

Frequently Asked Questions (SUSMP & LID)

1. *Why do I have to use BMPs, LID, and hydromodification management practices for my project?*
 - In January 2007, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board reissued a municipal Stormwater NPDES permits to the San Diego Area municipal Copermittees. The reissued permit updates and expands stormwater requirements for new developments and redevelopments, including requirements for LID, BMPs, and HMP.
Web link to this Order:
http://www.projectcleanwater.org/pdf/permit_r9-2007-0001.pdf
2. *Who does the permit apply to?*
 - This NPDES permit applies to all Copermittee dischargers (i.e. the County for unincorporated areas and the municipalities for incorporated areas), who own or operate a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), that discharges urban runoff into waters of the United States within the San Diego Region.

Low Impact Development (LID)

3. *What is LID?*
 - An integrated site design methodology that uses small-scale detention and retention (Integrated Management Practices, or Integrated Management Plans) to mimic pre-existing site hydrological conditions.
4. *What are some of the types?*
 - A landscaped area or a grassy swale receiving sheet flow from adjacent parking lot, driveway or a road.
 - A bioretention facility that receives runoff, filters it through plant roots and a biologically active soil mix, and then infiltrates it into the ground.
 - A parking lot surfaced by permeable pavement.
 - Any natural filtering media of soil and vegetation strategically located between a pollution generating development and receiving water body.
 - A planter area receiving rooftop runoff.
 - A Dry Well which is a prefabricated structure such as an open-bottomed vault or box used mainly in areas where infiltration basins are not feasible due to land use or availability.
 - A cistern is an above-ground storage used where space is limited and placed in series with a bioretention facility and together can meet the treatment requirements.
5. *Where can I get more information?*
 - County of San Diego's LID Handbook:
<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/procguid.html#hydro>
 - San Diego County SUSMP:
<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/susmp/susmp.html>
 - Low Impact Development Center:
<http://lowimpactdevelopment.org/bigbox/>
 - City of Portland, OR. 2004 Stormwater Management Manual:
<http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=35122>

BMP (Best Management Practices)

6. *What is a BMP?*
 - Any procedure or device designed to prevent or minimize the quantity of pollutants that enter the storm drain system.

7. *What are the different types of BMPs that might be required for my project?*
 - Site Design: A project design feature that reduces the amount of impervious surfaces, disconnects impervious surfaces, reduces creation or severity of potential pollutant sources and/or reduces the alteration of the project site's natural flow regime.
 - Source Control: Structural or nonstructural measures that reduce the potential for pollution at the source, such as roof structures over trash or material storage areas, and berms around fuel dispensing areas.
 - Treatment Control BMP: Any engineered system designed and constructed to remove pollutants from runoff. Treatment control BMPs that take into account low impact development practices including integrated site design methodology that uses small-scale detention and retention to mimic pre-existing site hydrological conditions are often referred to as Integrated Management Practices, or IMPs.

8. *Where can I get more information?*
 - County of San Diego's Watershed Protection Homepage:
<http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds.htm/>

Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP)

9. *Where can I find the most current SUSMP documents (e.g. Major SWMP, Minor SWMP)?*
 - County of San Diego's SUSMP page:
<http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/susmp/susmp.html>

10. *Will there be a change to this document in the future?*
 - Yes, the Model SUSMP would be the countywide template for future changes, the San Diego County SUSMP would be updated to reflect changes to this document:
http://www.projectcleanwater.org/pdf/susmp/susmp_model_02-09-10_ver.pdf

11. *Will my project be grandfathered from changing Stormwater documents and regulations?*
 - Private project may be grandfathered if they meet these general guidelines;
 - ✓ If your project has a prior lawful approval (such as a development agreement, vested tentative map, or a building or grading permit) or has started construction before the stormwater document implementation date. Please verify with your County DPW project manager who will confirm with County Counsel.

Treatment Control BMP

12. What is a Treatment Control BMP?

- Any engineered system designed and constructed to remove pollutants from urban runoff. Pollutant removal is achieved by simple gravity settling of particulate pollutants, filtration, biological uptake, media adsorption or any other physical, biological, or chemical process.

13. What are some types of Treatment Control BMPs?

- Biofilters, Detention Basins, Infiltration Facilities, Wet Ponds and Wetlands, Filtration Systems, Hydrodynamic Separation Systems, Trash Racks and Screens.

14. Where can I get more information?

- County of San Diego's SUSMP:
<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/susmp/susmp.html>
- Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbook :
http://www.caltrans.ca.gov/hq/oppd/stormwtr/Final-PPDG_Master_Document-6-04-07.pdf
- California Stormwater Quality New Development Handbook:
<http://www.cabmphandbooks.com/Development.asp>

Storm Water Management Plan (SMWP)

15. What is a SWMP?

- A process to address stormwater quality at the earliest stage of the project application process, which includes detailing post-construction BMPs early in the design process, construction BMPs, and the implementation of a long-term post-construction maintenance program. A key element of the process is the selection of BMPs.

16. What is the SWMP intake form?

- A one-sheet form that determines if your project is a "Priority Development Project" which will determine whether or not Major or Minor SWMP form should be completed. The SWMP intake form is found at:
http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/susmp/susmppdf/susmp_appendix_b.pdf

17. What is the difference between a Major SWMP and a Minor SWMP?

- A Priority Development Project requires a Major SWMP; all other projects require a Minor SWMP. A Major SWMP project requires measures that satisfy section D.1.d of the County of San Diego's MS4 Permit (see Page 17 of this Order at:
http://www.projectcleanwater.org/pdf/permit_r9-2007-0001.pdf). A Minor SWMP details the requirements of a project that is not considered a Priority Development Project.

18. What is a Priority Development Project?

- In addition to the list provided in the Order as mentioned above, the SUSMP also has the various categories of Priority Development Project on page 5, Table 1-1 found at:
http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/susmp/susmppdf/susmp_manual.pdf

19. *How can I get the most current SWMP forms?*

- The most current Major and Minor SWMP forms can be found at this link:

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/susmp/susmp.html>

Drainage Design Manual - County of San Diego

20. *Is it available on-line?*

- YES, here is the link:

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/floodcontrol/drainage.html>

Hydrology Manual - County of San Diego

21. *Is it available on-line?*

- YES, here is the link:

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/floodcontrol/hydrologymanual.html>

Your (applicant or engineer's) suggestions – Where can I send my suggestions or comments to?

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