



GLOSSARY

303(d) Listed – Water bodies listed as impaired as per Section 303(d) of the 1972 Clean Water Act.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) – Includes schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent, eliminate, or reduce the pollution of waters of the receiving waters. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

Catch Basin (Inlet) – Box-like underground concrete structure with openings in curbs and gutters designed to collect runoff from streets and pavement.

Clean Water Act (CWA) – (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) requirements of the NPDES program are defined under Sections 307, 402, 318, and 405 of the CWA.

Construction Activity – Includes clearing, grading, excavation, and contractor activities that result in soil disturbance.

Construction General Permit – A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the State Water Resources Control Board for the discharge of stormwater associated with construction activity from soil disturbance of five acres or more. Threshold lowered to one acre beginning October 10, 2003. Construction General Permit No. CAS000002.

Control Measure – As used in an MS4 permit, refers to any Best Management Practice or other method used to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the state.

Co-permittee – A permittee to an NPDES permit that is only responsible for permit conditions relating to the discharge for which it is operator.

Core Municipality – For the purpose of an MS4 permit, it is a municipality whose corporate boundary (unincorporated area for counties and parishes) defines the

municipal separate storm sewer system (ex. City of Dallas for the Dallas Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System; Harris County for the unincorporated Harris County).

CWA (Clean Water Act) – Formerly referred to as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972.

Denuded – Land stripped of vegetation or land that has had its vegetation worn down due to the impacts from the elements or humans.

Detention – The capture and subsequent release of stormwater runoff from the site at a slower rate than it is collected, the difference being held in temporary storage.

Discharge – A release or flow of stormwater or other substance from a conveyance system or storage container. Broader – includes release to storm drains, etc.

Effluent Limits – Limitations on amounts of pollutants that may be contained in a discharge. Can be expressed in a number of ways including as a concentration, as a concentration over a time period (e.g. 30-day average must be less than 20 mg/l), or as a total mass per time unit, or as a narrative limit.

Erosion – The wearing away of land surface by wind or water. Erosion occurs naturally from weather or runoff but can be intensified by land-clearing practices related to farming, new development, redevelopment, road building, or timber cutting.

Facility – A collection of industrial processes discharging stormwater associated with industrial activity within the property boundary or operational unit.

Flow-weighted Composite Sample – A composite sample consisting of a mixture of aliquots collected at a constant time interval, where the volume of each aliquot is proportional to the flow rate of the discharge.

Grab Sample – An individual sample collected in less than 15 minutes.

Grading – The cutting or filling of the land surface to a desired slope or elevation.

Green Infrastructure – Generally refers to systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes to infiltrate, evapotranspire (the return of water to the atmosphere either through evaporation or by plants), or reuse storm water or runoff on the site where it is generated. Green infrastructure approaches that are currently used include green roofs; trees and tree boxes; rain gardens; vegetated swales; pocket wetlands; infiltration planters; porous and permeable pavements; vegetated median strips;

reforestation/re-vegetation; and protection and enhancement of riparian buffers and floodplains.

Hazardous Waste – A waste or combination of wastes that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may either cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible illness; or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of or otherwise managed. Possesses at least one of four characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity) or appears on special EPA or state lists. Regulated under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the California Health and Safety Code.

Illicit Connection – Any man made conveyance connecting an illicit discharge directly to a municipal separate storm sewer.

Illicit Discharges – Any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water except discharges pursuant to an LPDES permit (other than the LPDES permit for discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer) and discharges resulting from fire fighting activities.

Industrial General Permit – A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (No. CAS000001) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board for discharge of stormwater associated with industrial activity. Board Order 97-03-DWQ.

Inlet – An entrance into a ditch, storm drain, or other waterway.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – An ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as a biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism.

Landfill – An area of land or an excavation in which wastes are placed for permanent disposal, and which is not a land application unit, surface impoundment, injection well, or waste pile.

Land Application Unit – An area where wastes are applied onto or incorporated into the soil surface (excluding manure spreading operations) for treatment or disposal.

Large and Medium Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System - All municipal separate storm sewers that are either:

- i. Located in an incorporated place (city) with a population of 100,000 or more as determined by the 1990 Decennial Census by the Bureau of Census; or
- ii. Located in the counties with unincorporated urbanized populations of 100,000 or more, except municipal separate storm sewers that are located in the incorporated places, townships, or towns within such counties; or
- iii. Owned or operated by a municipality other than those described above and that are designed by the LDEQ as part of the large or medium municipal separate storm sewer system.

LDEQ – Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

MEP – Maximum Extent Practicable, the technology-based discharge standard for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems established by CWA. The Federal Clean Water Act requires “controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable, including management practices, control techniques and system, design and engineering methods, and such other provisions as the Administrator or the State determines appropriate for the control of such pollutants.” MEP is defined as a standard for water quality that applies to all MS4 operators regulated under the LPDES Storm Water Program. Since no precise definition of MEP exists, it allows for maximum flexibility on the part of MS4 operators as they develop, implement, and refine their program.

MLQ – Minimum Quantification Level, the lowest concentration of an analyte that can be reliably achieved within specified limits of precision and accuracy during routing laboratory operating conditions.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer – A publicly owned conveyance or system of conveyances that discharges to waters of the U.S. and is designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water, is not a combined sewer, and is not part of a publicly owned treatment works (POTW).

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) – A conveyance or system of conveyance (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains): (i) designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water; (ii) which is not a combined sewer; and (iii) which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 122.2. A “Small MS4” is defined as an MS4 that is not a permitted MS4 under the Phase I regulations. This definition of a Small MS4 applies to MS4 operated within cities and counties as well as governmental facilities that have a system of storm sewers.

Non-Stormwater Discharge – Any discharge to municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater.

Nonpoint Source Pollution – Pollution that does not come from a point source. Nonpoint source pollution originates from aerial diffuse sources that are mostly related to land use.

Notice of Intent (NOI) – A formal notice to SWRCB submitted by the owner of an industrial site or construction site that said owner seeks coverage under a General Permit for discharges associated with industrial and construction activities. The NOI provides information on the owner, location, type of project, and certifies that the owner will comply with the conditions of the construction General Permit.

Notice of Termination – Formal notice to SWRCB submitted by owner/developer that a construction project is complete.

NPDES Permit – NPDES is an acronym for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. NPDES is the national program for administering and regulating Sections 307, 318, 402, and 405 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). In California, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has issued a General Permit for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities.

Operator – The person or legal entity responsible for the operation and/or maintenance of facility with a discharge covered by these regulations that meets either of the following two criteria

- i. The party has operational control over the storm water management plan (including the ability to make modifications to the plan); or
- ii. The party has day-to-day operational control of those activities which are necessary to ensure compliance with the storm water management plan or other permit conditions (e.g. they are authorized to direct workers to carry out activities in the storm water management plan or comply with other permit conditions).

Outfall – The end point where storm drains discharge water into a waterway.

Permittee – Any “person” authorized by an NPDES permit to discharge to Waters of the State.

Point Source – Any discernable, confined, and discrete conveyance (including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, landfill leachate collection system, vessel or other floating craft) from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This

term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural stormwater runoff.

Pollutant – Generally, any substance introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource.

Pollutants of Concern (POC) – Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD); sediment or a parameter that addresses sediment (such as total suspended solids (TSS), turbidity or siltation; pathogens; oil and grease (O&G); and any pollutant that has been identified as a cause of impairment in any water body to which the MS4 discharges.

Pollution Prevention (P2) – Practices and actions that reduce or eliminate the generation of pollutants.

Precipitation – Any form of rain or snow.

Pretreatment – Treatment of waste stream before it is discharged to a collection system.

Reclaim (water reclamation) – Planned use of treated effluent that would otherwise be discharged without being put into direct use.

Retention – The storage of stormwater to prevent it from leaving the development site.

Reuse (water reuse) – (see Reclaim)

Runoff – Water originating from rainfall, melted snow, and other sources (e.g. sprinkler irrigation) that flows over the land surface to drainage facilities, rivers, streams, springs, seeps, ponds, lakes, and wetlands.

Run-on – Off site stormwater surface flow or other surface flow which enters your site.

Scour – The erosive and digging action in a watercourse caused by flowing water.

Secondary Containment – Structures, usually dikes or berms, surrounding tanks or other storage containers, designed to catch spilled materials from the storage containers.

Sedimentation – The process of depositing soil particles, clays, sands, or other sediments that were picked up by runoff.

Sediments – Soil, sand, and minerals washed from land into water, usually after rain, that collect in reservoirs, rivers, and harbors, destroying fish nesting areas and clouding the water, thus preventing sunlight from reaching aquatic plants. Farming, mining, and building activities without proper implementation of BMPs will expose sediment materials, allowing them to be washed off the land after rainfalls.

Significant Materials – Includes, but not limited to, raw materials; fuels; materials such as solvents, detergents, and plastic pellets; finished materials such as metallic products; raw materials used in food processing or production; hazardous substances designed under Section 101(14) of CERCLA; any chemical the facility is required to report pursuant to Section 313 of Title III of SARA; fertilizers; pesticides; and waste products such as ashes, slag, and sludge that have the potential to be released with stormwater discharges.

Significant Quantities – The volume, concentrations, or mass of a pollutant in stormwater discharge that can cause or threaten to cause pollution, contamination, or nuisance that adversely impact human health or the environment and cause or contribute to a violation of any applicable water quality standards for receiving water.

Source Control BMPs – Operational practices that reduce potential pollutants at the source.

Source Reduction (also source control) – The technique of stopping and/or reducing pollutants at their point of generation so that they do not come into contact with stormwater.

Storm Drains – Above- and below-ground structures for transporting stormwater to streams or outfalls for flood control purposes.

Stormwater – Defined as urban runoff and snowmelt runoff consisting only of those discharges, which originate from precipitation events. Stormwater is that portion of precipitation that flows across a surface to the storm drain system or receiving waters.

Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) – Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State. SCMs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control facility site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

Stormwater Discharge Associated with Industrial Activity – Discharge from any conveyance which is used for collecting and conveying stormwater from an area that is

directly related to manufacturing, processing, or raw materials storage activities at an industrial plant.

Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) – A comprehensive program to manage the quality of storm water discharged from the municipal separate storm sewer system.

Stormwater Pollutant Control Plan (SWPCP) – A less formal plan than the SWPPP that addresses the implementation of BMPs at facilities/businesses not covered by a general permit but that have the potential to discharge pollutants.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) – A written plan that documents the series of phases and activities that, first, characterizes your site, and then prompts you to select and carry out actions which prevent the pollution of stormwater discharges.

Surface Water - All lakes, bays, rivers, streams, springs, ponds, impounding reservoirs, wetlands, swamps, marshes, water sources, drainage systems and other surface water, natural or artificial, public or private, within the state or under its jurisdiction that are not part of a treatment system allowed by state law, regulation, or permit.

Time-weighted Composite - A composite sample consisting of a mixture of equal volume aliquots collected at a constant time interval.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) – Water quality assessments that determine the source or sources of pollutants of concern for a particular water body, consider the maximum amounts of pollutants the water body can assimilate, and then allocate to each source a set level of pollutants that it is allowed to discharge (i.e. a “wasteload allocation”).

Toxicity – Adverse responses of organisms to chemicals or physical agents ranging from mortality to physiological responses such as impaired reproduction or growth anomalies.

Treatment Control BMPs – Treatment methods to remove pollutants from stormwater.

Turbidity – Describes the ability of light to pass through water. The cloudy appearance of water caused by suspended and colloidal matter (particles).

Type 1 Facilities – Municipal landfills; hazardous waste treatment, disposal and recovery facilities; facilities that are subject to EPCRA Title III, Section 313; and industrial facilities the permittee(s) determine are contributing a substantial pollutant loading to the MS4.

Type 2 Facilities – Other municipal wastes treatment, storage, or disposal facilities (e.g. POTWs, transfer stations, incinerators); and industrial or commercial facilities the permittee(s) believe are contributing pollutants to the MS4.

Waters of the State – For the purposes of the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, all surface waters within the state of Louisiana and, on the coastline of Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico, all surface waters extending there from three miles into the Gulf of Mexico. This includes all surface waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes wet meadows, playa lakes, natural ponds, impoundments of waters within the state of Louisiana otherwise defined as “waters of the United States in 40 CFR 122.2, and tributaries of all such waters. “Waters of the State” does not include waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.