



Obtaining Compliance Costs from Municipal Storm Water Permittees

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Office of Research, Planning and
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March 2018 Report from State Auditor

State and Regional Water Boards

They Must Do More to Ensure That Local Jurisdictions' Costs to Reduce Storm Water Pollution Are Necessary and Appropriate

Finding: State Water Board and Regional Boards lack consistent information on the actual costs that local jurisdictions incur to comply with storm water requirements

There are many benefits to
informative and comparable
cost information—across
permits, permittees, regions,
and years

New Guidance

- ▶ State Auditor recommended State Water Board develop guidance:
 - ▶ For permittees to follow when tracking their Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit implementation
 - ▶ Guidance was written mainly for Board staff developing stormwater permits; reporting requirements get communicated to permittees directly through permits
 - ▶ For Board staff to follow when estimating compliance costs for proposed TMDLs (not covered today)

What's in the Guidance

- ▶ Categories Board staff should consider when requesting cost information
- ▶ Legal considerations
- ▶ Other things to consider

Some Potential Pitfalls

Permittees may over-report costs or report costs they would have incurred regardless of the permit

It is difficult to standardize storm water pollution reduction costs

Cost Reporting Categories

- ▶ The guidance contains a table of suggested cost categories for permittees to report cost information
 - ▶ Examples: TMDL implementation/monitoring plan development, minimum and advanced control measures, monitoring, and reporting costs
- ▶ Board staff are refining categories and adding definitions to help permittees appropriately report their costs

Next Steps

This guidance is evolving based on use and feedback

The current version is available to the public upon request

Email ORPP@waterboards.ca.gov or
stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov

Keep in mind that permit development (including any cost reporting requirements) is a public process

More on Implementation at the Boards

▶ Outcomes may include:

- ▶ Internal training for permit writers and external training for permittees and interested parties
- ▶ Progress reports
- ▶ Resources, such as a reference information library
- ▶ Processes for staff to consider the guidance when writing permits