



Media Release

State Water Board Adopts Industrial Storm Water Permit that Enhances Pollution Reduction and Increases Reuse of Storm Water Runoff

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Sacramento – Today, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) renewed a statewide stormwater permit to continue reducing the amount of pollution entering waterways during storm events in industrial areas.

The permit, required by federal law to be renewed every five years, is called the Industrial General Permit (IGP). It is a statewide general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit that regulates the discharge of storm water associated with industrial activity as required by the federal Clean Water Act.

Stormwater and urban runoff are significant sources of water pollution and can threaten aquatic life and public health.

“This newly reissued permit will better protect water quality so that chemicals, oil, and other contaminants do not get into local streams and water bodies where they can harm public health, and fish and wildlife,” said State Water Board Chair Felicia Marcus. “A lot of stakeholder collaboration was conducted during the development of this new permit to ensure the requirements are effective and do not unnecessarily burden businesses that do not have an impact on water quality. The State Water Board looks forward to continuing to work with permittees on effective implementation of this permit and to work with other stakeholders towards improved performance-based permits in the subsequent permit reissuance.”

Since 1992, the State Water Board has regulated the runoff and treatment of storm water from industrial, construction and municipal sources in California. The State Water Board is required to issue permits that are consistent with the NPDES storm water regulations adopted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act.

Background:

Common industrial sites that are regulated under this permit include manufacturing facilities, mining operations, disposal sites, recycling yards, and transportation facilities. On an individual basis, industries must use the best available technology specific to their activities, to reduce pollutants in their storm water discharges. In addition, they are required to develop a storm water pollution prevention plan and monitor their storm water discharges.





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The existing IGP has approximately 10,000 active permittees enrolled statewide. Those permittees will have continued regulatory coverage until the July 1, 2015, effective date of this new permit. The number of industrial permittees with full permit coverage is not expected to change under this updated permit. The updated permit does, however, require some additional facilities with industrial activities to notify the State Water Board that these activities are not exposed to rain water and will not discharge to nearby storm drains.

The Board Item is [here](#).

A fact sheet on this permit is [here](#).

For more information on this program, please [visit](#).

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