



county of san diego



# detention BMPs

**Stormwater Structural Best Management Practices (BMPs) are installed on certain properties across the County in order to help prevent pollutants such as trash, fertilizers, pesticides, and sediment from making their way into storm drains and ultimately to our local creeks, rivers, and ocean. Your property is one of hundreds across the County with at least one BMP.**

## *BMPs Keep Our Waterways Clean*

Your BMPs are designed to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff generated by your property to the maximum extent practicable. As an owner of one of these properties, County regulations require you to **perform routine inspections and maintenance actions** to ensure that your BMPs are operating effectively.

**Our records indicate that you have at least one detention BMP on your property.** To help you maintain this BMP, the **County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program** is providing you with this informational flyer to answer questions you may have about BMPs and how to maintain them.



thank you for doing  
your part to

protect our  
waterways

## *How Your Detention BMP Works*

Detention BMPs protect against flooding by temporarily staging stormwater runoff on your property prior to its discharge to the local storm drain system. While staged stormwater runoff is held in your BMP, pollutants within it settle to the basin floor, and the remaining water is slowly discharged to the storm drain system. Detention BMPs tend to be low-lying areas where stormwater runoff pools for a period of time, and are typically dry except in times of heavy rainfall.



# detention BMPs

## *Find And Maintain Your BMP*



To find your detention BMP, look for a low-lying area where water accumulates after rainfall. There may be a storm drain inlet in the center of the area depending on what type of detention basin you have.

Once you have found your detention BMP, it is important to maintain it. Keeping the detention BMP in working condition helps keep our local waterways clean. Below are a few maintenance tasks to perform:

- **Remove any litter or debris accumulating in the basin, or in the areas near inlets and outlets.**
- **Trim overgrown vegetation prior to the wet season (October 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>).**
- **Fill holes where water can stand for longer than 96 hours (this will reduce potential mosquito habitats).**
- **Repair eroded areas on basin floors and slopes.**
- **Do not obstruct any existing curb cuts or divert flow away from the BMP.**

For a list of other tasks, refer to the maintenance verification form or maintenance plans from your housing developer.

Every year the Watershed Protection Program will send you a maintenance verification form for you to complete, sign, and return to the County. This form is used to verify that necessary maintenance has been completed for your BMP.

Failure to conduct needed maintenance of your BMPs may initiate an enforcement investigation or a follow up inspection.



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*For Questions, Contact Us At:*

**Watershed Protection Program**

**1-858-495-5323**

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<http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/DevelopmentandConstruction/S-BMPs.html>

