



STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (SWMP)

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

FACT SHEET #2

SPRING 2004

STORM WATER POLLUTION

Storm water is rainfall that passes over the land before draining into creeks, rivers, bays, and oceans.

The storm water flow - also called storm water runoff - picks up pollutants as it travels over the land. Pollutants include litter, sediment, petroleum products, pesticides, heavy metals and toxic organic compounds from automobile emissions, and pet waste, to name just a few. These pollutants impair water quality, damage aquatic ecosystems, and compromise the recreational benefits that the waterbodies provide.

What is the SWMP?

The City and County of San Francisco has prepared a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) which describes measures that the City will take to minimize storm water pollution. The SWMP is required by State National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II regulations which became effective in March 2003.

What parts of the City fall under this plan?

The SWMP only applies to areas of the City that are served by separate storm and sewer systems - these are areas where the water that goes down storm drains discharges directly into water bodies, such as San Francisco Bay, the Pacific Ocean, and local lakes.

The majority of San Francisco is served by a combined sewer and storm system, where combined sewers collect and transport storm water in the same pipes as sewage. Therefore, the only areas in San Francisco to which the SWMP applies are currently:

- Lake Merced
- Lobos Creek
- Stow Lake, Middle Lake and Elk Glen Lake in Golden Gate Park
- Pine Lake in Stern Grove

In the future, Treasure Island, Mission Bay and Hunters Point Shipyard will also be included in the City's SWMP if and when the City assumes jurisdiction over these areas.

The Port of San Francisco and South Beach Harbor also fall under these "Phase II" regulations, however, the Port of San Francisco will develop and implement their own Plan for these areas that are under the control of Port management.

Storm Water Management Plan Programs

What types of storm water pollution programs will the City implement?

There are six program areas that must be included by the City in the Storm Water Management Plan:

Public Education	The City must educate the public about the importance of the storm water program and the public's role in preventing pollution of storm water runoff.
Public Involvement/ Public Participation	Interested parties are invited to contribute to developing the storm water management plan.
Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination	The City must adopt and enforce ordinances or take equivalent measures to find and prevent the illegal discharge to the storm water system of pollutants such as petroleum products, cleaning compounds and pesticides.
Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations	The City must examine its activities and develop a program to prevent the discharge of pollutants from these activities. At a minimum, the program must educate staff on pollution prevention and minimize pollutant sources.
Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control	The City must develop a program to control the discharge of pollutants from construction sites greater than one acre in size.
Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment	The City must require that development and redevelopment projects include long-term best management practices (BMPs) that protect water quality control runoff flow.

What changes will the SWMP bring about?

The following are some of the changes that will be brought about in the areas of San Francisco covered by the Storm Water Management Plan, through programs implemented by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Water Pollution Prevention Program.

- ❖ A new, more visible storm drain marker program that will discourage illegal dumping and promote the theme of "Only Rain Down the Drain."
- ❖ Increased education of residents about reporting illegal dumping activities to 695-2020 and an improved complaint response system by City departments.
- ❖ More oversight of construction projects in affected areas to minimize contamination of storm water with sediment and other construction site wastes. The theme of this program will be "Keep It On Site."
- ❖ More pet waste stations and solid waste receptacles in affected areas of the City, where needed.
- ❖ Improved storm water pollution prevention signage (e.g., no dumping, information on where to properly dispose of materials, etc.) in affected areas.
- ❖ Ongoing communication and meetings with interested citizens and organizations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED:

Go to <http://stormwater.sfwater.org> OR contact
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