

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Privately Owned Stormwater Treatment Control BMP Operation and Maintenance Verification

What is the Municipal Storm Water Permit?

The Municipal Storm Water Permit, Order No. R9-2013-0001, was adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board--San Diego Region on May 8, 2013. This permit is based on the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), the state Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and other applicable state and federal regulations. The Municipal Storm Water Permit includes requirements to improve the quality of storm water that drains to our waterways (lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, creeks, bays, estuaries, coastal lagoons, and the Pacific Ocean). As a result of directives contained in the Municipal Storm Water Permit, the County of San Diego has revised the County of San Diego Watershed Protection, Stormwater Management, and Discharge Control Ordinance ("The WPO") to implement requirements of the Municipal Storm Water Permit.

What is a treatment control BMP?

Treatment control best management practices (TCBMPs) are facilities and structures that help to prevent pollutants (e.g., trash, oil and grease, heavy metals) in developed areas from entering our storm drains and impacting our waterways. These engineered structures remove certain pollutants from stormwater leaving your property. Treatment control BMPs require routine inspections and maintenance to ensure they are operating effectively. The continued operation and maintenance of privately owned TCBMPs is the responsibility of the property owner.

What does the Municipal Stormwater Permit and the WPO require me to do?

This legislation requires that you maintain your TCBMP as long as you own it and keep records of the inspection and maintenance. These records must be provided annually to the department's Watershed Protection Program. Every year program staff will send you a checklist to complete, sign, and mail back verifying that maintenance has been done for that year. Additionally, upon sale of the property you are required to disclose these responsibilities to the buyer.

How can I find out what type of maintenance my TCBMPs require?

For commercially sold TCBMPs, additional product-specific information can be obtained from the manufacturer. For non-proprietary TCBMPs (e.g., grass swales), additional information can be obtained from the California Storm Water Quality Association (CASQA) "New Development and Redevelopment Handbook," available at <https://www.casqa.org/resources/bmp-handbooks/new-development-redevelopment-bmp-handbook>, Section 5, Treatment Control BMPs.

How can I find information about TCBMPs on my property?

Our records are based on our inventory of all privately-owned TCBMPs in the County of San Diego. Our inventory is based on review of grading permits closed since 2002 and associated grading plans and Storm Water Management Plans (SWMPs). For specific information about the TCBMP(s) on your property, you may contact:

Richard Diaz, Program Coordinator
Watershed Protection Program
County of San Diego—Public Works

(858) 495-5298
Richard.diaz@sdcounty.ca.gov

OR

The Regional Stormwater Hotline at (888) 846-0800 or at watersheds@sdcounty.ca.gov