

Public Staff Workshop Draft Small MS4 Permit



State Water Board, Municipal Stormwater Unit

Draft Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit

July 2026 Workshops

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Quality, Municipal Stormwater Unit

Virtual/Remote Staff Workshop

Wednesday, July 29, 2026 – 9:00 a.m. - noon

In-Person Staff Workshop

Thursday, July 30, 2026 – 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Public Board Hearing

Wednesday, August 19, 2026



Welcome



- This workshop focuses on changes made in response to public comments on the Informal Draft Small MS4 Permit
- This workshop is an informal discussion
- There will be a break after the presentation
- Staff will answer questions after the break
- Staff welcomes all questions
- Questions will be answered as time allows



Technical Assistance

For technical assistance for viewing the workshop:

- Email DWQ-SmallMS4@waterboards.ca.gov
- Subject line: Technical Assistance
- Describe the viewing issue

How to Ask Questions on this Presentation



- Staff will respond orally to questions on this presentation
- Please email your questions to DWQ-SmallMS4@waterboards.ca.gov
- Include a subject line with the topic, such as trash, ASBS, alternative compliance, post-construction, etc.
- Provide your name, organization name, and questions

How to Submit Written Comments



- Submit written comments by **noon** on **September 2, 2026**
- Email comments in PDF format to **commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov** and include **Draft Small MS4 Permit** in the subject line
- Or you may mail or hand-deliver written comments to:
State Water Resources Control Board
Attention: Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
1001 I Street, 24th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand delivery)

Staff Public Workshops

Wednesday, July 29, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- Virtual
- View the staff workshop via the CalEPA webcast (video.calepa.ca.gov)

Thursday, July 30, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

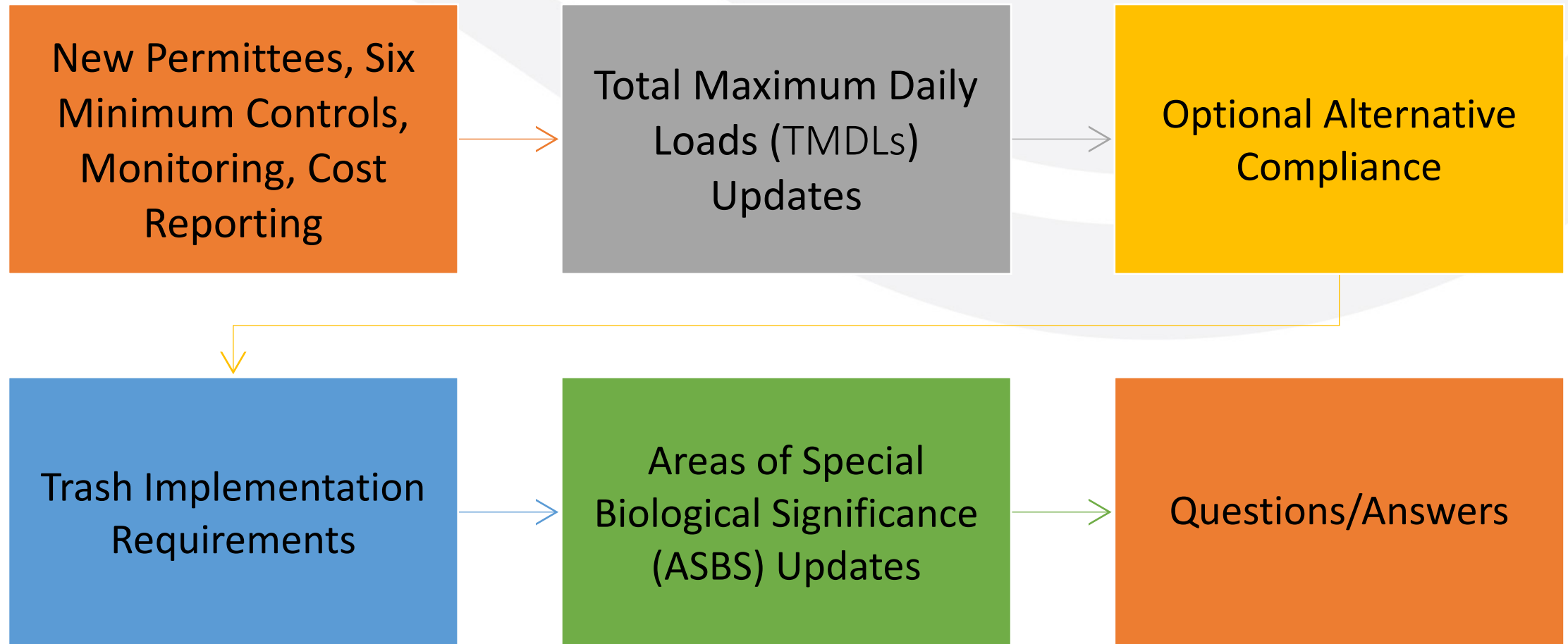
- In person
- Sierra Hearing Room of the Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building
- 1001 I Street, Second Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Board Hearing

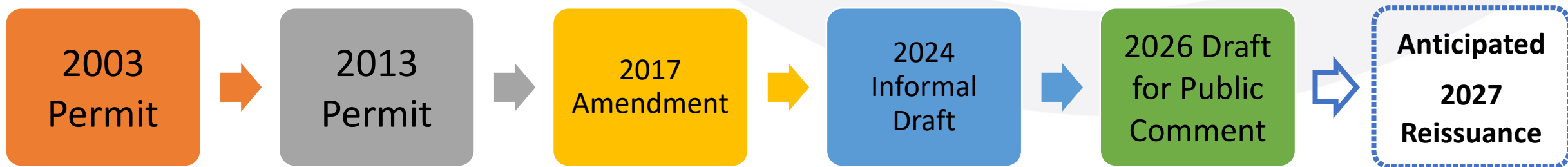
Wednesday, August 19, 2026

- Ask questions or present oral comments on the Draft Small MS4 Permit
- Coastal Hearing Room of the Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building, 1001 I Street, Second Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
- No State Water Board action will be taken

Staff Workshop Agenda



Permit History



New Permittees

- 2 new Traditional Permittees
 - City of Willits
 - City of Mountain House
- 2 new Non-Traditional permittees
 - Golden Gate National Recreation Area - Presidio of San Francisco
 - Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART)
- 3 new State Parks
 - Candlestick Point
 - Asilomar State Beach
 - Old Town San Diego State Historic Park



Attachments D & E

Traditional and Non-Traditional Requirements

XXXX 2026
Draft Small MS4 Permit for Public Comment

Order WQ 20XX-XXXX-DWQ
NPDES No. CAS000004

ATTACHMENT D – PROVISIONS FOR TRADITIONAL PERMITTEES

OVERVIEW

This attachment describes the requirements with which Traditional MS4s, identified in Attachment A, Table A6.1, must comply.

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Draft Small MS4 Permit for Public Comment

Order WQ 20XX-XXXX-DWQ
NPDES No. CAS000004

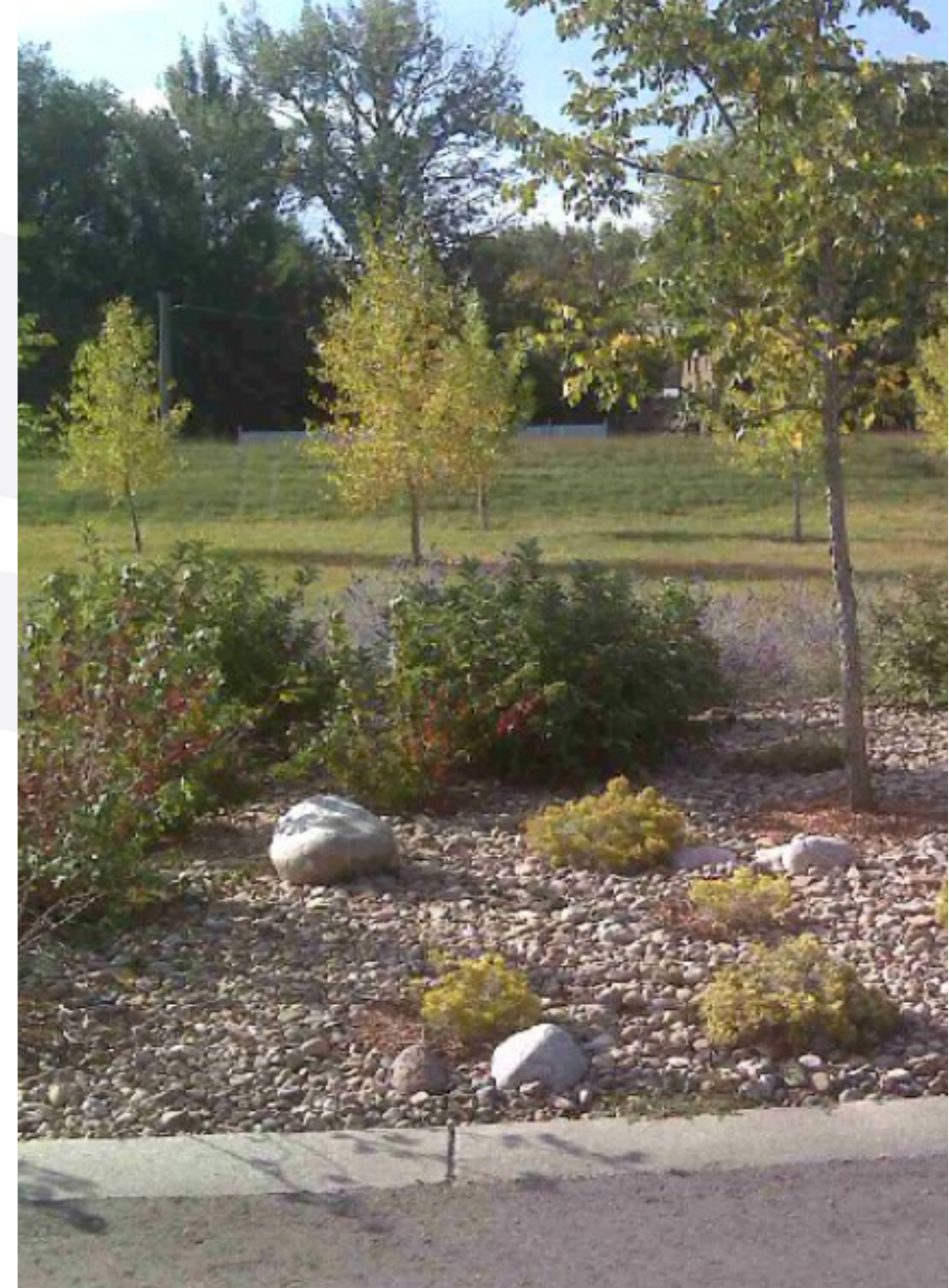
ATTACHMENT E – PROVISIONS FOR NON-TRADITIONAL PERMITTEES

OVERVIEW

This attachment describes the requirements with which Non-Traditional MS4s, identified in Attachment A Table A6.3, must comply.

Six Minimum Control Measures

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Involvement and Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping
- Construction Site Runoff Control
- Post-Construction Storm Water Management



Public Education & Outreach and Involvement & Participation



- New pet waste management requirements
- Combined Education/Outreach and Involvement/Participation into a single section
- Moved staff training to other respective sections
- Removed Community Based Social Marketing

Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination

- Combined spill response and illicit discharge response plans
- Clarified when dry weather sampling is required
- Expanded priority area inspections
 - Inspections once every two years
 - High level surveys of priority areas which could result in more granular follow ups
 - Replaces commercial and industrial inspections proposed in Informal Draft
 - No more potential illicit discharge facility inventory requirement



Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping



- Pet waste management
 - Inventory of potential hotspots
 - Minimum single site visit
 - Identification of sites with improper disposal
 - Propose increase maintenance or BMPs as necessary.

Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

Long-Term Asset Maintenance, Rehabilitation, and Replacement

- Defines hard assets:
 - Outfalls and catch basins
 - Structural control installed for Post-construction, ASBS, or TMDLs
 - Trash control devices
 - Any other permanent structural control installed to serve a water quality function to comply with the Permit
- Condition Assessments added to routine inspections feed into Long-Term Asset Operation and Improvement Plan at end of Permit term

Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

- Snow Removal and Traction Application
 - Applicable to permittees with majority of permitted area above 3,000 feet
 - Based on Tahoe Regional Planning Agency BMP Handbook with some street sweeping requirements from the Caltrans Construction Site BMP Manual
 - Ensures that snow removal, snow storage, street sweeping, and traction application don't contribute pollution to water bodies



Construction Site Runoff Control

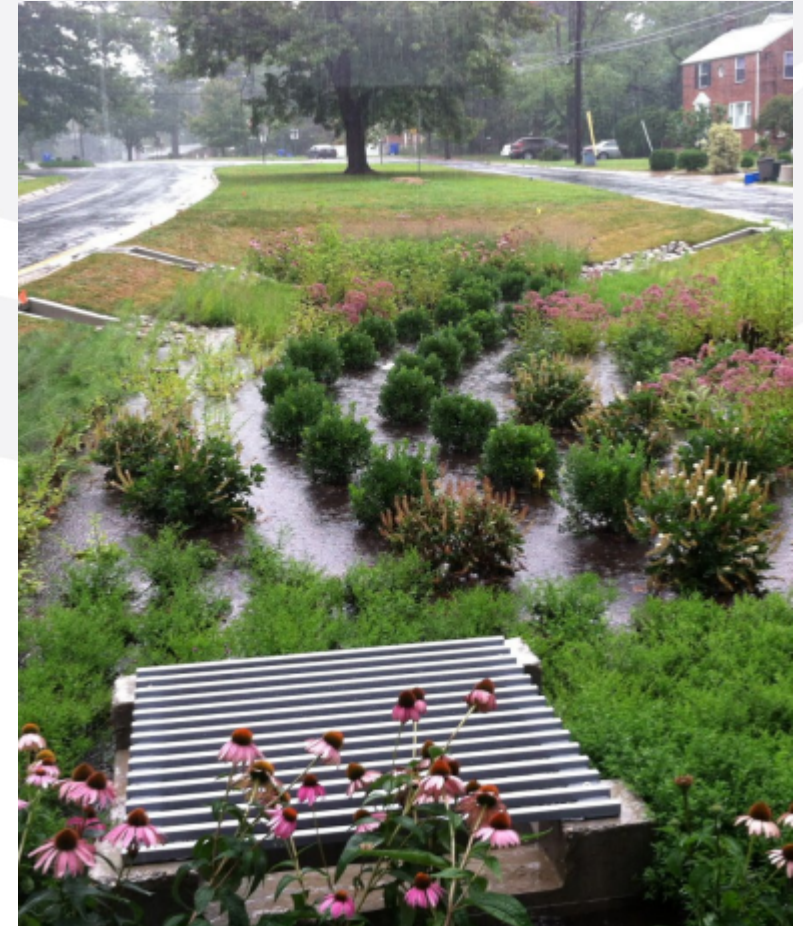


- New program for Non-Traditional Permittees
 - Policy for projects <1 acre
 - No new inventory or inspections
- Additional inspections for Traditional Permittees
 - One dry and one wet season inspection for priority sites
 - Final inspection at conclusion of projects to ensure soil stabilization
 - No new annual inspections for non-priority sites as proposed in Informal Draft

Post-Construction

The Informal Draft proposed large-scale changes

- Comments and discussion through Informal Draft process conveyed significant implementation challenges
- Standards have been largely reverted to match the existing Permit



Post-Construction

- Removed large single-family house exception from the definition of Regulated Projects
- Removed soil quality improvement and maintenance Site Design Measure
- Allows for off-site BMPs to meet peak flow requirements
- Alteration of the 50 percent redevelopment rule to also include projects that result in an alteration (as opposed to only an increase) of more than 50 percent of the existing impervious surface
- Field verification that Post-Construction standards have been followed prior to occupancy
- Added on-site inspections to verify the maintenance condition for installed Post-Construction BMPs

Annual Reporting

- Annual Reports remain due by October 15 each year
- Continue to upload Annual Reports and most other reports to SMARTS
- Individual permit provision requires Annual Report questions per the US EPA's Electronic Reporting Rule



Cost Reporting for Traditional Permittees

2025 Policy for the Standardization of Cost Reporting in Municipal Stormwater Permits

- Five cost categories
 1. Overall Program Management and Administration
 2. Capital Costs
 3. Minimum Control Measures
 4. Water Quality Monitoring
 5. Miscellaneous Costs
- Phase I cost categories can be used as an alternative
- Costs reported for each fiscal year, July through June
- Submitted annually through MS4 Cost Data Portal (in development)



Attachment G –TMDL Requirements

XXXX 2026
Draft Small MS4 Permit for Public Comment

Order WQ 20XX-XXXX-DWQ
NPDES No. CAS000004

ATTACHMENT G – TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD IMPLEMENTATION, COMPLIANCE, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

G1. OVERVIEW

This Attachment provides the implementation, compliance, and reporting requirements for the identified Permittee to comply with total maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements. The Permittee is identified in the TMDL as responsible for implementing the requirements in the TMDL. This Attachment includes the following:

1. Technical requirements for best management practices, and
2. TMDL implementation, monitoring, reporting, and compliance requirements.

Wasteload allocations, descriptions, responsible entities, and compliance deadlines for the applicable TMDLs are also summarized in Attachment B (Fact Sheet), which is incorporated by reference into this Attachment.

A [list of responsible permittees by TMDL](#) is found at the end of this section.

TMDL Requirements

Revisions were made for some TMDL requirements, including

- Compliance timelines
- Sampling location and frequency
- Safety considerations during sampling
- Reporting timing and frequency and
- Interpretation of wasteload allocations

Fourteen TMDLs Added

- 1 in the North Coast region
- 5 in the San Francisco Bay region
- 5 in the Central Coast region
- 1 in the Central Valley region
- 2 in the Santa Ana region



Attachment I – Alternative Compliance Option

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NPDES No. CAS000004

**ATTACHMENT I – ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE OPTIONS FOR
STORMWATER CAPTURE**

OVERVIEW

This Attachment provides optional alternatives as methods to comply with stormwater capture.

I1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

I1.1 Authorization

- 1. This Order authorizes the implementation of on-site and off-site alternative compliance options for stormwater capture (referred to together as the Compliance Options and separately as the On-Site and Off-Site Compliance Options) as methods for compliance with this Order’s requirements specified in section I1.2, below.
- 2. On-Site Compliance Options are owned and operated by the Permittee, are located completely within the Permittee’s jurisdiction.
- 3. Off-Site Compliance Options are not located fully within the Permittee’s jurisdiction, may receive runoff from multiple and separate entities, and

Alternative Compliance Options

Continues requirements from the Informal Draft Small MS4 Permit:

- Satisfies
 - TMDL Compliance Demonstration
 - Discharge Prohibitions and
 - Effluent and Receiving Water Limitations
- On-site and off-site (collaborative) options
- Capture 85th percentile, 24-hour storm



Attachment H – Trash Implementation Requirements

XXXX 2026
Draft Small MS4 Permit for Public Comment

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ATTACHMENT H – TRASH IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

OVERVIEW

The requirements of this Attachment implement the Trash Provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California ([Ocean Plan](#)) and the [Trash Provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California](#) (cumulatively the Trash Provisions).

This Attachment identifies three categories of Permittees:

- Renewal Permittees identified in Attachment B of this Order.
- New Permittees designated under this Order and listed in Attachment B.
- New Permittees designated after adoption of this Order.

H1. COMPLIANCE WITH TRASH WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND

Statewide Trash Provisions

Incorporated by State Water Board into two statewide plans.

Water Quality Control Plan(s) for:

- Ocean Waters of California (Appendix D)
- Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (Appendix E)



Trash Provisions Requirements

- Effective December 2, 2015.
- Applies to regulated stormwater discharges including both Traditional and Non-Traditional Small MS4s.
- Set compliance deadlines
 - December 2, 2030 for existing Permittees,
 - 10 years for new permittees.
- Directed issuance of Water Code 13383 Orders
 - Sent to existing permittees by June 1, 2017,
 - Required selection of compliance track and submittal of a map identifying Priority Land Use areas.



Compliance Track 1 – Install Trash Full Capture Systems (FCS) Only



- Install FCS at all Priority Land Use areas,
- FCS include Conditionally Certified Multi-benefit Systems,
- FCS must trap all particles 5-millimeter or greater, and
- FCS must have a design treatment capacity that is either:
 - Not less than the peak flow rate resulting from a one-year, one-hour storm event (design storm) in the subdrainage area, or
 - Sized and designed to carry at least the same flows as the corresponding storm drain.

Track 2 – Full Capture System (FCS) Equivalency

- Demonstrate FCS Equivalency by implementing trash control measures that reduce an equivalent amount of trash as Track 1.
- Select areas of trash generation for treatment.
- Establish baseline trash generation levels.
- Show trash reduction via trash assessments.



Trash Implementation Inventory

- Tracks treated and untreated acreages,
- Includes:
 - Subdrainage data (total acreage, acreage addressed by FCS)
 - Dates of previous and upcoming maintenance
 - Trash generation rate for areas not draining to FCS
- Due within 180 days of Permit effective date
- Updated annually

Trash Generation Map

- Submit new/updated trash generation map via SMARTS.
- Color coded to identify low, moderate, high, and very high trash generation areas.



Trash Assessment Plan

- On-land Visual Trash Assessment Methodology or other assessment methodology upon approval.
- Renewal permittees may rely on previous trash assessments. but must update for new trash generation areas.
- Map depicting previous and future trash assessment areas.
- Annual trash assessments of all areas treated with institutional controls.
- Trash assessment field procedures.
- Quality assurance and control procedures.

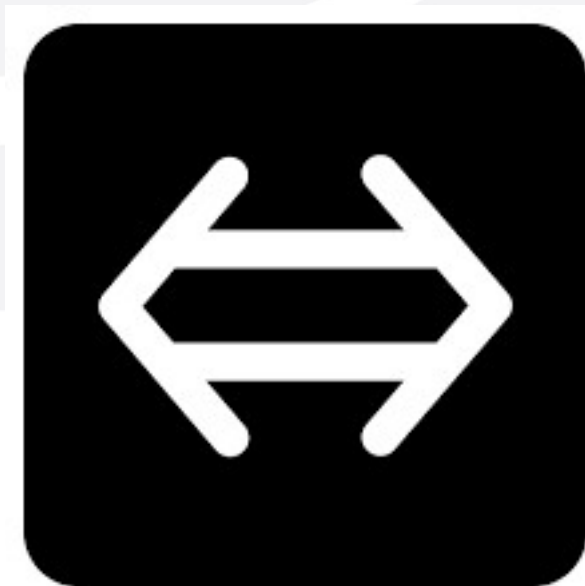
Trash Implementation Plan

- Renewal Permittees review and update plan.
- New Permittees develop plan.
- Upload revised plan to SMARTS.
- If there are no changes to the plan, Permittee may retain existing plan and annual updates.



Full Capture System Equivalency for Permittees in Track 2

- Must demonstrate combinations of treatment controls achieve FCS Equivalency through On-Land Visual Trash Assessment.
- Priority Land Use areas must achieve a “Low” trash generation rate.
- Interim progress demonstrated with formula in H.11
- Weighting factors give credit for conversion between “Very High,” “High,” and “Moderate” generation rates



Inspection & Maintenance



- Develop Inspection and Maintenance schedule that maintains design treatment capacity, at minimum:
 - Track 1 – twice per year
 - Track 2 – varies by trash generation rate
 - once per year for moderate areas
 - twice per year for high and very high areas
- Frequency must increase when inspections find:
 - FCS is 50% or more filled with trash, or
 - Any system or institutional control is not maintaining designed treatment capacity.

Concerns Heard During Permit Development

- Narrowing compliance windows
- Lack of feedback or approval for Trash Implementation Plans
- Regulatory uncertainty on key topics:
 - Milestones,
 - Compliance demonstration and credit for institutional controls,
 - Device sizing.

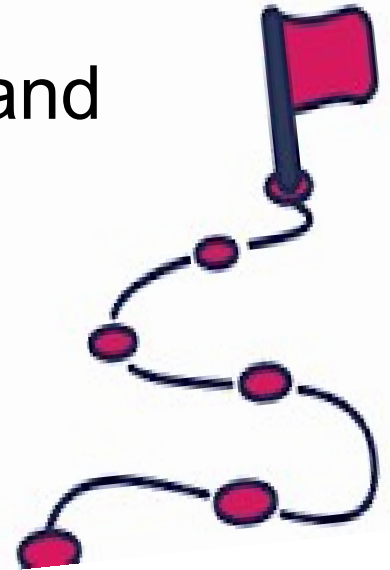
Compliance Deadline

- Governed by the Provisions
- Renewal Permittees – Demonstrate compliance by December 2, 2030
- New Permittees – Demonstrate compliance
 - Within ten years of the Order's effective date, or
 - By the effective date of Permittee's Designation, whichever is later
- May request a Time Schedule Order (TSO)



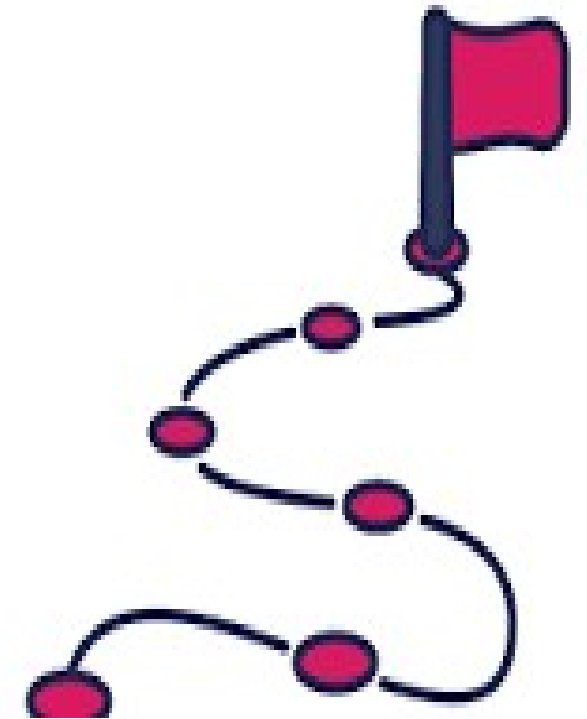
Trash Reduction Milestones for Renewal Permittees

- First Milestone: 30% coverage on or before Dec. 2, 2027
- Second Milestone: 65% on or before Dec. 2, 2028
- Final Compliance: 100% on or before Dec. 2, 2030
- Permittee may request approval of Alternate First and Second Milestones



H13. Trash Reduction Milestones for New Permittees

- First Milestone: 40% within 4 years of effective date
- Second Milestone: 70% within 7 years of effective date
- Full Compliance: 100% within 10 years of effective date
- Requests for Alternate 1st and 2nd milestones must be approved by Regional Water Board Executive Officer



Attachment F - Areas of Special Biological Significance



Submit Updated ASBS Compliance Plan

No significant changes from the Informal Draft Small MS4 Permit:

- Submit an updated plan,
- State whether monitoring and resampling were completed,
- Include a revised monitoring plan for resampling (if resampling not completed),
- Monitoring results,
- Updated BMP installation schedule,
- Updated map with installed and planned BMP locations, priority discharge locations, sheet flow drainage, and
- Plans to complete an additional year of Core Discharge Monitoring and Ocean Receiving Water Monitoring.

Next Steps for Permit Development

- Public comment period ends September 2, 2026
- Consideration and response to written public comments
- Staff drafts the Permit revisions based on comments
- Draft Permit released for review
- State Water Board considers adoption of draft permit during Board meeting

10 Minute Break

Email Questions to DWQ-SmallMS4@waterboards.ca.gov

- Subject line:
 - One topic per email, such as Traditional/Non-Traditional Trash, TMDL, BMPs, Optional Compliance, ASBS, etc.
- Include the following information in the email:
 - Name; Organization's name; and Questions.





Thank You!

How to Submit Questions and Comments

- Email DWQ-SmallMS4@waterboards.ca.gov
- Subject line: Question **category**, such as trash, ASBS, BMPs, alternative compliance, post-construction, etc.
- Provide the following information:
 - Your **name**;
 - Who you **represent** (for example: municipality, environmental group,, consultant, yourself, another person, or an organization); and
 - Your **comments/questions**.

For technical assistance to view the workshop:

- Email DWQ-SmallMS4@waterboards.ca.gov
- Subject line: Technical Assistance