

## GLOSSARY

**Beneficial Uses** - The Uses of water of the state protected against degradation, such as domestic, municipal, agricultural and industrial supply; power generation; recreation; aesthetic enjoyment; navigation and preservation of fish and wildlife, and other aquatic resources or preserves.

**Catch Basin** - A catch basin (a.k.a., storm drain inlet) is an inlet to the storm drain system that typically includes a grate or curb inlet where storm water enters the catch basin and a sump to capture sediment, debris and associated pollutants. Catch basins act as pretreatment for other treatment practices by capturing large sediments. The performance of catch basins at removing sediment and other pollutants depends on the design of the catch basin (e.g., the size of the sump), and routine maintenance to retain the storage available in the sump to capture sediment.

**Common plan or development or sale** - USEPA regulations include the term "common plan of development or sale" to ensure that acreage within a common project does not artificially escape the permit requirements because construction activities are phased, split among smaller parcels, or completed by different owners/developers. In the absence of an exact definition of "common plan of development or sale," the State Water Board is required to exercise its regulatory discretion in providing a common sense interpretation of the term as it applies to construction projects and permit coverage. The common plan of development is generally a contiguous area where multiple, distinct construction activities may be taking place at different times under one plan. A plan is generally defined as any piece of documentation or physical demarcation that indicates that construction activities may occur on a common plot. Such documentation could consist of a tract map, parcel map, demolition plans, grading plans, or contract documents. Any of these documents could delineate the boundaries of a common plan area. However, broad planning documents, such as land use master plans, conceptual master plans, or broad-based CEQA or NEPA documents that identify potential projects for an agency or facility are not considered common plans of development. An overbroad interpretation of the term would render meaningless the clear "one acre" federal permitting threshold and would potentially trigger permitting of almost any construction activity that occurs within an area that had previously received area-wide utility or road improvements.

**Community Based Social Marketing (CBSM)** - A systematic way to change the behavior of communities to reduce their impact on the environment. Realizing that simply providing information is usually not sufficient to initiate behavior change, CBSM uses tools and findings from social psychology to discover the perceived barriers to behavior change and ways of overcoming these barriers.

**Construction Site** - Any project, including projects requiring coverage under the General Construction Permit, that involves soil disturbing activities including, but not limited to, clearing, grading, paving, disturbances to ground such as stockpiling, and excavation.

**Discharger** - Any responsible party or site owner or operator within the Permittees' jurisdiction whose site discharges storm water runoff, or a non-storm water discharge.

**Detached Single-family Home Project** - The building of one single new house or the addition and/or replacement of impervious surface associated with one single existing house, which is not part of a larger plan of development.

**Dry Weather** – Refers to season where prolonged dry periods occur; in California's Mediterranean climate, it usually corresponds to the period between May and September.

**Erosion** - The physical detachment of soil due to wind or water. Often the detached fine soil fraction becomes a pollutant transported storm water runoff. Erosion occurs naturally, but can be accelerated by land disturbance and grading activities such as farming, development, road building, and timber harvesting.

**Erosion Control Measures** – Measures used to minimize soil detachment. These may include:

- Vegetation, either undisturbed or planted (e.g., grasses, wildflowers), and
- other materials, such as
  - straw (applied over bare soil, crimped into soil);
  - protective erosion control blankets;
  - fiber (applied as mulch or hydromulch); and
  - mulch (avoid plastics if possible).

**Sediment Control Measures** – Measures used to trap and/or retain detached soil before discharging to receiving waters. These may include:

- fiber rolls (e.g., keyed-in straw wattles, compost rolls);
- silt fence;
- retention basins; and
- active treatment systems.

**Flood management facilities** – Facilities or structures designed for the explicit purpose of controlling flood waters safely in or around populated areas. (e.g., dams, levees, bypass areas).

**Grading** - The cutting and/or filling of the land surface to a desired slope or elevation.

**Healthy Watershed** - Healthy watersheds are watersheds that function well ecologically and are sustainable. They support healthy, diverse aquatic habitat, have healthy riparian areas and corridors with sufficient vegetative buffer area to minimize land pollutant runoff into surface waters, sufficient cover and canopy to maintain healthy habitat, and have near natural levels of sediment transport. Surface waters meet water quality objectives, and sediments are sufficiently low in pollutants to provide for healthy habitat. Groundwaters are near natural levels in quantity and quality, for water supply purposes and for base flow for sustaining creek habitat and migratory fish routes. A Healthy Watershed sustains these characteristics through measures that ensure the dynamics that provide these healthy factors and functions are protected. For example, watersheds must be protected, through low impact development or other forms of protection, from hydromodification that adversely affects recharge areas' function or creeks' bed or bank stability. Creek buffer/riparian areas must be protected from land disturbance activities. Healthy sustainable watersheds use less energy for imported water, have fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and a lesser carbon footprint than unhealthy watersheds.

**Hotspot** - Hotspots are specific operations and areas in a sub watershed that may generate high storm water pollution.

**Hydromodification** - Modification of hydrologic pathways (precipitation, surface runoff, infiltration, groundwater flow, return flow, surface-water storage, groundwater storage, evaporation and transpiration) that results in negative impacts to watershed health and functions.

**Illicit Discharge** - Any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer (storm drain) system (MS4) that is prohibited under local, state, or federal statutes, ordinances, codes, or regulations. The term illicit discharge includes all non-storm water discharges not composed entirely of storm water and discharges that are identified under the Discharge Prohibitions section of this General Permit. The term illicit discharge does not include discharges that are regulated by an NPDES permit (other than the NPDES permit for discharges from the MS4).

**Impervious Surface** - A surface covering or pavement of a developed parcel of land that prevents the land's natural ability to absorb and infiltrate rainfall/storm water. Impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to; roof tops, walkways, patios, driveways, parking lots, storage areas, impervious concrete and asphalt, and any other continuous watertight pavement or covering. Landscaped soil and pervious pavement, including pavers with pervious openings and seams, underlain with pervious soil or pervious storage material, such as a gravel layer sufficient to hold the specified volume of rainfall runoff are not impervious surfaces.

**Industrial Development** - Development or redevelopment of property to be used for industrial purposes, such as factories, manufacturing buildings, and research and development parks.

**Infill site** - A site in an urbanized area where the immediately adjacent parcels are developed with one or more qualified urban uses or at least 75% of the perimeter of the site adjoins parcels that are developed with qualified urban uses and the remaining 25% of the site adjoins parcels that have previously been developed for qualified urban uses and no parcel within the site has been created within the past 10 years.

**Joint Storm Water Treatment Facility** - A storm water treatment facility built to treat the combined runoff from two or more Regulated Projects.

**Low Impact Development** - a sustainable practice that benefits water supply and contributes to water quality protection. Unlike traditional storm water management, which collects and conveys storm water runoff through storm drains, pipes, or other conveyances to a centralized storm water facility, Low Impact Development (LID) takes a different approach by using site design and storm water management to maintain the site's pre-development runoff rates and volumes. The goal of LID is to mimic a site's predevelopment hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to the source of rainfall. LID has been a proven approach in other parts of the country and is seen in California as an alternative to conventional storm water management.

**Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP)** - The minimum required performance standard for implementation of municipal storm water management programs to reduce pollutants in storm water. Clean Water Act § 402(p)(3)(B)(iii) requires that municipal permits "shall require 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 the cumulative effect of implementing, evaluating, and making corresponding changes to a variety of technically appropriate and economically feasible BMPs, ensuring that the most appropriate controls are implemented in the most effective manner. This process of implementing, evaluating, revising, or adding new BMPs is commonly referred to as the iterative process.

**Mixed-use Development or Redevelopment** - Development or redevelopment of property to be used for two or more different uses, all intended to be harmonious and complementary. An example is a high-rise building with retail shops on the first 2 floors, office space on floors 3 through 10, apartments on the next 10 floors, and a restaurant on the top floor.

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** - The regulatory definition of an MS4 (40 CFR 122.26(b)(8)) is "a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains): (i) Owned or operated by a state, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created to or pursuant to state law) including special districts under state law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the Clean Water Act that discharges into waters of the United States. (ii) Designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water; (iii) Which is not a combined sewer; and (iv) Which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR 122.2."

In practical terms, operators of MS4s can include municipalities and local sewer districts, state and federal departments of transportation, public universities, public hospitals, military bases, and correctional facilities. The Storm water Phase II Rule added federal systems, such as military bases and correctional facilities by including them in the definition of small MS4s

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** - A national program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements, under sections 307, 402, 318, and 405 of the CWA.

**New Development** - New Development means land disturbing activities; structural development, including construction or installation of a building or structure, creation of impervious surfaces; and land subdivision on an area that has not been previously developed.

**Non-Traditional Small MS4** - Federal and State operated facilities that can include universities, prisons, hospitals, military bases (e.g. State Army National Guard barracks, parks and office building complexes.)

**Notice of Intent (NOI)** - The application form by which dischargers seek coverage under General Permits, unless the General Permit requires otherwise.

**Open Channel** - Flow within a distinct natural or modified channel, calculated as flow velocity times channel cross-sectional area.

**Parking Lot** - Land area or facility for the parking or storage of motor vehicles used for business, commerce, industry, or personal use.

**Permittee/Permittees** - Municipal agency/agencies and Non-traditional Small MS4s that are named in and subject to the requirements of this General Permit.

**Permit Effective Date** - The date at least 50 days after General Permit adoption, provided the Regional Administrator of U.S. EPA Region 9 has no objection.

**Pervious Pavement** - Pavement that stores and infiltrates rainfall at a rate that exceeds conventional pavement.

**Point Source** - Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operations, landfill leachate collection systems, 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 storm water runoff.

**Pollutants of Concern** - Pollutants of concern found in urban runoff include sediments, non-sediment solids, nutrients, pathogens, oxygen-demanding substances, petroleum hydrocarbons, heavy metals, floatables, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), trash, and pesticides and herbicides.

**Potable Water** - Water that is safe for domestic use, drinking, and cooking.

**QAPrP** - Quality Assurance Project Plan

**Receiving Water** – Surface water that receives regulated and unregulated discharges from activities on land.

**Redevelopment** - Land-disturbing activity that results in the creation, addition, or replacement of exterior impervious surface area on a site on which some past development has occurred.

**Regulated Project** – Refers to projects subject to the new and redevelopment standards in Section E.11 in this Order.

**Regulated Small MS4** - A Small MS4 that discharges to a water of the United States (U.S.) or to another MS4 regulated by an NPDES permit.

**Residential Housing Subdivision** - Any property development of multiple single-family homes or of dwelling units intended for multiple families/households (e.g., apartments, condominiums, and town homes).

**Retrofitting** - Improving pollution and/or flow control at existing developments and facilities to protect or restore beneficial uses and watershed functions.

**Riparian Areas** – plant communities contiguous to and affected by surface and subsurface hydrologic features of perennial or intermittent waterbodies. Riparian areas have one or both of the following characteristics: 1) distinctively different vegetative species than adjacent areas, and 2) species similar to adjacent areas but exhibiting more vigorous or robust growth forms. Riparian areas are usually transitional between wetland and upland.

**Sediments** - Solid particulate matter, both mineral and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, gravity, or ice and has come to rest on the earth's surface either above or below sea level.

**Sensitive Waterbody** - Receiving waters which are a priority to protect. They include: 1) Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS), 2) areas providing or known to provide habitat for chinook and coho salmon and steelhead, and 3) beaches that serve more than 50,000 people between April 1 and October 31 and are adjacent to flowing storm drains or creeks.

**Small MS4** – An MS4 that is not permitted under the municipal Phase I regulations, and which is “owned or operated by the United States, a State, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law) having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, storm water, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity....” (40 CFR §122.26(b)(16)).

**Solid Waste** - All putrescible and nonputrescible solid, semisolid, and liquid wastes as defined by California Government Code Section 68055.1(h).

**Source Control** - Land use or site planning practices, or structural or nonstructural measures, that aim to prevent runoff pollution by reducing the potential for contact with rainfall runoff at the source of pollution. Source control BMPs minimize the contact between pollutants and urban runoff.

**Surface Drainage** - any above-ground runoff (sheet, shallow concentrated, and open channel) that flows into the storm drain system.

**Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)** - A federal system for classifying establishments by the type of activity, in which they are engaged, using a four-digit code.

**Storm Drain System** - The basic infrastructure in a municipal separate storm sewer system that collects and conveys storm water runoff to a treatment facility or receiving water body.

**Storm Water** – Storm water is generated when precipitation from rain and snowmelt events flows over land or impervious surfaces and does not percolate into the ground. As storm water flows over the land or impervious surfaces, it accumulates debris, chemicals, sediment or other pollutants that could adversely affect water quality if the storm water is discharged untreated.

**Storm Water Treatment System** - Any engineered system designed to remove pollutants from storm water runoff by settling, filtration, biological degradation, plant uptake, media absorption/adsorption or other physical, biological, or chemical process. This includes landscape-based systems such as grassy swales and bioretention units as well as proprietary systems.

**Subwatershed** – an area approximately 10,000 to 40,000 acres in area identified by Hydrologic Unit Code 12 in the federal Watershed Boundary Dataset.

**Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)** - The State Water Board's program to monitor surface water quality; coordinate consistent scientific methods; and design strategies for improving water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting.

**Time of Concentration** – the time it takes the most hydraulically-remote drop of water to travel through the watershed to a specific point of interest.

**Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)** - The maximum amount of a pollutant that can be discharged into a waterbody from all sources (point and nonpoint) and still maintain water quality standards. Under CWA section 303(d), TMDLs must be developed for all waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards even after application of technology-based controls, more stringent effluent limitations required by a state or local authority, and other pollution control requirements such as BMPs.

**Trash and Debris** - Trash consists of litter and particles of litter. California Government Code Section 68055.1 (g) defines litter as all improperly discarded waste material, including, but not limited to, convenience food, beverage, and other product packages or containers constructed of steel, aluminum, glass, paper, plastic and other natural and synthetic materials, thrown or deposited on the lands and waters of the state, but not including the properly discarded waste of the primary processing of agriculture, mining, logging, sawmilling, or manufacturing.

**Treatment** - Any method, technique, or process designed to remove pollutants and/or solids from polluted storm water runoff, wastewater, or effluent.

**Waste Load Allocation** -The portion of a receiving water's total maximum daily load that is allocated to one of its existing or future point sources of pollution. Waste load allocations constitute a type of water quality-based effluent limitation.

**Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance** - The Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 2.7 of the California Code of Regulations) took effect January 1 2010 and is designed to: (1) promote the values and benefits of landscapes while recognizing the need to invest water and other resources as efficiently as possible; (2) establish a structure for planning, designing, installing, maintaining and managing water efficient landscapes in new construction

and rehabilitated projects; (3) establish provisions for water management practices and water waste prevention for existing landscapes; (4) use water efficiently without waste by setting a Maximum Applied Water Allowance as an upper limit for water use and reduce water use to the lowest practical amount; (5) promote the benefits of consistent landscape ordinances with neighboring local and regional agencies; (6) encourage local agencies and water purveyors to use economic incentives that promote the efficient use of water, such as implementing a tiered-rate structure; and (7) encourage local agencies to designate the necessary authority that implements and enforces the provisions of the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance or its local landscape ordinance.

**Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan)** –The Regional Water Board’s master water quality control planning document. It designates beneficial uses and water quality objectives for waters of the State within each Region, including surface waters and groundwater. It also includes programs of implementation to achieve water quality objectives and discharge prohibitions. Basin Plans are adopted and approved by the State Water Board, U.S. EPA, and the Office of Administrative Law where required.

**Water Quality Objectives** - The limits or levels of water quality elements or biological characteristics established to reasonably protect the beneficial uses of water or to prevent pollution problems within a specific area. Water quality objectives may be numeric or narrative.

**Water Quality Standards** - State-adopted and USEPA-approved water quality standards for waterbodies. The standards prescribe the use of the waterbody and establish the water quality criteria that must be met to protect designated uses. Water quality standards also include the federal and state anti-degradation policy.

**Watershed Processes** – Functions that are provided by watersheds, including but not limited to, groundwater recharge, sediment supply and delivery, streamflow, and aquatic habitat.