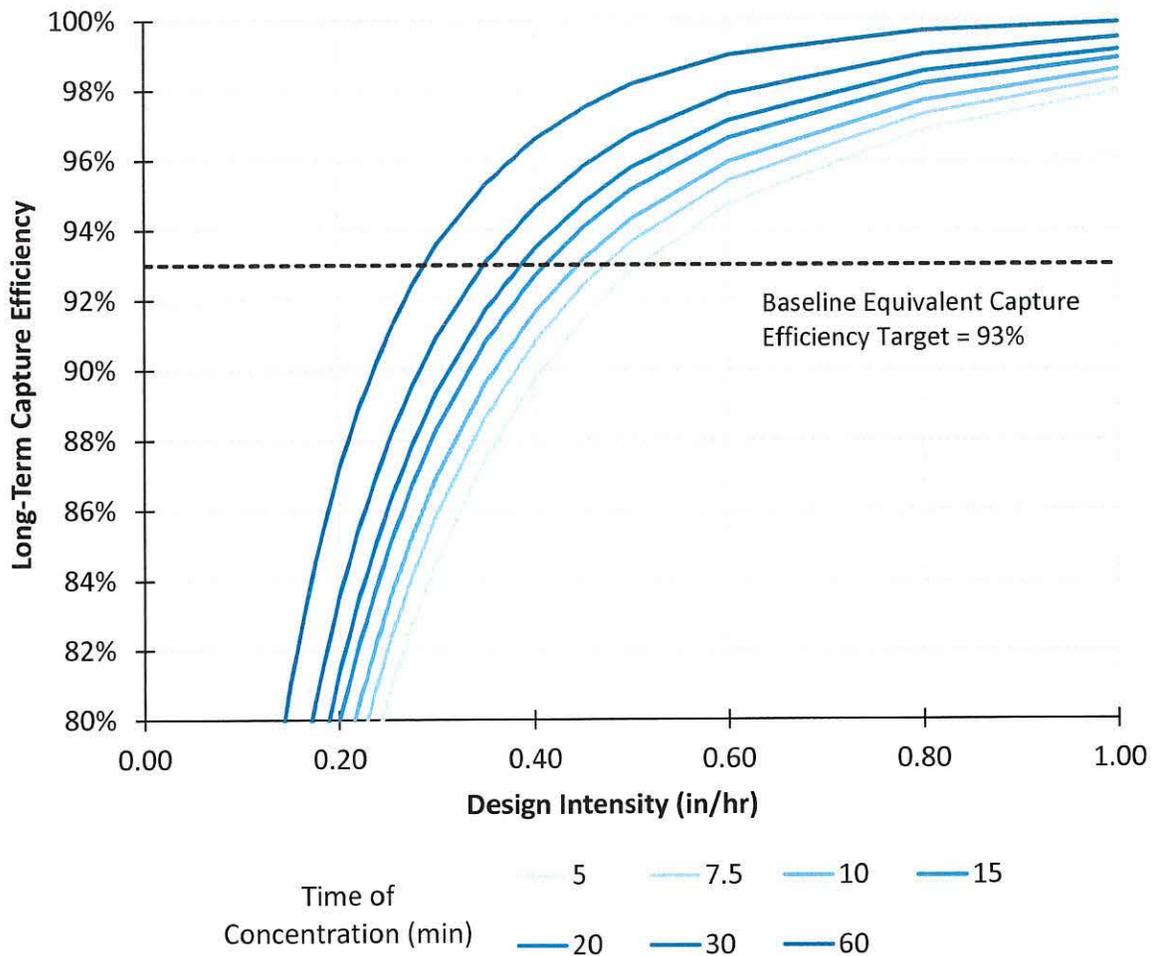


Figure 3: MWS Long-Term Capture Efficiency based on Design Intensity and Time of Concentration

3.3.2 Equalization Provided by Internal Storage

For MWS Linear, the storage within the system provides some equalization/detention prior to treatment. Because the systems are designed to limit flowrate via an orifice on the downstream end of the treatment train, the pretreatment forebay and storage within the wetland biofiltration cell must fill before bypass would occur. This was not explicitly modeled in SWMM because the ratios of storage volume to treatment flowrate vary by MWS Linear size model. The effect of this is akin to the hydrograph attenuation resulting from a longer time of concentration from the watershed. Therefore, as part of the design approach described in Section 4, this effect is accounted for by adding the detention time provided by the internal storage to the time of concentration of the watershed before looking up the required design intensity from the performance nomograph. This is a reasonable simplification.

3.3.3 Volume Reduction (MWS and Supplemental Infiltration Storage)

Volume reduction through MWS Linear is minor due to the small surface area and impermeable bottom of the treatment unit. Supplemental infiltration components may need to be added, either upstream, downstream, or underneath of the MWS Linear, to provide equivalent volume reduction to what conventional biofiltration would typically achieve under the same site conditions. Volume reduction is a function of the storage volume provided and the infiltration rate of the underlying soil. EPA SWMM 5.1 was used to conduct long-term continuous simulation to model supplemental infiltration compartments to determine the magnitude of volume reduction that would be provided if these were paired with an MWS Linear unit. A range of soil infiltration values were used to determine the long-term volume reduction of a supplemental infiltration compartment based upon the volume of the infiltration component. Infiltration component sizing was based on various fractions of the SWQDv. The details of this analysis are presented in Appendix B, and results are presented in Figure 4.

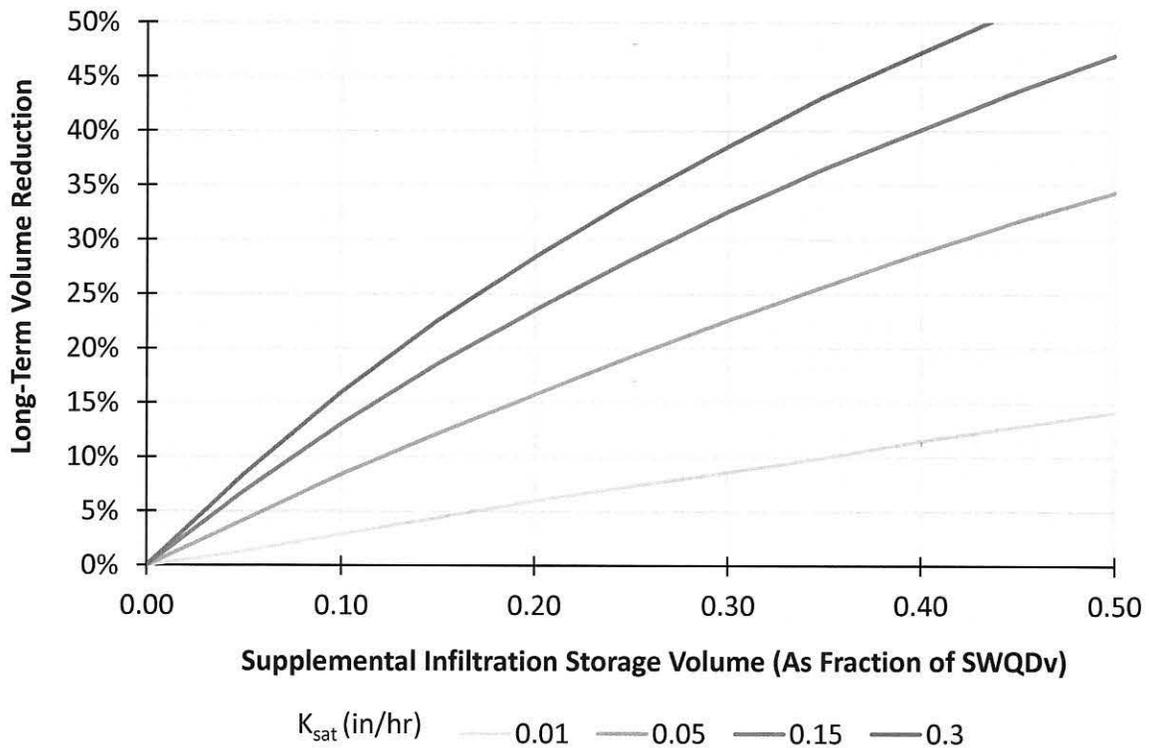


Figure 4: Volume Reduction Provided by a Supplemental Infiltration Compartment

3.3.4 Pollutant Treatment

MWS Linear performance data were analyzed using the same moving window bootstrapping methods used for conventional biofiltration. Data from two third party studies were utilized in this analysis. This analysis sought to determine whether MWS Linear performance is reasonably

similar to the treatment performance of conventional biofiltration BMPs under representative ranges of influent quality.

The water quality equivalency analysis as described in Appendix C and D indicates that MWS Linear have similar or superior pollutant removal performance compared to conventional biofiltration. The bullets summarize findings:

- **Total Suspended Sediment:** Both MWS Linear and conventional biofiltration performed well for TSS. Based on achieved effluent quality, MWS Linear provided somewhat better performance than conventional biofiltration. TSS removal efficiencies were greater than 75% for all evaluated land use influent concentrations, typically better than 80%.
- **Metals (Copper and Zinc):** Performance was generally similar between MWS Linear and conventional biofiltration for copper and zinc. MWS Linear showed better performance for some representative influent concentrations and conventional biofiltration showed better concentration reductions for others. In general, both provided moderate concentration reductions of metals. MWS Linear exhibited removal efficiencies generally greater than 40% for copper and 50% for zinc for all evaluated land use influent concentrations.
- **Nutrients (Nitrogen and Phosphorus):** Variable nitrogen removal was evident for both conventional biofiltration and MWS Linear. There are relatively few total nitrogen samples for MWS Linear, especially for influent concentrations greater than 2 mg/L. The bootstrap regression plots (Appendix D) show comparable performance between conventional biofiltration and MWS Linear. For influent concentrations below 0.5 mg/L, conventional biofiltration exported phosphorus. Superior phosphorus performance was evident for MWS, with removal efficiencies exceeding 55% for all evaluated land use influent concentrations. This is likely a function of the low nutrient media included in the system.

Given these findings, MWS Linear are expected to provide similar or better pollutant concentration reduction across the representative site conditions considered. Notably, MWS Linear does not exhibit phosphorus export as is consistently observed in conventional biofiltration similar to Attachment H criteria.

3.3.5 Additional Capture In Lieu of Volume Reduction

For MWS Linear applications with minor deficiencies in volume reduction compared to conventional biofiltration, an alternative option to supplemental infiltration is to provide treatment of long-term runoff in excess of the 93% required for equivalency with conventional biofiltration.

As a simple approach for minor volume reduction deficiencies, the pollutant treatment performance of MWS Linear systems for TSS was used. Based on a representative removal efficiency of 80 percent, a BMP must treat and discharge 5 parts of water for every 4 parts of water that would be lost to infiltration or ET. This means that for every 1 percent of volume reduction deficit, 1.25 percent of long-term volume must be treated. This translates to 0.25 percent additional capture for every 1 percent of volume reduction deficit. This concept is illustrated in Figure 5. Calculations of required additional capture efficiency are provided in Table 2.

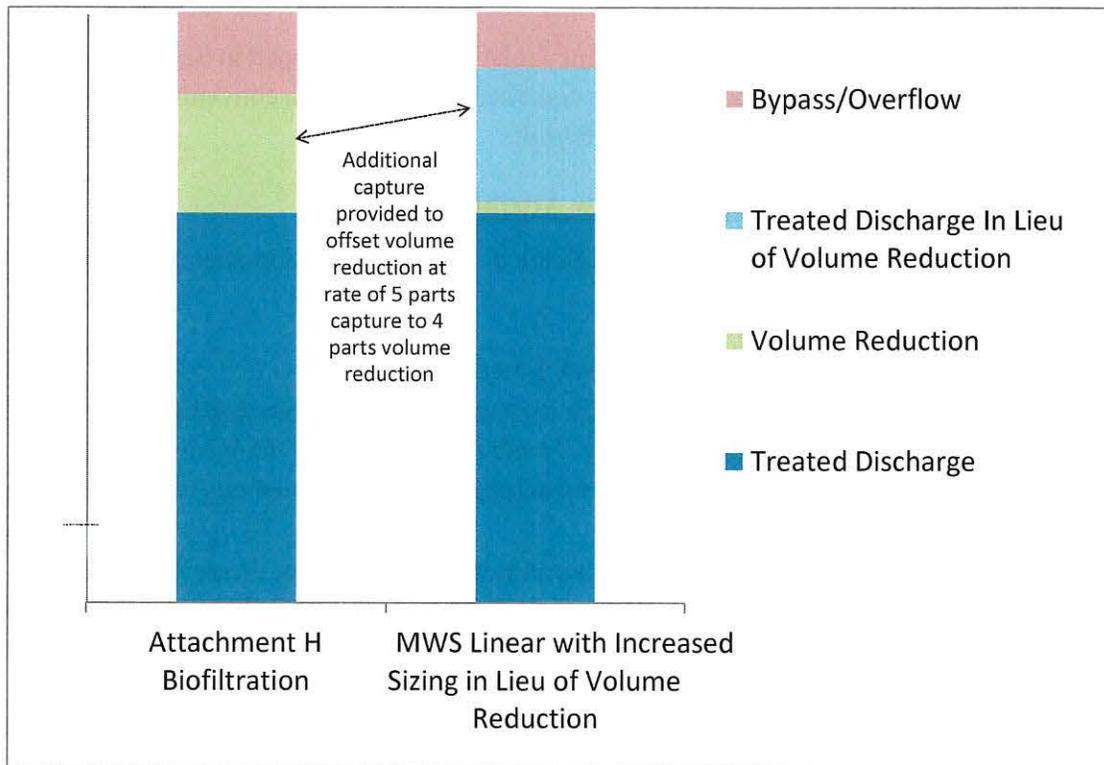


Figure 5. Illustration of Additional Capture In Lieu of Volume Reduction (Not to scale)

Table 2. Additional Capture Efficiency In lieu of Volume Reduction

Site Soil Infiltration Rate, in/hr	Attachment H Biofiltration Long-Term Volume Reduction ^{1,2}	MWS Linear Long-Term Volume Reduction ¹ (ET only)	Volume Reduction Deficit	Additional Required Capture Efficiency in Lieu of Volume Reduction ³	Adjusted Target Capture Efficiency
0	3.7%	0.7%	3.0%	0.8%	93.8%
0.01	5.0%	0.7%	4.3%	1.1%	94.1%
0.05	10.3%	0.7%	9.6%	2.4%	95.4%
0.15	21.2%	0.7%	20.5%	5.1%	98.1%
0.30	33.4%	0.7%	32.7%	8.2%	N/A

1 – Based on modeling of ET from pores and standing water.

2 – Includes infiltration losses, where feasible

3 – Required additional capture calculated at a rate of 1 part additional for every 4-parts volume reduction deficit.

4 DESIGN METHODOLOGY AND EQUIVALENCY CRITERIA

This section explains how to apply the equivalency relationships developed in Section 3. Applying this design methodology is expected to result in equivalent treatment to a conventional biofiltration basin as described in Appendix H of the MS4 Permit.

Step 1: Characterize Site and Determine Key Attributes

The first steps in developing an equivalent design are to assess the location-specific characteristics of each proposed MWS Linear:

- Delineate the drainage area to the MWS Linear.
- Estimate the imperviousness of the tributary area; use this value to estimate a runoff coefficient for the drainage area using a method acceptable to the local jurisdiction.
- Calculate the drainage area time of concentration (T_c) using methods acceptable to the local jurisdiction.
- Determine local 85th percentile, 24-hour precipitation depth for the project location. This should be determined from the Los Angeles County 85th percentile precipitation isohyetal map (<http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/hydrologygis/>). If the isohyetal map gives a value less than 0.75 in, use 0.75 in per the MS4 Permit.
- Calculate the site “scaling factor” (f) as the ratio of the project-specific 85th percentile, 24-hour storm event to the LAX 85th percentile, 24-hour storm event (1.0”).
- Determine the long-term reliable infiltration rate of the soils underlying the future BMP location using appropriate methods, subject to the approval of the reviewing agency.

This information is applied in the following steps.

Step 2: Adjust the Drainage Area Time of Concentration to Account for Internal Detention Storage (Total Effective Time of Concentration for Drainage Area plus Storage)

The time of concentration of the tributary watershed can be augmented by the detention storage provided within the MWS, including the pre-treatment chamber and the void space within the wetland biofiltration cell. Both storage volumes are upstream of the outlet control orifice and are available to incoming water (the BioMediaGreen pre-treatment media has a higher flowrate than the outlet control orifice).

Table 3 shows the detention time adjustment for each MWS Linear model. This should be added to the T_c computed in Step 1. Note: Before knowing the required treatment flowrate, it will not be possible to select an MWS Linear model number. The first time through this process, select a minimum T_c adjustment of 9 minutes. After completing subsequent steps, if the selected model has a longer T_c , then revisit this step.

Table 3: MWS Model Selection Chart and Detention Time Calculation for MWS Linear® Models

Model #	Dimensions	Pre-treatment Chamber Volume (ft ³)	Wetland Biofiltration Chamber Effective Void Volume (ft ³)	Treatment Flow Rate (cfs)	Detention Time Adjustment to T _c (min)
MWS-L-4-4	4' x 4'	19.6	11.3	0.052	10
MWS-L-4-6	4' x 6'	19.6	18.6	0.073	9
MWS-L-4-8	4' x 8'	33.6	27.0	0.115	9
MWS-L-4-13	4' x 13'	54.4	38.2	0.144	11
MWS-L-4-15	4' x 15'	56	50.4	0.175	10
MWS-L-4-17	4' x 17'	54.4	62.7	0.206	9
MWS-L-4-19	4' x 19'	54.4	74.9	0.237	9
MWS-L-4-21	4' x 21'	54.4	87.2	0.268	9
MWS-L-8-8	8' x 8'	70	53.9	0.23	9
MWS-L-8-12	8' x 12'	112	80.9	0.346	9
MWS-L-8-16	8' x 16'	168	107.9	0.462	10
MWS-L-8-20	8' x 20'	168	134.9	0.577	9
MWS-L-8-24	8' x 24'	192	161.8	0.693	9

Step 3: Select Design Approach for MWS Linear for Equivalent Long-Term Performance

MWS Linear must be designed to provide equivalent capture efficiency to conventional biofiltration. Additionally, because MWS Linear systems do not allow for infiltration, the design of MWS Linear must mitigate for deficiency in volume reduction compared to conventional biofiltration. Two options are available for meeting this requirement:

Option A: Provide a supplemental infiltration chamber either upstream, downstream, or underneath of the MWS unit. This is feasible in any condition where infiltration is allowable but requires supplemental BMPs.

Option B: Increase the size of the MWS unit to provide a higher capture efficiency in lieu of infiltration. This is most feasible when soils have very low permeability or infiltration is infeasible for other reasons, such that conventional BMPs would achieve relatively little incidental infiltration and therefore volume reduction.

Note that both options may not be feasible for a specific site. Step 4A provides guidance on Option A; Step 4B provides guidance on Option B.

Step 4A: MWS Linear Sizing with Supplemental Retention Storage (Option A)

This option involves selecting an MWS Linear model that achieves equivalent long-term capture efficiency to conventional biofiltration and sizing a supplemental retention system to achieve equivalent long-term volume reduction.

1. Based on the adjusted Tc from Step 2, select the required design precipitation intensity to achieve equivalent long-term capture efficiency.

Table 4: Design Precipitation Intensity to Achieve Equivalent Long-Term Capture Efficiency (supplemental infiltration provided separately)

Adjusted Time of Concentration (min)	Design Precipitation Intensity (in/hr)
5	0.51
7.5	0.47
10	0.44
15	0.41
20	0.39
30	0.35
60	0.29

2. Apply the Rational Method (Equation 1) to determine the design flowrate (Q) required for the MWS.

$$Q = CiA \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ ft}}{12 \text{ in}}\right) \times \left(\frac{1 \text{ h}}{3600 \text{ s}}\right) \times f \quad (1)$$

Where,

- Q = design flow rate (cfs)
- C = runoff coefficient
- i = design precipitation intensity (in/hr)
- A = catchment area (ft²)
- f = site scaling factor

3. Consult Table 3 to select an MWS Linear model that equals or exceeds the required treatment flowrate.
4. Consult Table 5 to determine the fraction of the SWQDv that must be infiltrated to provide equivalent volume reduction to conventional biofiltration. For long-term reliable infiltration rates greater than 0.3 in/hr, full infiltration of the SWQDv must be considered.

Table 5: Supplemental Infiltration Volume for Equivalent Long-Term Volume Reduction

Estimated Long-Term Reliable Infiltration Rate below Site, inches per hour	Long-Term Volume Reduction Deficit, % of Long-Term Runoff	Required Supplemental Infiltration Storage Volume as Fraction of Local SWQDv, unitless ^{1,2}
0	3.0%	Not feasible; See Option B
0.01	4%	0.15
0.05	10%	0.12
0.15	21%	0.17
0.3	33%	0.24

1 – Values are not expected to follow a continually increasing trend.

2 - A 2.0-foot effective storage depth is assumed for supplemental storage.

5. Multiply the site-specific SWQDv for the MWS drainage area by the required supplemental infiltration storage volume fraction in Table 5 . This table assumes that the supplemental infiltration basin will be 2.0 ft in depth. Shallower or deeper storage would require different sizing factors. Supplemental calculations could be provided to demonstrate that an alternative storage configuration would provide equivalent long-term volume reduction.

Step 4B: MWS Linear Sizing for Excess Capture In Lieu of Volume Reduction

This option involves increasing the size of MWS Linear to achieve a higher level of capture efficiency in lieu of providing supplemental volume reduction.

1. Use Table 6 to determine the design rainfall intensity. The adjusted Tc from Step 2 should be used. For times of concentration less than 5 min, round up to 5 min. Interpolation between values in this table would be permissible.
2. Apply the Rational Method (Equation 1) to determine the design flowrate (Q) required for the MWS.
3. Select an MWS Linear Model from Table 3 to provide the required treatment flowrate.

Table 6: Adjusted Design Intensity to Provide Additional Capture In Lieu of Volume Reduction (Option B)

Adjusted Time of Concentration (min)	Reliable Infiltration Rate at Site			
	0 in/hr (ET only)	0.01 in/hr	0.05 in/hr	0.15 in/hr
	Capture Efficiency Target = 93.8%	Capture Efficiency Target = 94.1%	Capture Efficiency Target = 95.4%	Capture Efficiency Target = 98.1%
Adjusted MWS Design Precipitation Intensities, in/hr				
5	0.55	0.57	0.66	N/A
7.5	0.51	0.53	0.60	0.96
10	0.48	0.49	0.57	0.90
15	0.44	0.45	0.52	0.79
20	0.41	0.42	0.48	0.74
30	0.37	0.38	0.43	0.64
60	0.31	0.31	0.35	0.50

NA = additional capture is not a viable option to offset volume reduction in these cases.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Key Observations and Findings

5.1.1 Capture Efficiency and Volume Reduction

Overall, if MWS Linear units are designed based on the methodology and criteria presented in Section 4 and effectively operated and maintained, these systems are expected to result in similar performance compared to conventional biofiltration. The following bullets summarize key findings from this analysis:

- The baseline level of capture efficiency and volume reduction provided by conventional biofiltration BMPs, if effectively designed per Attachment H of the MS4 Permit, is relatively high. This establishes a relatively high baseline standard for MWS Linear systems to meet in providing equivalent performance.
- There is substantial leeway within the MS4 Permit Attachment H criteria and local implementation guidance that is expected to result in significant design variations of conventional biofiltration throughout Los Angeles County. These variations result in variations in hydrologic performance. Additionally, variations in operations and maintenance conditions over time (i.e., decline in media rates, reduction in active storage volume from sedimentation) are also expected to influence performance.
- It is possible to design MWS units to match the capture efficiency of conventional biofiltration BMPs. This requires larger sizes of MWS units than was required for treatment control BMPs under the previous MS4 Permit. This also requires a commitment to regular maintenance consistent with MWS standard maintenance requirements.

- MWS units alone are not expected to match the volume reduction performance provided by effectively designed conventional biofiltration. However, it is possible for MWS systems to mitigate for deficiency in volume reduction via either a supplemental infiltration basin or by increasing the size of the MWS unit to increase capture efficiency, thereby providing equivalent TSS load reductions.

5.1.2 Water Quality Treatment

The water quality equivalency analysis as described in Appendix C and D indicates that MWS Linear have similar or better pollutant removal performance compared to conventional biofiltration. This is summarized in Section 3.3.4 above. Notably, MWS Linear has not exhibited phosphorus export as is consistently observed in conventional biofiltration systems that include compost similar to Attachment H criteria. MWS Linear does not include compost.

5.2 Reliability and Limitations

There are several uncertainties that could influence the reliability of the findings presented in this report. These are addressed in the paragraphs below.

Modeled hydrologic performance estimates. Performance estimates were based on models which were not calibrated. This introduces some uncertainty. However, this uncertainty was mitigated by applying identical input parameters and modeling approaches for conventional biofiltration and MWS units, as appropriate. This has the effect of offsetting most sources of bias.

Treatment performance estimates for conventional biofiltration. Treatment performance estimates were based on peer reviewed studies from the International Stormwater BMP Database and other peer reviewed third party studies that were selected to be representative of the BMPs being compared. Due to the limited documentation of these studies, it was not possible to quantitatively evaluate whether performance estimates are specifically representative of the MS4 Permit's Attachment H guidelines. Additionally, performance has been observed to vary greatly from site to site, indicative of the importance of design factors such as sizing, media composition, and sources of media components. The conventional biofiltration datasets analyzed are believed to provide reliable information about the range of potential performance that may be expected from conventional biofiltration in Los Angeles County; however, they are not intended to be used as a predictive tool for any one variation of biofiltration design. Reliability of these data was improved through the application of robust statistical methods that account for the influence of influent concentration and provide a quantification of uncertainty.

Treatment performance estimates for MWS units. MWS units have been evaluated in third-party field studies with representative stormwater conditions; however, none of these sites were in Los Angeles County. Additionally, the sample size of MWS datasets is still somewhat low in comparison to conventional biofiltration BMPs. These factors are mitigated

to a large extent by the standardized design that accounts differences in rainfall intensity and ensures consistency in treatment processes. These factors improve the transferability of findings between regions. Additionally, the reliability of MWS performance data was improved by applying the same robust statistical methods as used for conventional biofiltration, which helps adjust for differences in influent quality between studies.

TSS removal as a surrogate for additional capture in lieu of volume reduction. For small deficiencies in volume reduction, a TSS treatment removal rate of 80 percent was used to calculate required additional capture efficiency in lieu of volume reduction. A multi-parameter approach would be more complex and would need to account for the export of nutrients in conventional biofiltration as well as variability in treatment performance with influent contraction. Given that this approach is only intended to offset minor volume reduction (up to about 20%), this is considered a reasonable approach.

Sensitivity to site conditions. The effectiveness of volume reduction processes is particularly sensitive to estimates of a BMPs underlying infiltration rate. It is often not possible to anticipate with certainty what the long-term infiltration rate will be after construction. This limitation is largely mitigated for this analysis because the uncertainty in infiltration rate influences the design and performance of conventional biofiltration and MWS with supplemental infiltration storage similarly. Additionally, estimating the BMP location infiltration rate is now a standard part of developing a BMP plan for a site, so the reliability of approaches for developing this estimate should improve with time.

Variability in design and construction process. The analyses and criteria presented in this report assume that the BMPs will be designed, constructed, and maintained according to typical standards and manufacturer guidelines. It is inherent that the design of conventional biofiltration BMPs provides a greater degree of freedom and associated professional judgment as part of preparing design calculations, design drawings, and specifications that proprietary BMPs such as MWS Linear units. This introduces a wider potential range of resulting designs for conventional biofiltration: some may perform better than average, some may perform worse. In comparison, there is likely to be substantially less variability in the design and construction of MWS units as compared to biofiltration BMPs.

Sensitivity to operations and maintenance. Both types of systems are susceptible to decline in performance over time. **Neither BMP type will continue to function as designed if not regularly and effectively maintained.**

Overall, the analyses are believed to result in reliable design assumptions. Where substantial uncertainties exist, these are mostly offset for the purpose of estimating equivalency, because they affect both conventional biofiltration and MWS Linear similarly.

6 REFERENCES

- Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS; 2018). <ftp://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/asos-fivemin/>
- BioClean: A Forterra Company. *MWS Linear: Sizing Options*. 2018. Webpage. <http://www.biocleanenvironmental.com/mws-linear-sizing-options/>
- BioClean: A Forterra Company. *Modular Wetlands MWS Linear Brochure*. 2018. http://www.biocleanenvironmental.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/MWS-Linear-Brochure_web.pdf
- California Department of Water Resources (CDWR, 2015). *California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) Reference Evapotranspiration Zones*. <http://missionred.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/CIMIS-Reference-Evapotranspiration-Zones.pdf>
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (2012). *Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharges Within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County, Except Those Discharges Originating from the City of Long Beach MS4*. Order No. R4-2012-0175. NPDES Permit NO. CAS004001. https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb4/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/la_ms4/2012/Order%20R4-2012-0175%20-%20A%20Final%20Order%20revised.pdf
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (2012). *MS4 Discharges within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County. Attachment H: Bioretention/Biofiltration Design Criteria*. Order No. R4-2012-0175. NPDES Permit NO. CAS004001. https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb4/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/la_ms4/Dec5/Order%20R4-2012-0175%20-%20Final%20Attachment%20H.pdf
- David N., Lent, M., Leatherbarrow, J., Yee, D., and McKee, L. (2011). *Bioretention Monitoring at the Daly City Library*. Final Report. Contribution No. 631. San Francisco Estuary Institute, Oakland, California.
- Davis, A. P. (2007). *Field Performance of Bioretention: Water Quality*. Environ. Eng. Sci. 2007, 24, 1048–1063.
- Geosyntec Consultants and Wright Water Engineers (2009). *Urban Stormwater BMP Performance Monitoring*. Prepared by Geosyntec Consultants and Wright Water Engineers, Inc. Prepared under Support from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Water Environment Research Foundation, Federal Highway Administration, Environmental and Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers. October 2009. <http://www.bmpdatabase.org/Docs/2009%20Stormwater%20BMP%20Monitoring%20Manual.pdf>
- Gilbreath, A. N., Pearce, S. P. and McKee, L. J. (2012). *Monitoring and Results for El Cerrito Rain Gardens*. Contribution No. 683. San Francisco Estuary Institute, Richmond, California.
- Herrera. (2014a). *Technical Evaluation Report Modular Wetland System Stormwater Treatment System Performance Monitoring*. Prepared for Modular Wetland Systems, Inc. April 1, 2014.

- Herrera (2014b). *185th Avenue NE Bioretention Stormwater Treatment System Performance Monitoring*. Prepared for City of Redmond. Seattle, Washington, Final Report. March 6, 2014.
- Herrera (2015a). *Interim Project Report: City of Redmond Six Bioretention Swales Monitoring*. Prepared for City of Redmond. Seattle, Washington. February 20, 2015.
- Herrera (2015b). *Analysis of Bioretention Soil Media for Improved Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Copper Retention*, Final Report. Prepared for Kitsap County Public Works. Seattle, WA, July 17, 2015.
- International Stormwater BMP Database (2018). Web. <http://www.bmpdatabase.org/index.htm>
- Leisenring, M., Poresky, A., Strecker, E., and M. Quigley (2009). *Evaluating Paired BMP Influent and Effluent Data Using Running Bootstrap Medians*. Proceedings of the American Water Resources Association Annual Conference, Seattle WA, November 9-12, 2009.
- Li, H. and Davis, A. (2009). *Water Quality Improvement through Reductions of Pollutant Loads Using Bioretention*. J. Environ. Eng., 135(8), 567–576.
- Los Angeles County (LA County; 2000). *Los Angeles County 1994-2000 Integrated Receiving Water Impacts Report*.
- Los Angeles County (LA County; 2001). *Los Angeles County 2000-2001 Stormwater Monitoring Report*.
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. *Hydrology Map: A GIS viewer application to view the data for the hydrology manual*. Powered by ESRI. Web. <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/hydrologygis/>
- National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). (2015). ftp://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/hourly_precip-3240/.
- Rosen, R.M. and Stone, R.M. (2013). *Bioretention Water Quality Treatment Performance Assessment*. Technical Memorandum. Prepared for Seattle Public Utilities.
- Singh, K. and Xie, M. (2008) *Bootstrap: a statistical method*. Rutgers University.
- United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center (USARDC; 2013). *U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory Field Testing – Fort Hood, Texas – Summary of Results – Modular Wetland System Linear*.
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA; 2017). *Stormwater Management Model (SWMM) 5.1*. March 30, 2017. Web Download. <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/storm-water-management-model-swmm>
- Washington State Department of Ecology (2014). *2012 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (as Amended in 2014)*. Publication Number 14-10-055.

APPENDIX A – CONVENTIONAL BIOFILTRATION DESIGN ASSUMPTIONS FOR PERFORMANCE MODELING

The following criteria from the MS4 Permit Attachment H were important for evaluating pollutant load reduction performance of “conventional biofiltration” scenarios:

- 6 to 18-inch ponding area above media
- Optional layer of mulch
- 2 to 3 feet of engineered filter media (2 feet typical) with a design infiltration rate of 5 to 12 inches/hour; the Attachment H specification calls for a mix of 60 to 80% fine sand and 20 to 40% compost
- Gravel storage layer below the bioretention media to promote infiltration
- Underdrain placed near the top of the gravel layer (or an infiltration sump otherwise provided via an equivalent hydraulic control approach) in cases where underlying soil infiltration rates allow
- Underdrain discharge to the storm drain
- Total physical water storage volume sized to be equal to at least the stormwater quality design volume (SWQDv = runoff volume from the 85th percentile, 24-hour storm event)
- Capacity (including stored and filtered water) adequate to biofilter 150 percent of the portion of the SWQDv not reliably retained.

Within the bounds established by these criteria, a range of actual biofiltration designs could result as a function of site infiltration conditions as well as designer and local jurisdiction preferences. An example of potential design variability is illustrated in Table A.1 below. For this analysis, representative design assumptions were developed within the range of potential design assumptions. These assumptions are also presented in Table A.1 with supporting rationales.

Table A.1 Biofiltration Design Assumptions from Various Sources and Selected Representative Design Assumptions

Design Assumption	Design References					Selected Representative Design Assumption	Rationale for Selected Design Assumption
	MS4 Permit Attachment H	Los Angeles County LID Manual, static method	Los Angeles County LID Manual, routing method	City of Los Angeles LID Manual	Ventura County TGM		
Ponding Depth, ft	0.5 to 1.5	0.5 to 1.5	0.5 to 1.5	0.5 to 1.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5	Many designers will utilize deepest depth allowable because of space efficiency.
Media Depth, ft	2 to 3	2 to 3	2 to 3	2 to 3	2 to 3	2	Typical design approach is to use minimum depth due to cost of media.
Gravel “sump” depth below underdrain, ft	Not specified; narrative	Not specified, narrative	Not specified, narrative	At least 1 feet; up to 2 feet if soils allow incidental infiltration	0.5 minimum below underdrain	Depth that would drain in 24 hours. For example, 1.5 ft if site infiltration rate estimated at just less than 0.3 in/hr	Approach produces a reasonable design that considers infiltration rates; Attachment H states that volume infiltrated within 24 hours can be considered retained.
Media Filtration Rate, in/hr	5 to 12	5 to 12	5 to 12	5 to 12	1 to 12 (5)	5	Representative of long-term operation after some clogging
Allowable Routing Period for Biofiltration Treatment, hrs	Not specified	Routing is not part of simple method	Allows routing of 24-hour design hydrograph from LA County HydroCalc model	3 hours, unless using a routing model	Depth up to ponding depth (1.5 ft) can be considered routed	6 hours ¹	Based on evaluation of storm durations for events similar to design event. See footnote 1.
Resulting Footprint Factor at 0.3 in/hr Infiltration Rate, in/hr (% of impervious area)	Not enough information to calculate	5 to 10%	1.4%	2.4% (1.4% with routing similar to LA County)	2.8%	2.0%	Calculated based on assumptions.

Note: where a range of guidance is allowed, the bolded number indicates the value that was used in calculations. The design values were selected based on developing the most economical and space-efficient design that meets the applicable criteria.

1 – The allowable routing period was estimated based on the typical storm duration associated with events similar to the 85th percentile, 24-hour storm depth (1.0 inches at LAX). This was estimated in two ways. For days with precipitation totals between 0.9 and 1.1 inches, the total number of hours with rainfall was tabulated (average = 11 hours; 10th percentile = 6 hours). This does not consider dry periods between hours with rainfall, therefore is somewhat conservative in estimating the time available for routing biofiltered water during a given day. For unique precipitation events, separated by 6-hour dry period (potentially spanning across breaks in calendar days), with precipitation totals between 0.9 and 1.1 inches, the total storm durations were tabulated (average = 16 hours; 10th percentile = 7 hours). Based on this analysis, a 6-hour routing period is defensible and conservative in estimating the amount of water that can be routed through a biofiltration system during typical storm events similar to the design storm event.

APPENDIX B – SWMM MODELING METHODOLOGY AND ASSUMPTIONS

The relative performance of MWS Linear and conventional biofiltration was determined using the following data inputs and modeled site conditions:

- Rainfall: Los Angeles International Airport, 2000-2018, ASOS
- ET: CIMIS Zone 4
- Catchment imperviousness: 100%
- Catchment slope: 3%
- Area: 1 acre

For conventional biofiltration the sizing and design criteria described in Appendix A were followed, including underlying soil infiltration rates of 0, 0.01, 0.05, 0.15, and 0.30 in/hr.

For MWS Linear, all combinations of the following sizing and design criteria were evaluated:

- Time of concentration: 5, 7.5, 10, 15, 20, 30, and 60 min
- Design rainfall intensity: 20 values spanning 0.02 - 1.00 in/hr

Supplemental infiltration compartments were evaluated using the following sizing and design criteria:

- Time of concentration: 5 min (not a sensitive parameter for a volume-based BMP)
- Unit depth: 2 ft
- Underlying soil infiltration rate: 0.01, 0.05, 0.15, and 0.30 in/hr
- Percent of runoff depth, using the 24-hr, 85th percentile rainfall depth: 10 increments spanning 5% -50%.

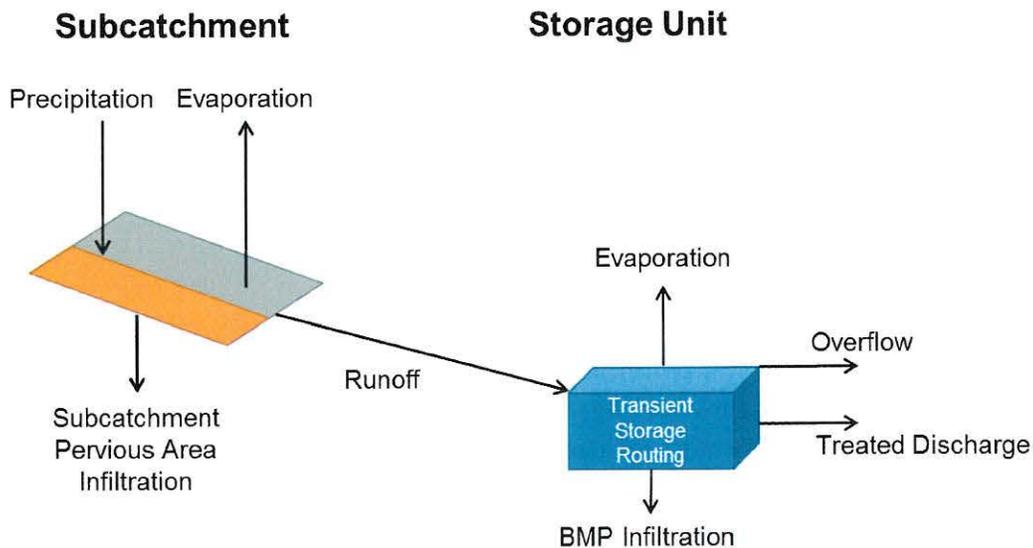
Overview of SWMM Analysis Framework

SWMM was used to estimate the long-term capture efficiency and volume reduction from conventional biofiltration and MWS Linear for each scenario. SWMM simulates surface runoff, evaporation, infiltration, and flow routing. A conceptual representation of the SWMM model framework used for this analysis is provided in Figure B.1. Within this framework, parameters were adjusted for each scenario to account for soil condition and BMP sizing and design attributes.

In SWMM, subcatchment elements are used to generate a runoff hydrograph. Input data defining the surface characteristics include subcatchment area, imperviousness, width, depression storage, surface roughness, surface slope, and infiltration parameters. SWMM performs a mass balance of inflows and outflows to determine runoff from a subcatchment. The inflows to this mass balance are precipitation and any runoff directed from another subcatchment. The outflows from the mass balance include evaporation, infiltration, and runoff. The runoff parameters assumed for this analysis are discussed in this Appendix.

A variety of hydraulic flow routing elements exist in SWMM, but fundamentally the program includes nodes (i.e., storage units, manholes, and outfalls) and links (i.e., conduits, pipes, pumps, weirs, orifices, and outlets). For traditional biofiltration a storage unit was to represent the storage and routing attributes of BMPs. The elements defining the storage volume and related discharge were adjusted based on the various sizing and design criteria evaluated in the equivalency scenarios, the details of which are discussed in this Appendix. For MWS Linear, storage was not modeled explicitly. MWS Linear, a simple flow divider was used to represent the treatment capacity of the system. For runs considering the supplemental infiltration storage compartment, this compartment was modeled as a storage unit.

SWMM was run in continuous simulation mode over an 18-year period (January 2000-March 2018). A continuous hydrograph of runoff was generated and routed through the model representations of BMPs. The results were tracked and reported in terms of long-term runoff volume, long-term volume lost in the BMP, long-term volume bypassing or overflowing the BMP, and long-term volume treated in the BMP. The 18-year period of record was selected based on the availability of high quality 5-minute resolution precipitation data, which are important for representing urban catchments with short time of concentration. To ensure comparability, the same forcing data (rainfall, ET) were applied to conventional biofiltration scenarios and MWS Linear scenarios.



$$\text{Capture Efficiency (fraction of runoff)} = 1 - (\text{Overflow}/\text{Runoff})$$

$$\text{Volume Reduction (fraction of runoff)} = 1 - (\text{Treated Discharge} + \text{Overflow})/(\text{Runoff})$$

Figure B.1. Schematic SWMM modeling framework in support of equivalency analysis

Meteorological Inputs

Precipitation

Long-term modeling used 5-minute data obtained from the Automated Surface Observation System (ASOS). This data was compared to National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) hourly precipitation data to ensure quality, as NCDC data sets undergo a greater level of quality review than ASOS data sets. While the NCDC data spans 1948-2015 and the ASOS model spans only 2000-2018, the ASOS data was selected over the NCDC data because the improved temporal resolution is important for small catchments. Both ASOS and NCDC rainfall data were obtained from gauges located at Los Angeles International Airport.

Comparison of NCDC and ASOS data resulted in the elimination of 14 ASOS data points (for a total of 70 minutes of data out of the 17+ years of available) that were determined to be artificially high. Otherwise, ASOS and NCDC data agreed well. The 85th percentile, 24-hour depth was determined using NCDC data for days with rainfall greater than 0.1 inches. This value was slightly higher for the NCDC data (1.01”) than for the ASOS data (0.94”), which can be attributed to the difference in the length of available data sets (Table B.1).

Table B.1: LAX Storm Water Quality Design Volume

Data	Gage Location	85th Percentile 24-Hour Depth (in)
NCDC (1948-2015)	Los Angeles Airport (045114)	1.01
ASOS (2000-2018)	Los Angeles Airport (KLAX)	0.94

Evapotranspiration

Evapotranspiration (ET) values for Zone 4 as defined in the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) were used for all SWMM models (Table B.2). ET values used in the model were set to 60% of the reference ET values to account for mixed urban conditions and shading conditions based on guidance provided by CIMIS (CDWR, 2015). ET values have little influence on modeled outputs in SWMM.

Table B.2: CIMIS Zone 4 Evapotranspiration Values

Month	Evapotranspiration Rate (in/month)	Evapotranspiration Rate (in/day)	60% Evapotranspiration Rate (in/day)
January	1.86	0.05	0.06
February	2.24	0.08	0.08
March	3.41	0.12	0.11
April	4.5	0.17	0.15
May	5.27	0.22	0.17
June	5.7	0.26	0.19

Month	Evapotranspiration Rate (in/month)	Evapotranspiration Rate (in/day)	60% Evapotranspiration Rate (in/day)
July	5.89	0.28	0.19
August	5.58	0.25	0.18
September	4.5	0.19	0.15
October	3.41	0.13	0.11
November	2.4	0.07	0.08
December	1.86	0.05	0.06

Runoff Parameters

The key SWMM parameters used to estimate surface runoff from the impervious catchment are subcatchment area, width, depression storage, surface roughness, surface slope. The majority of surface characteristics were kept constant for both BMP systems and across all land use types. For MWS Linear simulations the width parameter (defines the overland flow length for runoff to travel), was adjusted to reflect differences in time of concentrations. Drainage widths were set to correspond with times of concentration of 5, 7.5, 10, 15, 20, 30, and 60 minutes in a 1-acre catchment via Equation B.1 (Table B.3):

$$T_c = \frac{0.93 \times L^{0.6} \times n^{0.6}}{I^{0.4} \times S^{0.3}} \quad (B.1)$$

Where,

T_c = time of concentration (min)

L = length (ft)

n = Manning's n (0.12, corresponding to impervious surface Manning's n)

S = Slope (ft/ft) (0.03)

I = intensity (in/hr; set to the 85th percentile rainfall intensity at the corresponding time of concentration, as determined by ASOS data; Table B.3)

Table B.3: Rainfall Intensities Used to Determine Catchment Width

Time of Concentration (min)	85 th Percentile Rainfall Intensity (in/hr)	Path Length Associated with Tc (ft)	SWMM Catchment Width to Represent Tc (ft)
5	0.24	92	474
7.5	0.24	181	241
10	0.24	292	149
15	0.20	508	86
20	0.18	765	57
30	0.16	1391	31
60	0.12	3644	12

Infiltration over the catchment was not modeled because the scenarios considered only 100 percent impervious catchments. This was done for both conventional biofiltration and MWS simulations. Runoff coefficients are applied as part of the design process.

Table B.4: EPA SWMM Parameters Used to Model BMPs

SWMM Runoff Parameters	Units	Values	Source/Rationale
Wet time step	seconds	60	Set to 20% of the time steps of precipitation input data (300 seconds)
Dry time step	seconds	14,400	Equivalent to 4 hours.
Period of Record		January 2000-March 2018	Availability of ASOS data
Percent of Impervious Area	percent	100	Representative of typical fully developed area draining to MWS; actual imperviousness would be used by designer to calculate runoff coefficient.
Impervious Manning's n	unitless	0.012	James and James, 2000
Drainage area	acres	1	Hypothetical for purpose of analysis
Width	feet	<i>Conventional biofiltration:</i> 174 ft <i>MWS Linear:</i> Variable to represent different time of concentrations (Table B.3)	<i>Conventional biofiltration:</i> Typical assumption for urban drainage patters (equates to 250-ft path length). Performance of volume-based BMPs is not sensitive to catchment width. <i>MWS Linear:</i> Calculated as described above.

SWMM Runoff Parameters	Units	Values	Source/Rationale
Slopes	ft/ft	0.03 (represents average of roofs, landscaping, and streets)	Professional judgment; actual slope would be used by designer to calculate Tc.
Evaporation	in / month	60% of reference ET values (Table B.4)	CIMIS (CWDR, 2015)
Depression storage, impervious	inches	0.02	James and James, 2000

Supplemental Infiltration Unit

Catchment parameters were kept the same for supplemental infiltration unit modeling as for MWS Linear runoff modeling (Table B.5). Catchment width was kept constant for all runs, using the conservative value associated with a time of concentration of 5 minutes. The unit was modeled with a constant depth and a total volume based upon a fraction of the SWQDv (Table B.1) (equal to the runoff from a 1.0” event).

Table B.5: EPA SWMM Parameters Used to Model Supplemental Infiltration

SWMM Runoff Parameters	Units	Values	Source/Rationale
Catchment Width	feet	473.6	Width of a 1 ac catchment with a 5 min time of concentration
Storage Unit Depth	ft	2.0	Typical value
Storage Unit Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity (in/hr)	in/hr	Varies by site condition: 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, and 0.30	Allows for analysis of different underlying soil types

BMP Representation

Conventional Biofiltration

Conventional biofiltration was simulated using a storage unit with outlets to represent infiltration losses (if present) and treated discharge, and a weir to simulate overflow/bypass. The elevations of these elements within the storage unit were used to represent the design profiles of these systems. Storage compartments were divided in to: evaporation storage (i.e., water stored in soil that is not freely drained); infiltration storage (i.e., water stored below the lowest outlet that can either infiltration or ET only); and freely drained storage (i.e., water that can drain through the underdrains of the system at a rate controlled by the media hydraulic conductivity).

Sizing criteria for the conventional biofiltration system was based on the runoff from the 85th percentile, 24-hour storm depth (1.0 for LAX). For each scenario, this depth was applied to the catchment area to compute an estimated runoff volume. Storage profiles for the conventional biofiltration system were established to represent typical profiles for conventional biofiltration consistent with what is required by Attachment H of the MS4 Permit, which are presented in Appendix A of this report. The storage profiles included equivalent storage volumes provided in the ponding depth, media depth (divided between ET storage and freely drained storage), gravel layer, and placement of the underdrain system specific to the site conditions. Based on the equivalent storage depth in these profiles and the design storm runoff volume, the required footprints were calculated. For gravel, a porosity of 0.4 was assumed. For media, a porosity of 0.4 in/in was assumed, divided as 0.15 in/in soil suction storage (i.e. ET storage) and 0.25 in/in freely drained storage. The profiles used for this analysis and the typical footprints are presented in Table B.6.

For estimating long-term volume reduction and baseline capture efficiency, the entire pore volume was assumed to be immediately available. However, because water takes time to travel through the soil column, it is possible for a biofiltration BMP to overflow before the entire soil pore volume is utilized. Based on analysis of flow monitoring data, Davis et al. (2011) found that the volume immediately available within a storm is better represented by the bowl volume (surface ponding) and the freely drained pores within the root zone (approximately the top 1 foot of soil). To check whether this condition influenced long term capture efficiency, parallel model runs were conducted where the storage volume equaled the bowl volume plus freely drained pores in the soil root zone, and the drawdown time was adjusted for only this volume. The result was that this condition reduced capture efficiency by approximately 2 percent. This indicates that this condition controls performance relatively rarely but is not negligible.

Table B.6 Summary of Conventional Biofiltration Profiles

Infiltration Rate, in/hr	Retention Sump Depth (as gravel depth) ¹ , ft	Effective Water Storage in Retention Sump (ft)	Media Depth, ft	Effective Water Storage in Media ² , ft	Ponding Depth, ft	Total Effective Water Depth (ft)	Approximate Footprint Sizing Factor (Los Angeles) ³
0.3	1.5	0.60	2	0.8	1.5	2.9	1.9%
0.15	0.75	0.30	2	0.8	1.5	2.6	2.1%
0.05	0.25	0.10	2	0.8	1.5	2.4	2.2%
0.01	0.05	0.02	2	0.8	1.5	2.32	2.3%
0	0	0.00	2	0.8	1.5	2.3	2.3%

1 Sump storage was determined based on the depth of water that would infiltrate in 24 hours based on guidance provided in Attachment H.

2 Media storage depth represented as 0.3 ft suction storage and 0.5 ft freely drained storage.

3 Expressed as BMP footprint as percent of tributary area.

MWS Linear

MWS Linear primarily operates as a flow-based BMP. Therefore, systems were modeled using only a flow rate-based flow divider, with the cutoff flow corresponding to a range of design rainfall intensities. Design rainfall intensities were converted to design maximum flow rates using the Rational Method Equation (Equation B.2):

$$Q = CiA \quad (B.2)$$

Where,

Q = flow rate (ft³/hr)

C = runoff coefficient (0.90)

i = rainfall intensity (in/hr)

A = catchment area (43,560 ft², corresponding to 1 acre)

Twenty increments of design intensities ranging from 0.02 inches/hour up to 1.0 inches/hour were established to represent a range of potential MWS Linear sizing criteria to achieve equivalency. For each scenario, the design intensity was applied to the catchment area and imperviousness to calculate the runoff flowrate.

A representative ET loss from MWS Linear was calculated for an example scenario by adding a storage unit to the treated flow stream to represent the MWS Linear unit. The storage unit was sized by assuming a 1-acre catchment with a 10 min T_c, resulting in an 8 ft by 16 ft MWS Linear model. The storage unit was modeled with an evaporation factor of 1.0 and a media pore storage ratio of 0.15 in/in. The resulting ET loss was 1 percent.

Supplemental Infiltration Unit

Supplemental infiltration was modeled as a storage unit with a pervious underlying soil and an outlet. The infiltration unit was sized based on a percentage of the runoff volume from the 85th percentile, 24-hour depth. Every combination of ten sizes of basin (5%-50% of the SWQDv in 5% increments) and four infiltration rates (0.01, 0.05, 0.15, and 0.30 in/hr) were modeled. The depth of the unit was assumed to be 2 ft.

APPENDIX C – DATASETS AND ANALYSIS METHODS FOR POLLUTANT TREATMENT EVALUATION

Data Development and Analysis Framework

BMP performance is a function of BMP type, BMP design parameters, influent water quality characteristics, and other factors. As part of the MWS Linear equivalency analysis it was necessary to develop a statistical description of BMP performance, that accounted for the difference between conventional biofiltration and MWS Linear, and for the influence of land use runoff quality (i.e., BMP influent quality) on the expected BMP performance. The data development and analysis framework used for this project included four steps:

- 1) Compile and review data from monitoring studies of conventional biofiltration systems; then screen these studies to identify studies that are reasonably representative of conventional biofiltration designs that would meet the MS4 Permit requirements, particularly focusing on factors that would influence treated effluent quality.
- 2) Compile and review monitoring data from full-scale MWS Linear monitoring studies.
- 3) Apply a common statistical analysis framework to analyze the data from both datasets.
- 4) Determine representative land use runoff quality.
- 5) Based on results from step 3 and 4, estimate the effluent quality expected for conventional biofiltration compared to MWS Linear for each pollutant for a range of land use-based influent quality.

Compilation and Screening of Conventional Biofiltration Studies

Note, this analysis is equivalent to the analysis conducted as part of evaluating Filterra equivalency (Geosyntec, 2015). Based on review of the International BMP Database, limited new information about conventional biofiltration performance was available at the time of publication. It is possible that 2 to 3 additional studies are available that would have similar design parameters to Attachment H of the MS4 Permit. New data from two to three new studies would be unlikely to influence findings from the 20 studies that were used in the 2015 Filterra equivalency analysis, this previous assessment of baseline performance was not revised.

As of 2015, the International Stormwater BMP Database (www.bmpdatabase.org) included storm event monitoring data from 28 peer-reviewed studies of bioretention BMPs with underdrains. These data were used as the primary source for characterizing the treatment performance of conventional biofiltration BMPs in this study. In addition to the 28 studies from the International BMP Database, four peer-reviewed research studies (Davis 2007; Li and Davis 2009; David et al., 2011; Gilbreath et al. 2012) not contained in the International BMP Database were added to the sample pool for analysis. Two of these studies were conducted in the San Francisco Bay area, which has biofiltration design standards and media specifications nearly identical to Attachment H of the Los Angeles MS4 Permit. The two other additional studies were included due to their similarity to Attachment H design criteria and rigor of their analytical methods.

Screening Process for Developing Conventional Biofiltration Sample Pool

In general, the bioretention BMPs in the International BMP Database are representative of the range of designs that could meet the MS4 Permit Attachment H requirements. Most of the bioretention studies in the BMP Database were completed fairly recently (most between 2000 and 2015) and have typically been designed, constructed, and/or monitored under the supervision of experienced researchers. Many of these systems have been designed with BMP profiles (i.e., ponding depth, media depth), media filtration rates, and media composition that are similar to the criteria in Attachment H. However, where design attributes indicated that performance would be expected to be poorer than Attachment H designs and/or representativeness could not be evaluated, these studies were screened out of the analysis pool for this study. Systems that were expected to achieve similar or better performance than a typical BMP designed per Attachment H were kept in the pool; this is a conservative approach when evaluating MWS equivalency because it tends to establish a higher baseline for comparison than if these BMPs were excluded.

Screening criteria were developed based on professional judgment, as informed by review of literature and BMP performance studies. Our understanding of the influence of design parameters on bioretention performance was informed by studies in the BMP Database (see various summary reports at www.bmpdatabase.org), a recent evaluation by Roseen and Stone (2013), and review of recent bioretention media research in Washington State. A summary of the relevant findings is provided in the paragraphs below.

Roseen and Stone (2013) conducted an evaluation of biofiltration performance to determine how design criteria and media composition influence performance. As part of their research, they compiled site, design, and performance data for 80 field bioretention systems and 114 lab columns/mesocosms. Data from the International BMP Database were included in this pool as well as other research studies. Performance data were compiled as study summaries (e.g., study median influent, effluent, and removal efficiency). Roseen and Stone then utilized design information to categorizing systems into groups based on common combinations of factors. They then conducted a statistical evaluation of how performance was influenced by design factors such as presence/absence of mulch layers, use of compost in media, infiltration rate of media, ratio of tributary to biofiltration area, presence/absence of pretreatment, presence/absence of internal storage layers, etc. Roseen and Stone found that the presence of compost in mixes strongly influences the variability in performance and potential export of pollutants, including phosphorus, nitrogen, and copper. Systems without compost and/or with a high fraction of sand tended to provide the most consistent and best performance for these pollutants. Systems with an internal water storage zone tended to perform better for nutrients than systems without an internal water storage zone. Finally, they found that media flowrate and depth of media bed tended to have an influence on performance. Beyond these findings, the influence of other parameters was less conclusive.

Recent bioretention studies, many in Washington State (Herrera 2014b, 2015a, 2015b), have identified the potential severity of pollutant export of nitrogen, phosphorus, and copper from conventional biofiltration systems and have evaluated the potential sources of these issues. This

research also found that some sand products can also contain elevated levels of phosphorus and copper. These studies are relevant because the standard biofiltration media specifications for Western Washington are very similar to Attachment H, calling for 60 to 65 percent sand and 35 to 40 percent compost. It should also be noted that the compost certification criteria in Washington State (Washington Department of Ecology, 2014) allow for half as much metals content as allowed in the Attachment H specification, therefore should theoretically have less potential for export of metals than compost meeting the Attachment H specification.

Based on these literature findings and best professional judgment, the following criteria were applied as part of screening bioretention studies:

- Systems with media filtration rates substantially higher than 12 inches per hour were excluded – while higher rate media has been found to provide good performance in some cases, the general trends observed by Roseen and Stone (2013) indicated a decline in performance for some parameters with increased infiltration rates.
- Systems with sizing factors (BMP area as fraction of tributary area) substantially smaller than the 3 to 5 percent (20:1 to 30:1 ratio of tributary area to BMP area) were excluded – this parameter is related to media filtration rate and is an indicator of the degree of hydraulic loading.
- Systems that were observed to have very infrequent underdrain discharge (i.e., mostly infiltration) were excluded – for these designs, the effluent that was sampled for water quality was likely not representative of the entire storm event.
- Systems with internal water storage zones were kept in the pool of data; these systems are believed to provide better control of nutrients than systems without internal water storage; Attachment H does not require internal water storage to be provided.
- Based on the findings of Roseen and Stone (2013) as well as recent research in Washington State, mixes with less compost and a higher fraction of sand than the Attachment H specification were kept in the sample pool because they are believed to provide more reliable performance and less potential for export of pollutants on average than a 70-30 sand/compost mix.
- Systems that contained media with experimental components were excluded.
- Finally, systems were excluded if there was not enough design information reported to be able to evaluate representativeness, and/or any other factors were noted by the original study researchers that were believed to contribute to poorer performance than average. For example, some studies were noted as underperforming studies due to construction issues, premature clogging, etc.

Overall, the screening that was applied is believed to improve the representativeness of the sample pool and generally increase the average performance of the sample pool compared to the entire pool of studies contained in the International BMP Database. As discussed above, establishing a higher baseline level of performance for conventional biofiltration is conservative in the context of this evaluation.

Screening Results

Table C.2 summarizes the number of data points for each constituent after applying screening to remove unrepresentative studies and without screening.

Table C.2. Summary of data points by parameter for conventional biofiltration BMPs

Constituent	Number of Screened Data Pairs	Number of Unscreened Data Pairs
Total Suspended Solids	234	354
Total Phosphorus	242	384
Total Nitrogen	71	184
Total Copper	190	216
Total Zinc	200	252

Inventory of Bioretention Studies and Screening Results/Rationales

Table C.4 (located at the end of this Appendix) provides an inventory of studies of bioretention with underdrains from the International BMP Database, screening results, and brief rationales for screening.

Compilation of MWS Linear Monitoring Studies

Data were compiled from two MWS Linear monitoring studies conducted in 2013 and 2014. The data from these two studies were found to cover the range of influent pollutant concentrations for the representative land uses. Both monitoring studies were based on full-scale field applications, were conducted by third-party entities, and employed flow weighted influent and effluent sampling of representatively sized MWS Linear systems under actual storm events. The following studies were used in this assessment with the number of data points included presented in Table C.3:

- **Herrera (2014a):** This assessment followed the Washington State Technology Acceptance Protocol-Ecology (TAPE) certification requirements. Storm event sampling of an MWS Linear system was conducted at the Albina Maintenance Facility in Portland, Oregon. Monitoring was conducted by Herrera Environmental Consultants. The sample results reported by the original researches were used in this evaluation.
- **United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center (USARDC, 2013):** Two MWS linear systems were evaluated by the US Army Research and Development Center at a site in Fort Hood, Texas. In addition to TSS and total zinc (reported below), total copper samples were obtained at this site. Total copper data were not included in this evaluation because four of six effluent samples were below the detection limit.

Table C.3. Inventory of evaluated MWS Linear studies and data points by parameter

Pollutant (total count of data pairs)	Data Pairs by Study	Reference
Total Suspended Solids (n = 47)	29	(Herrera, 2014)
	18	(USARDC, 2013)
Total Phosphorus (n=25)	25	(Herrera, 2014)
Total Nitrogen (n = 28)	28	(Herrera, 2014)
Total Copper (n = 29)	29	(Herrera, 2014)
Total Zinc (n = 47)	29	(Herrera, 2014)
	18	(USARDC, 2013)

Data Analysis Method

The most common ways to characterize BMP performance include (1) removal efficiency (percent removal) in various forms, and (2) effluent probability. In general, the effluent probability approach is recommended for evaluating BMP performance and applying BMP performance to pollutant load models (Geosyntec and Wright Water, 2009). This method involves conducting a statistical comparison of influent and effluent quality to determine if effluent is significantly different from influent. If effluent is significantly different from influent, then the effluent quality is characterized by a statistical distribution developed from all effluent data points. Probability plots are prepared indicating the probability that a certain effluent quality is achieved.

However, to isolate differences in performance between two BMP types, the effluent probability method requires the assumption that the influent quality was similar between the studies of the two BMP types being compared. This assumption is generally reliable for categorical analysis of BMPs in the International BMP Database because of the large number of studies in the most categories in the Database. However, when comparing BMP types with a relatively limited number of study sites (such as the MWS Linear dataset), this assumption may not be reliable.

To address these challenges and help ensure a valid comparison between conventional biofiltration and MWS Linear, a moving bootstrap method (Leisenring et al., 2009) was applied to both datasets. This method characterizes influent-effluent relationships such that the BMPs compared do not need to have been studied under conditions with similar influent quality. In this approach, all data pairs are used to form the total sample population. Then for each increment of influent quality, a subsample of the overall population is formed including only those data pairs that lie within a certain span of the selected influent quality. Applying bootstrap principles (Singh and Xie, 2008), the median or mean and the confidence interval around the median or mean is computed. Then a new increment of influent quality is selected, and the process is repeated with a new subsample population until a statistical description of effluent quality has been developed for

each increment of influent quality over the range of the data. A minimum span of 5 was set for calculation of confidence intervals.

Resulting tables and plots from this analysis are presented in Appendix D.

Land Use Stormwater Quality Inputs and Assumptions

Representative stormwater runoff concentrations for the land use condition used in this analysis were developed based on the land use stormwater quality monitoring data reported in the Los Angeles County 1994-2000 Integrated Receiving Water Impacts Report, 2000 and Los Angeles County 2000-2001 Stormwater Monitoring Report, 2001 (LA County 2000; LA County 2001). The median and mean runoff quality values from this dataset were used as representative influent water quality conditions for evaluating BMP performance. These concentrations represent only one land use monitoring station in one geographic area; actual conditions for a given drainage area in a given region are anticipated to vary. Beyond the range of water quality presented in this table, this analysis did not attempt to characterize the uncertainty/variability in runoff water quality. This simplification is considered appropriate for evaluating equivalency in BMP performance.

Land use runoff quality is reported in Appendix D.

Table C.4. Inventory of conventional biofiltration studies from the International BMP Database and screening rationale

Source	Site Name	Sponsoring Entity	State	City	Selected?	Selection/Rejection Reasons
Int. BMP Database	Rocky Mount Grassed Bioretention Cell 1	North Carolina State	NC	Rocky Mount	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has internal water storage zone and underdrain
Int. BMP Database	Rocky Mount Mulch/Shrub Bioretention Cell 1	North Carolina State	NC	Rocky Mount	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has internal water storage zone and underdrain
Int. BMP Database	CHS_BioFilter	The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission	VA	Charlottesville	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has internal water storage zone, underdrain, and mulch layer (0.25 feet)
Int. BMP Database	Parks & Forestry Bioretention	City of Overland Park	KS	Overland Park	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has internal water storage zone, underdrain, and mulch layer
Int. BMP Database	Bioretention 6	Johnson County	KS	Shawnee	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has internal water storage zone and underdrain
Int. BMP Database	G2	North Carolina State	NC	Greensboro	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has underdrain, and mulch layer (7-10 cm)
Int. BMP Database	G1	North Carolina State	NC	Greensboro	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has underdrain, and mulch layer (7-10 cm)
Int. BMP Database	L1	North Carolina State	NC	Louisburg	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Appropriate loading ratio
Int. BMP Database	Bioretention 3B	Johnson County	KS	Shawnee	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has internal water storage zone and underdrain
Int. BMP Database	Parking Lot Bioretention Cell	City of Fort Collins	CO	Fort Collins	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has internal water storage zone and mulch layer
Int. BMP Database	Bioretention Cells	Johnson County SMP	KS	Overland Park	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has internal water storage zone, underdrain, and mulch layer
Int. BMP Database	Bioretention Cell	Johnson County SMP	KS	Overland Park	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has internal water storage zone and underdrain

Source	Site Name	Sponsoring Entity	State	City	Selected?	Selection/Rejection Reasons
Int. BMP Database	Bioretention System (D1)	UNH/Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology	NH	Durham	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has pretreatment, internal water storage zone, underdrain, and mulch layer
Int. BMP Database	UDFCD Rain Garden	Urban Drainage and Flood Control District	CO	Lakewood	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has internal water storage zone, underdrain, and compost layer
Int. BMP Database	Hal Marshall Bioretention Cell	City of Charlotte, North Carolina	NC	Charlotte	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has underdrain, and mulch layer
Int. BMP Database	Rocky Mount Grassed Bioretention Cell 2	The Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology	NC	Rocky Mountain	Yes	Aligns with Att. H; Has internal water storage zone and underdrain
Li and Davis (2009)	Bioretention Cell 1	Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources/ U of MD	MD	College Park	Yes	Aligns with Att. H
Li and Davis (2009)	Bioretention Cell 2	Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources/U of MD	MD	Silver Spring	Yes	Aligns with Att. H
Davis (2007)	Bioretention Cell 1	Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources/U of MD	MD	College Park	Yes	Aligns with Att. H
David et al. (2011)	Daly City Library Rain Gardens	San Francisco Estuary Institute	CA	Daly City	Yes	Aligns with Att. H
Gilbreath et al. (2012)	San Pablo Ave Green Streets	San Francisco Estuary Institute	CA	El Cerrito	Yes	Aligns with Att. H
Int. BMP Database	Bioretention Area	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	VA	Charlottesville	No	Not enough design info provided
Int. BMP Database	Small Cell	North Carolina Department of Transportation	NC	Knightdale	No	Infiltration rate low; noted to be underperforming BMP by study researchers
Int. BMP Database	BRC_B	North Carolina State	NC	Nashville	No	Infiltration too low and undersized
Int. BMP Database	North cell	North Carolina State	NC	Raleigh	No	Media very different from Att. H
Int. BMP Database	WA Ecology Embankment at SR 167 MP 16.4	Washington State Dept. of Transportation	WA	Olympia	No	Linear design; lateral flow; not representative of typical biofiltration design

Source	Site Name	Sponsoring Entity	State	City	Selected?	Selection/Rejection Reasons
Int. BMP Database	Bioretention Cell	Delaware Department of Transportation	DE	Dover	No	Design is very different from Att. H
Int. BMP Database	East 44th St. Pond	City of Tacoma	WA	Tacoma	No	No design data
Int. BMP Database	Tree Filter	UNH/Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology	NH	Durham	No	Design is very different from Att. H
Int. BMP Database	BRC_A	North Carolina State University	NC	Raleigh	No	Infiltration rate very low; noted to be a partially clogged/failing system
Int. BMP Database	Cub_Run_Biorete ntion	Fairfax County	VA	Fairfax	No	No design data provided
Int. BMP Database	South cell	North Carolina State University (BAE)	NC	Raleigh	No	Design is very different from Att. H
Int. BMP Database	R Street	City of Tacoma	WA	Tacoma	No	No design data provided

APPENDIX D – RESULTS OF POLLUTANT TREATMENT DATA ANALYSIS

The data analysis methods described in Appendix C were applied to the datasets described in Appendix C. The following pages present tabular and graphical results of this analysis.

Table D.1 compares the mean and median summary statistics and confidence intervals from the moving window bootstrap analysis between the conventional biofiltration datasets and the MWS Linear datasets. The screened dataset refers to the 20 studies described in Appendix C that were considered representative of MS4 Permit Attachment criteria. The unscreened dataset includes all bioretention studies available in the International BMP Database as of 2015. These datasets are described in Appendix C.

Figure D.1 shows plots of the data analysis results based on the median statistic. Figure D.2 shows plots of the data analysis results based on the mean statistic.

Table D.1 Summary Statistics of Moving Window Bootstrap Analysis – Bioretention and MWS Studies

Median Statistics

Land Use	Pollutant	Units	Median Representative Runoff Quality	Traditional Biofiltration Effluent (Screened)		Traditional Biofiltration Effluent (Unscreened)		MWS Linear Effluent	
				Median	95th Percentile UCL on Median	Median	95th Percentile UCL on Median	Median	95th Percentile UCL on Median
Commercial	TSS	mg/L	53	12	13.7	11	12	12.8	17.2
	Total Phosphorus	mg/L	0.27	0.46	0.55	0.26	0.37	0.08	0.14
	Total Nitrogen	mg/L	2.3	1.6	2.9	1.19	1.52	1.77	2.75
	Copper	µg/L	22	12	15	12	14	10.3	12.9
	Zinc	µg/L	192	35	44	36	40	48.8	72.8
High Density Single Family Residential	TSS	mg/L	61	12	15	12	13	13	17.2
	Total Phosphorus	mg/L	0.32	0.47	0.55	0.28	0.43	0.1	0.19
	Total Nitrogen	mg/L	2	1.6	2.9	1.2	1.5	1.41	1.56
	Copper	µg/L	11	5.3	5.9	5.3	6.4	6.5	8
	Zinc	µg/L	66	20	27	18	26	39.5	53.5
Light Industrial	TSS	mg/L	129	16	18	16	18	17	19.4
	Total Phosphorus	mg/L	0.3	0.47	0.55	0.27	0.42	0.09	0.17
	Total Nitrogen	mg/L	2.4	1.6	2.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.75
	Copper	µg/L	21	12	15	12	13.85	10	12.6
	Zinc	µg/L	366	35	44	36	40	48.8	73.6
Multi-family Residential	TSS	mg/L	24	10.8	12.5	9.9	9.9	4.05	5.7
	Total Phosphorus	mg/L	0.14	0.39	0.45	0.21	0.25	0.04	0.05
	Total Nitrogen	mg/L	1.5	1.6	2.9	1.2	1.5	0.94	1.04
	Copper	µg/L	12	5.6	6.1	5.6	6.6	7	9
	Zinc	µg/L	89	20	27	18	26	39.5	53.5

Mean Statistics

Land Use	Pollutant	Units	Median Representative Runoff Quality	Traditional Biofiltration Effluent (Screened)		Traditional Biofiltration Effluent (Unscreened)		MWS Linear Effluent	
				Mean	95th Percentile UCL on Mean	Mean	95th Percentile UCL on Mean	Mean	95th Percentile UCL on Mean
Commercial	TSS	mg/L	66	28	49	25	39	14.1	6.24
	Total Phosphorus	mg/L	0.39	0.8	1.3	0.65	1	0.17	0.27
	Total Nitrogen	mg/L	3.6	2.9	4.3	2.1	2.8	2.28	2.8
	Copper	µg/L	39	19	29	16	24	20.6	33
	Zinc	µg/L	241	65	145	59	108	49.4	70.9
High Density Single Family Residential	TSS	mg/L	95	28	49	25	39	14.1	2.3
	Total Phosphorus	mg/L	0.39	0.8	1.3	0.65	1	0.17	0.27
	Total Nitrogen	mg/L	3	2.9	4.3	2.1	2.8	2.28	2.80
	Copper	µg/L	15	13	21	13	19	8.75	8.75
	Zinc	µg/L	79	33	50	32	46	39.5	55.1
Light Industrial	TSS	mg/L	240	46	105	40	87	28.5	10.6
	Total Phosphorus	mg/L	0.41	0.8	1.3	0.65	1	0.18	0.28
	Total Nitrogen	mg/L	3.1	2.9	4.3	2.1	2.8	2.28	2.8
	Copper	µg/L	32	19	29	16	24	15.5	33
	Zinc	µg/L	639	NA	NA	59	108	80	110
Multi-family Residential	TSS	mg/L	46	18	28	18	27	14.1	4.92
	Total Phosphorus	mg/L	0.2	0.8	1.3	0.6	1	0.07	0.09
	Total Nitrogen	mg/L	2.1	2.9	4.3	2.1	2.8	2.01	2.64
	Copper	µg/L	12	10	15	9	14	7	8.75
	Zinc	µg/L	146	45	90	32	46	46.3	66

NA: Average values could not be computed because the land use average influent was outside the range of influent observed in monitoring studies.

Red bold indicates median or mean effluent concentrations are greater than influent concentration. This is indicative of the potential for pollutant export.

Blue indicates upper confidence interval of effluent concentration is greater than the influent concentration. This is not a conclusive indicator but is provided for reference.

Figure D.1 Moving Window Bootstrap Plots of Medians

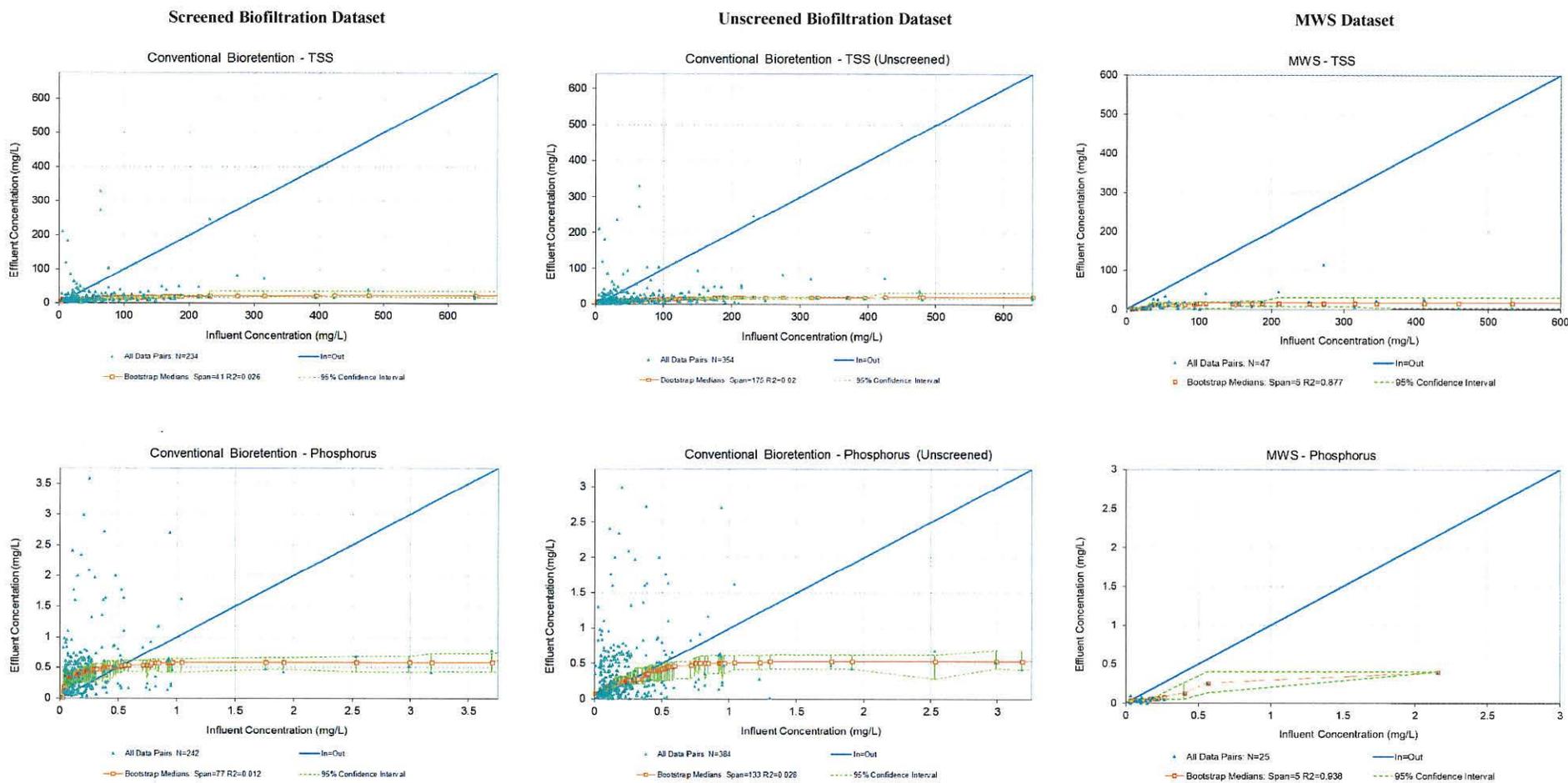
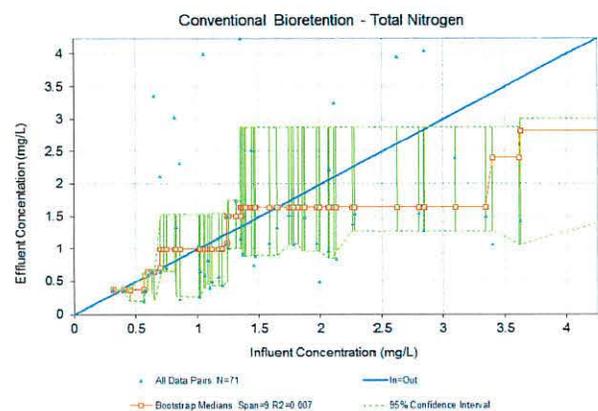
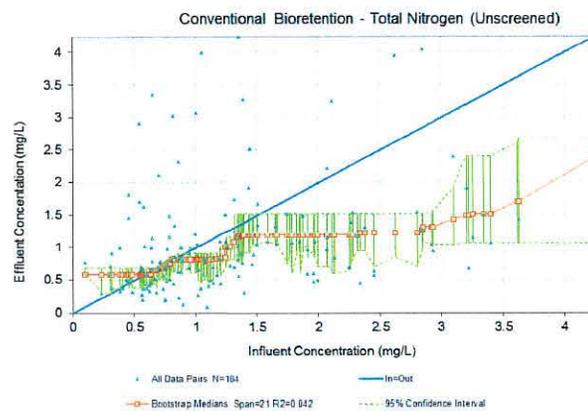


Figure D.1 Moving Window Plots of Medians (Cont.)

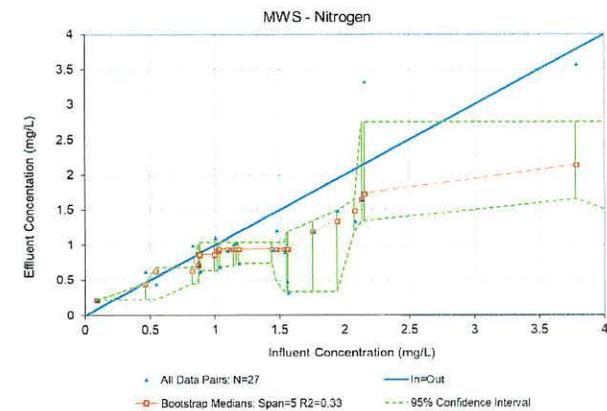
Screened Biofiltration Dataset



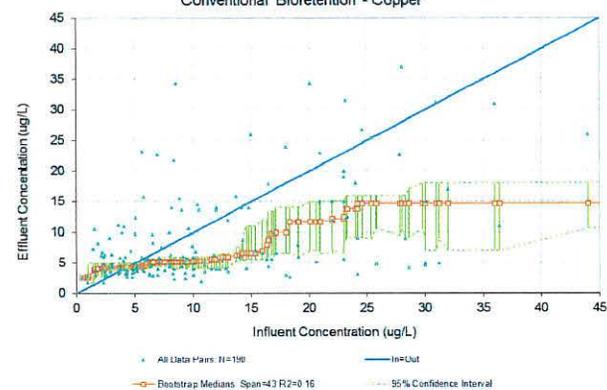
Unscreened Biofiltration Dataset



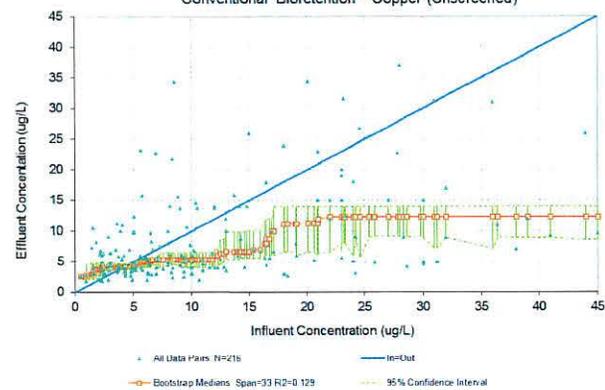
MWS Dataset



Conventional Bioretention - Copper



Conventional Bioretention - Copper (Unscreened)



MWS - Copper

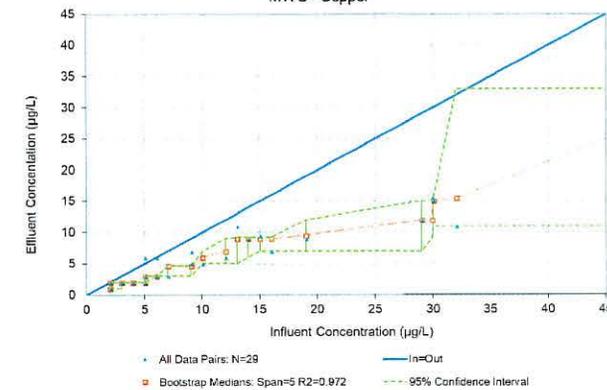


Figure D.1 Moving Window Plots of Medians (Cont.)

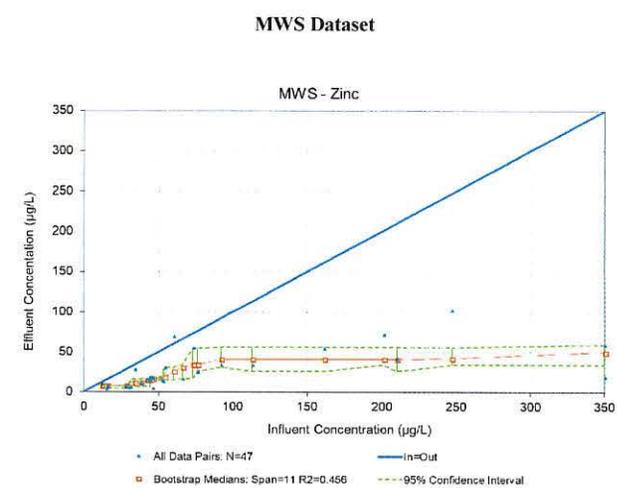
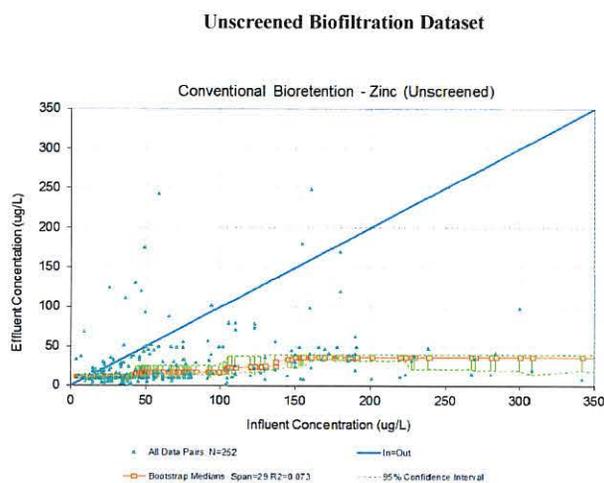
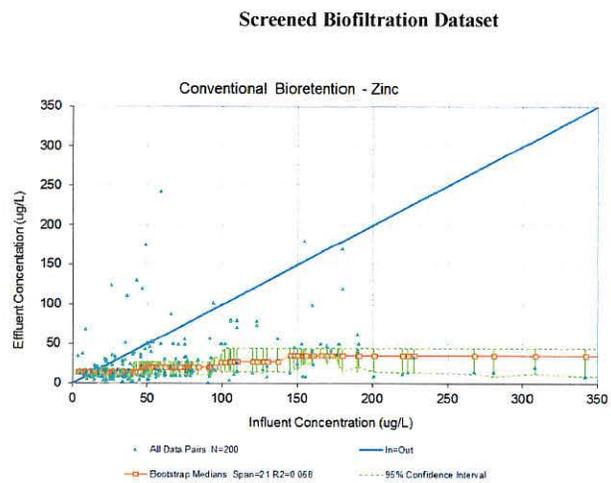


Figure D.2 Moving Window Bootstrap Plots of Means

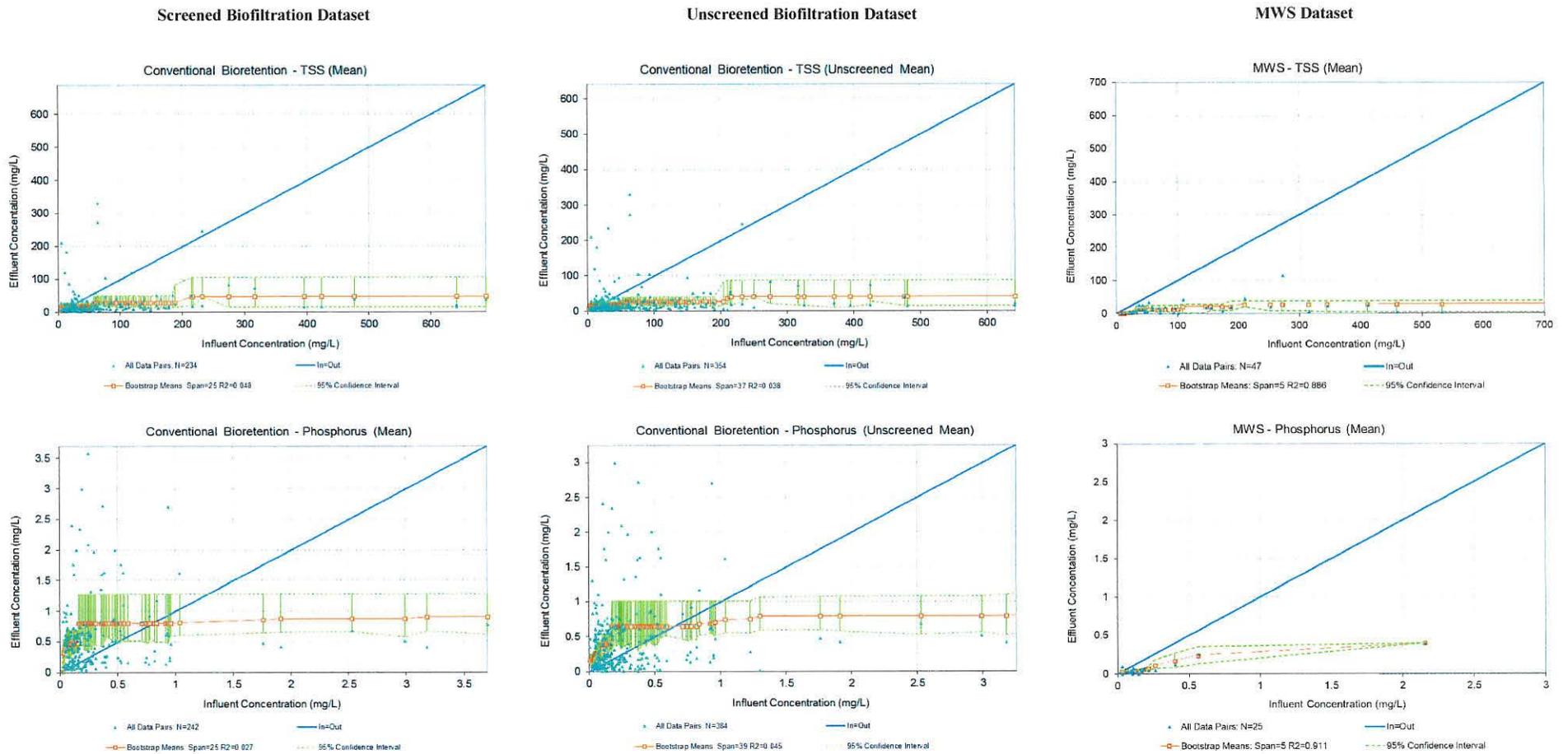


Figure D.2 Moving Window Plots of Means (Cont.)

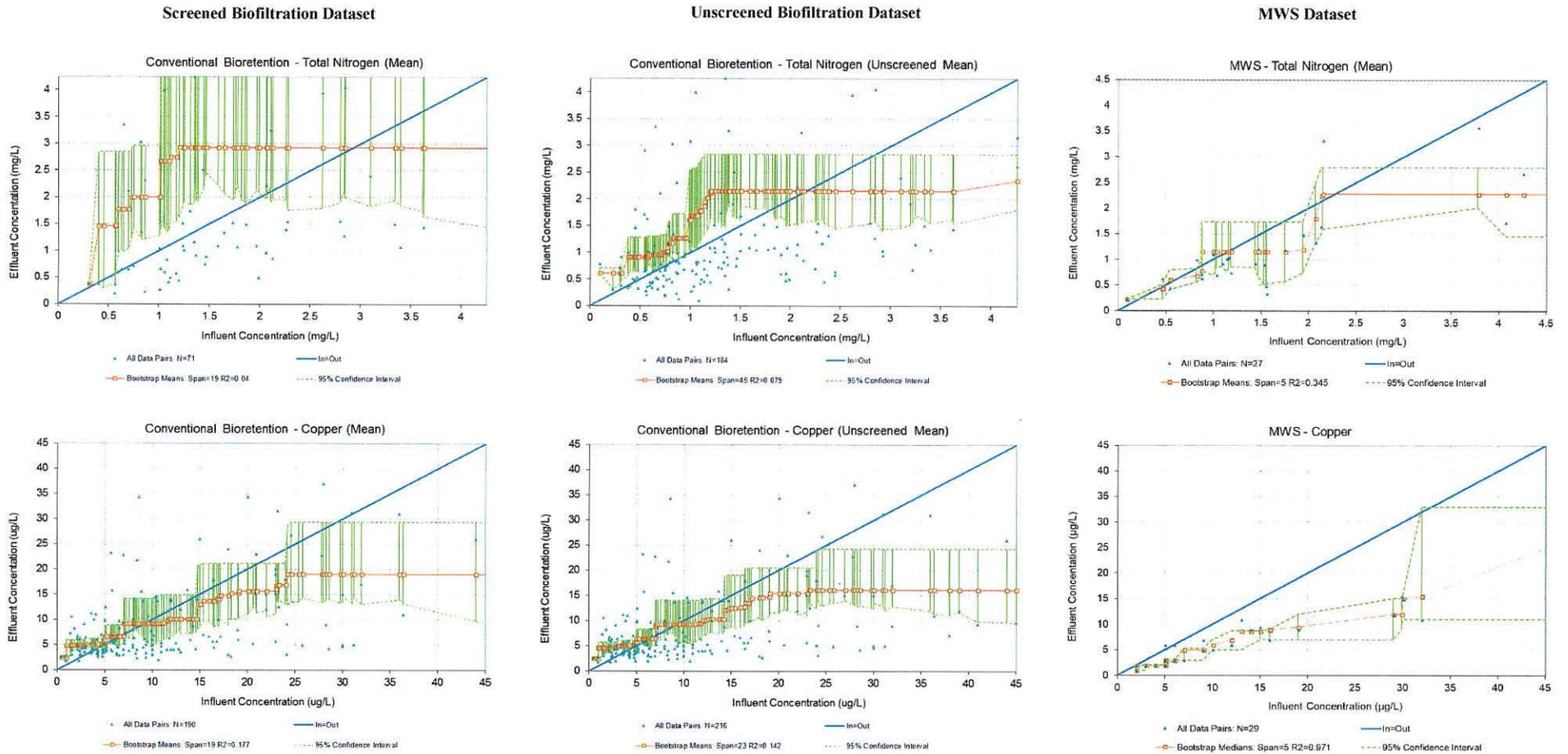
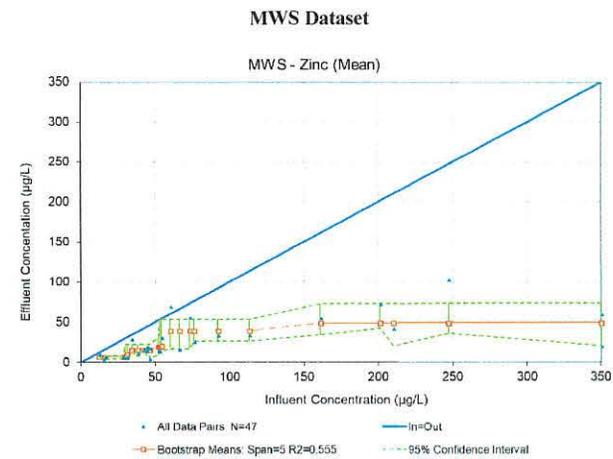
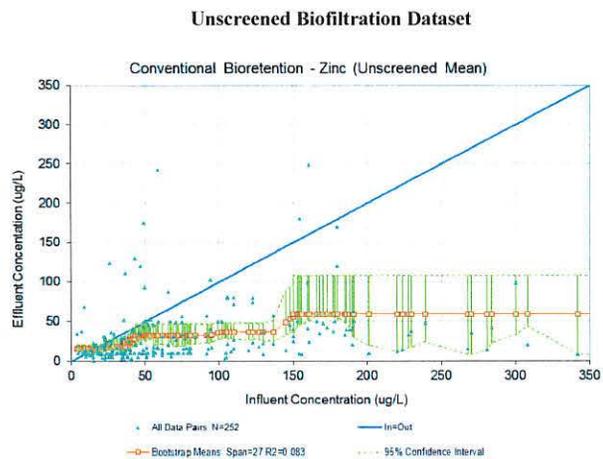
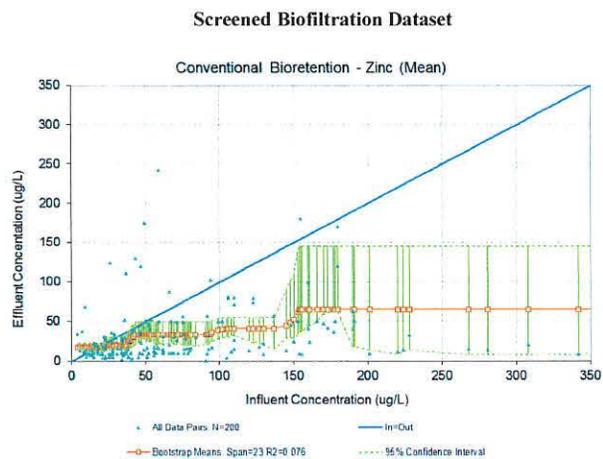


Figure D.2 Moving Window Plots of Means (Cont.)



ATTACHMENT H. BIORETENTION / BIOFILTRATION DESIGN CRITERIA

Note: A significant portion of the information in this appendix has been copied verbatim from the *Ventura County Technical Guidance Manual*, Updated 2011, and modified to reflect recent changes to the bioretention/biofiltration soil media specifications as adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Region, on November 28, 2011, Order No. R2-2011-083, Attachment L. Permittees can submit alternate Bioretention/Biofiltration Design Criteria subject to Executive Officer approval.

1. Geometry

- a. Bioretention/biofiltration areas shall be sized to capture and treat the design with an 18-inch maximum ponding depth. *The intention is that the ponding depth be limited to a depth that will allow for a healthy vegetation layer.*
- b. Minimum planting soil depth should be 2 feet, although 3 feet is preferred. *The intention is that the minimum planting soil depth should provide a beneficial root zone for the chosen plant palette and adequate water storage for the SWQDv.*
- c. A gravel storage layer below the bioretention/biofiltration soil media is required as necessary to provide adequate temporary storage to retain the SWQDv and to promote infiltration.

2. Drainage

- a. Bioretention and biofiltration BMPs should be designed to drain below the planting soil in less than 48 hours and completely drain in less than 96 hours. *The intention is that soils must be allowed to dry out periodically in order to restore hydraulic capacity needed to receive flows from subsequent storms, maintain infiltration rates, maintain adequate soil oxygen levels for healthy soil biota and vegetation, and to provide proper soil conditions for biodegradation and retention of pollutants.*
- b. *Biofiltration BMPs are designed and constructed with an underdrain. The underdrain is preferably placed near the top of the gravel storage area to promote incidental infiltration and enhanced nitrogen removal. However, if in-situ, underlying soils do not provide sufficient drainage, the underdrain may need to be placed lower in the gravel storage area (within 6 inches of the bottom) to prevent the unit from holding stagnant water for extended periods of time. At many sites, clay soils will drain sufficiently fast, particularly if they are not compacted. Observing soil moisture and surface conditions in the days following a wet period may provide sufficient information for making this decision and may be more directly applicable than in situ or laboratory testing of soil characteristics¹.*

3. Overflow

An overflow device is required at the 18-inch ponding depth. The following, or equivalent, should be provided:

- a. A vertical PVC pipe (SDR 35) to act as an overflow riser.

¹ Dan Cloak, Dan Cloak Environmental Consulting to Tom Dalziel, Contra Costa County, February 22, 2011.

- b. The overflow riser(s) should be 6 inches or greater in diameter, so it can be cleaned without damage to the pipe.

The inlet to the riser should be at the ponding depth (18 inches for fenced bioretention areas and 6 inches for areas that are not fenced), and be capped with a spider cap to exclude floating mulch and debris. Spider caps should be screwed in or glued, i.e., not removable.

4. Integrated Water Quality/ Flow Reduction/Resources Management Criteria

- a. When calculating the capacity of an infiltration system, each Permittee shall account for the 24-hour infiltration assuming that the soil is saturated. Infiltration BMPs shall be limited to project sites where the in-situ soil or the amended on-site soils have a demonstrated infiltration rate under saturated conditions of no less than 0.3 inch per hour.
- b. Bioretention BMPs shall be designed to accommodate the minimum design flow at a surface loading rate of 5 inches per hour and no greater than 12 inches per hour, and shall have a total volume, including pore spaces and pre-filter detention volume of no less than the SWQDv.
- c. If rainwater harvested for use in irrigation is to be credited toward the total volume of storm water runoff retained on-site, each Permittee shall require the project proponent to conduct a conservative (assuming reasonable worst-case scenarios) assessment of water demand during the wet-weather season. This volume will be referred to as the "reliable" estimate of irrigation demand. The portion of water to be credited as retained on-site for use in irrigation shall not exceed the reliable estimate of irrigation demand.
- d. Harvested rainwater must be stored in a manner that precludes the breeding of mosquitoes or other vectors or with a draw down not to exceed 96 hours.
- e. When evaluating the potential for on-site retention, each Permittee shall consider the maximum potential for evapotranspiration from green roofs and rainfall harvest and use.
- f. Project requirements shall address at a minimum the potential use of harvested rainwater for non-potable uses including toilet flushing, laundry, and cooling water makeup water. If the municipal, building or county health code(s) does not allow such use of harvested rainwater, each Permittee shall develop a model ordinance and submit it to the city council or County Supervisors for consideration within 24 months after the Order effective date. The model ordinances shall be based on the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials' (IAPMO's) Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement to the 2012 National Standard Plumbing Code, or similar guidance to ensure the safe and effective use of harvested rainwater, separate from the existing provisions, if any, for reclaimed wastewater. California is in the process of adopting its 2012 update to the Uniform Plumbing Code that incorporates the IAPMO Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement. If the State of California update incorporates the IAPMO Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement, Permittees are not required to adopt a model ordinance addressing the potential use of harvested rainwater for non-potable uses including toilet flushing, laundry, and cooling water makeup water.

5. Hydraulic Restriction Layers

Infiltration pathways may need to be restricted due to the close proximity of roads, foundations, or other infrastructure. A geomembrane liner, or other equivalent water proofing, may be placed along the vertical walls to reduce lateral flows. This liner should have a minimum thickness of 30 mils. Generally, waterproof barriers should not be placed on the bottom of the biofiltration unit, as this would prevent incidental infiltration which is important to meeting the required pollutant load reduction.

6. Planting/Storage Media Specifications

- a. The planting media placed in the cell should achieve a long-term, in-place infiltration rate of at least 5 inches per hour. Higher infiltration rates of up to 12 inches per hour are permissible. Bioretention/biofiltration soil shall retain sufficient moisture to support vigorous plant growth.
- b. Planting media should consist of 60 to 80% fine sand and 20 to 40% compost.
- c. Sand should be free of wood, waste, coating such as clay, stone dust, carbonate, etc. or any other deleterious material. All aggregate passing the No. 200 sieve size should be non-plastic. Sand for bioretention should be analyzed by an accredited lab using #200, #100, #40, #30, #16, #8, #4, and 3/8 sieves (ASTM D 422 or as approved by the local permitting authority) and meet the following gradation (Note: all sands complying with ASTM C33 for fine aggregate comply with the gradation requirements provided in Table H-1):

Table H-1. Sand Texture Specifications

Sieve Size ASTM D422	Percent Passing by Weight	
	Minimum	Maximum
3 /8 inch	100	100
No. 4	90	100
No. 8	70	100
No. 16	40	95
No. 30	15	70
No. 40	5	55
No. 110	0	15
No. 200	0	5

Note: The gradation of the sand component of the media is believed to be a major factor in the hydraulic conductivity of the media mix. If the desired hydraulic conductivity of the media cannot be achieved within the specified proportions of sand and compost (#2), then it may be necessary to utilize sand at the coarser end of the range specified in above (“minimum” column).

- d. Compost should be a well decomposed, stable, weed free organic matter source derived from waste materials including yard debris, wood wastes, or other organic materials not including manure or biosolids meeting standards developed by the US Composting Council (USCC). The product shall be certified through the USCC Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program (a compost testing and information disclosure program). Compost quality should be verified via a lab analysis to be:

- Feedstock materials shall be specified and include one or more of the following: landscape/yard trimmings, grass clippings, food scraps, and agricultural crop residues.
- Organic matter: 35-75% dry weight basis.
- Carbon and Nitrogen Ratio: 15:1 < C:N < 25:1
- Maturity/Stability: shall have dark brown color and a soil-like odor. Compost exhibiting a sour or putrid smell, containing recognizable grass or leaves, or is hot (120 F) upon delivery or rewetting is not acceptable.
- Toxicity: any one of the following measures is sufficient to indicate non-toxicity:
 - NH₄:NH₃ < 3
 - Ammonium < 500 ppm, dry weight basis
 - Seed Germination > 80% of control
 - Plant trials > 80% of control
 - Solvita® > 5 index value
- Nutrient content:
 - Total Nitrogen content 0.9% or above preferred
 - Total Boron should be <80 ppm, soluble boron < 2.5 ppm
- Salinity: < 6.0 mmhos/cm
- pH between 6.5 and 8 (may vary with plant palette)
- Compost for bioretention should be analyzed by an accredited lab using #200, ¼ inch, ½ inch, and 1 inch sieves (ASTM D 422) and meet the gradation described in Table H-2:

Table H-2. Compost Texture Specifications

Sieve Size ASTM D422	Percent Passing by Weight	
	Minimum	Maximum
1 inch	99	100
½ inch	90	100
¼ inch	40	90
#200	2	10

Tests should be sufficiently recent to represent the actual material that is anticipated to be delivered to the site. If processes or sources used by the supplier have changed significantly since the most recent testing, new tests should be requested.

Note: the gradation of compost used in bioretention/biofiltration media is believed to play an important role in the saturated hydraulic conductivity of the media. To achieve a higher saturated hydraulic conductivity, it may be necessary to utilize compost at the coarser end of this range (“minimum” column). The percent passing the #200 sieve (fines) is believed to be the most important factor in hydraulic conductivity.

In addition, a coarser compost mix provides more heterogeneity of the bioretention media, which is believed to be advantageous for more rapid development of soil structure needed to support health biological processes. This may be an advantage for plant establishment with lower nutrient and water input.

- e. Bioretention/Biofiltration soils not meeting the above criteria shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. Alternative bioretention soil shall meet the following specification:

“Soils for bioretention facilities shall be sufficiently permeable to infiltrate runoff at a minimum rate of 5 inches per hour during the life of the facility, and provide sufficient retention of moisture and nutrients to support healthy vegetation.” The following steps shall be followed by the Permittees to verify that alternative soil mixes meet the specification:

- Submittals – The applicant must submit to the Permittee for approval:
 - A sample of mixed bioretention/biofiltration soil.
 - Certification from the soil supplier or an accredited laboratory that the bioretention/biofiltration soil meets the requirements of this specification.
 - Certification from an accredited geotechnical testing laboratory that the bioretention/biofiltration soil has an infiltration rate of between 5 and 12 inches per hour.
 - Organic content test results of mixed bioretention/biofiltration soil. Organic content test shall be performed in accordance with by Testing Methods for the Examination of Compost and Composting (TMECC) 05.07A, “Loss-On-Ignition Organic Matter Method”.
 - Organic Grain size analysis results of mixed bioretention/biofiltration soil performed in accordance with ASTM D 422, Standard Test Method for Particle Size Analysis of Soils.
 - A description of the equipment and methods used to mix the sand and compost to produce the bioretention/biofiltration soil.
- The name of the testing laboratory(s) and the following information:
 - Contact person(s)
 - Address(s)
 - Phone contact(s)
 - email address(s)
 - Qualifications of laboratory(s), and personnel including date of current
 - Certification by STA, ASTM, or approved equal.
- Bioretention/biofiltration soils shall be analyzed by an accredited lab using #200, and 1/2” inch sieves (ASTM D 422 or as approved by municipality), and meet the gradation described in Table H-3).

Table H-3. Alternative Bioretention/Biofiltration Soil Texture Specifications

Sieve Size ASTM D422	Percent Passing by Weight	
	Minimum	Maximum
1/2 inch	97	100
200	2	5

- Bioretention/biofiltration soils shall be analyzed by an accredited geotechnical lab for the following tests:
 - Moisture – density relationships (compaction tests) shall be conducted on bioretention soil. Bioretention/biofiltration soil for the permeability test shall be compacted to 85 to 90 percent of the maximum dry density (ASTM D1557).
 - Constant head permeability testing in accordance with ASTM D2434 shall be conducted on a minimum of two samples with a 6-inch mold and vacuum saturation.

7. Mulch for Bioretention/Biofiltration Facilities

Mulch is recommended for the purpose of retaining moisture, preventing erosion and minimizing weed growth. Projects subject to the State's Model Water Efficiency Landscaping Ordinance (or comparable local ordinance) will be required to provide at least two inches of mulch. Aged mulch, also called compost mulch, reduces the ability of weeds to establish, keeps soil moist, and replenishes soil nutrients. Aged mulch can be obtained through soil suppliers or directly from commercial recycling yards. It is recommended to apply 1" to 2" of composted mulch, once a year, preferably in June following weeding

8. Plants

- a. Plant materials should be tolerant of summer drought, ponding fluctuations, and saturated soil conditions for 48 to 96 hours.
- b. It is recommended that a minimum of three types of tree, shrubs, and/or herbaceous groundcover species be incorporated to protect against facility failure due to disease and insect infestations of a single species.
- c. Native plant species and/or hardy cultivars that are not invasive and do not require chemical inputs should be used to the maximum extent practicable.

References

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region. 2011. Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (Order No. R2-2011-0083, Attachment L). Adopted November 28, 2011.

Dan Cloak, Dan Cloak Environmental Consulting to Tom Dalziel, Contra Costa County, February 22, 2011.<<http://www.cccleanwater.org/c3-guidebook.html>>. Accessed on January 31, 2012.

Geosyntec Consultants and Larry Walker Associates. 2011. *Ventura County Technical Guidance Manual for Stormwater Quality Control Measures, Manual Update 2011. Appendix D*. Prepared for the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program. July 13, 2011.