

CHAPTER F

Maintenance Stormwater Management Program

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F.01 Introduction

F.01.01 Chapter Content and Resources

This chapter contains information relevant to the Maintenance Stormwater Management Program.

The Headquarters Division of Maintenance and District Maintenance Divisions (referred to herein as Maintenance) are responsible for the care and upkeep of State highways. Maintenance performs activities that may impact the water quality of groundwater and surface waters.

On June 22, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) reissued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to regulate stormwater discharges from properties, facilities, and activities effective January 1, 2023¹. The NPDES Permit requires Caltrans to implement a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) that describes the programs and practices proposed to reduce or eliminate the discharge of pollutants to storm drains and receiving waters. The Maintenance Stormwater Management Program is the component of the SWMP that:

- Defines and implements Maintenance Best Management Practices (BMPs) to ensure all Division of Maintenance facilities and personnel activities on State highways and Caltrans' right-of-way are compliant with NPDES Permit requirements.
- Manages potential discharge of stormwater pollutants from accidental spills, illegal connections, illicit discharges, and illegal dumping within Caltrans right-of-way.
- Maintains stormwater treatment BMPs, including tracking field maintenance records and costs.
- Identifies the needs for BMP repairs, rehabilitation, and retrofits beyond field forces capability
- Conducts periodic erosion inspection and scheduled repairs of State highway vegetated slopes.

It is the policy of Caltrans that the Division of Maintenance will:

- Implement the Maintenance Stormwater Management Program described in the Statewide Stormwater Management Plan, provided on the Stormwater Reports intranet site.
- Implement the BMPs as defined in the Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbook Maintenance Staff Guide, provided on the Stormwater Management Program intranet site.
- Follow all applicable State and federal laws and regulations regarding water quality including all court orders and consent decrees.
- Meet all requirements of Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and SWRCB permits and orders.

¹ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/caltrans/2022/unofficial_adopted_order.pdf

Maintenance will adapt its program to meet changes in law and to keep current as new technologies are developed.

This chapter provides an overview of policies, expectations, and strategies regarding the Maintenance Stormwater Management Program. For additional information, refer to the following reference resources:

Caltrans Maintenance Policy Directives (MPD): [Maintenance Policy Directives | Maintenance \(ca.gov\)](#)

Caltrans National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Statewide Stormwater Permit²: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/stormwater-management-program/stormwater-reports>

Caltrans Statewide Trash Implementation Plan: <https://env.onramp.dot.ca.gov/sw/trash-implementation-plan>

Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbook – Maintenance Staff Guide: <https://env.onramp.dot.ca.gov/sw/Caltrans-stormwater-quality-handbook-maintenance-staff-guide>

District Maintenance Stormwater Coordinator List: <https://maintenance.onramp.dot.ca.gov/maintstormenvcomp/stormwater-compliance-program>

District NPDES Coordinator Handbook: [District NPDES Coordinator Handbook | Environmental Analysis \(ca.gov\)](#)

Illegal Connection/Illicit Discharge (IC/ID) and Illegal Dumping Response Plan: [IC/ID and Illegal Dumping Response Plan | Environmental Analysis \(ca.gov\)](#)

Office of Maintenance Stormwater and Environmental Compliance (OMSWEC): [Maintenance Stormwater & Environmental Compliance | Maintenance \(ca.gov\)](#)

Standard Plans: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/ccs-standard-plans-and-standard-specifications>

State Water Resources Control Board website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/caltrans.shtml

Stormwater Reports (Statewide Stormwater Management Plan): <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/stormwater-management-program/stormwater-reports>

Stormwater Management Program: [Stormwater Management Program | Caltrans](#)

² Referred to as NPDES Permit throughout this chapter.

F.01.02 Definitions

ASBS - Areas of Special Biological Significance
BMP - Best Management Practices
CDFW – California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDPH – California Department of Public Health
CDPR – California Department of Pesticide Regulation
CHP – California Highway Patrol
CWA – Clean Water Act
DEA – Division of Environmental Analysis
DMSWC - District Maintenance Stormwater Coordinator
DTSC - Department of Toxic Substances Control
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
FPPP – Facility Pollution Prevention Plans
IC/ID – Illegal Connection/Illicit Discharge
IMMS - Integrated Maintenance Management System
IQA – Independent Quality Assurance
MEP – Maximum Extent Practicable
MS4 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
NPDES - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OMSWEC – Office of Maintenance Stormwater and Environmental Compliance
RWQCB – Regional Water Quality Control Board, also known as Regional Board
STGA – Significant Trash Generating Areas
SWMP- Stormwater Management Plan. (Attachment C to Caltrans Statewide Permit)
SWRCB - State Water Resources Control Board, also known as State Water Board
TBMP – Treatment Best Management Practices
TMDL -Total Maximum Daily Loads

F.01.03 References and Hyperlinks

There are hyperlinked resource materials identified within this chapter. If any hyperlink is not accessible, please notify the appropriate personnel to inquire about that resource or reference.

F.01.04 Chapter Contact

This chapter of the Maintenance Manual is maintained by the Division of Maintenance, Office of Maintenance Stormwater and Environmental Compliance.

F.02 Responsible Parties

In conjunction with the Division of Environmental Analysis (DEA), the Division of Maintenance is responsible for the development and update of the Maintenance Staff Guide. The Maintenance Staff Guide is the guidance document that provides detailed descriptions of BMPs for NPDES Permit and SWMP compliance in maintenance activities, and instructions for implementation of these practices in the districts.

The Division of Maintenance is responsible for coordinating with the DEA, the designated lead for Caltrans stormwater program development and implementation, to ensure that this chapter and other Maintenance Stormwater Management Program documents are not in conflict with overall Caltrans policy.

The following persons are responsible for implementing the Division of Maintenance Stormwater Management Program policy:

The **Chief, Division of Maintenance**, is responsible for statewide implementation of policies and procedures, and the personnel and equipment of the Maintenance Division. This includes ensuring compliance with all elements of the Statewide SWMP required by the Maintenance Division and approval of new maintenance BMPs.

The **Chief, Office of Maintenance Stormwater and Environmental Compliance** (Chief, OMSWEC) is the liaison with Headquarters Environmental Division. The Chief OMSWEC provides guidance to District NPDES and District Maintenance Stormwater Coordinators regarding water quality issues. The Chief OMSWEC is responsible for overseeing development of stormwater guidance documents used by Maintenance.

The Districts are responsible for implementing the SWMP within the district and complying with the NPDES Permit and any RWQCB-specific requirements.

Deputy District Directors, Maintenance, are responsible for the implementation of the policies, procedures, personnel, and equipment of the Maintenance Stormwater Management Program within their respective districts. This includes ensuring compliance with all elements of the SWMP required to be implemented by the District Maintenance Divisions. The Deputy District Director, Maintenance provides direct supervision to the Maintenance Region Managers.

Maintenance Region Managers, direct Maintenance activities within regions or programs of a district. Each region is subdivided into Maintenance areas. The Maintenance Region Manager provides direct supervision to the Maintenance Area Superintendent within each region or program.

Maintenance Area Superintendents, direct Maintenance activities within Maintenance areas, and provide direction to Maintenance Supervisors. Maintenance areas contain multiple Maintenance facilities. The Superintendents are responsible for ensuring that Maintenance BMPs are implemented in their jurisdictions as follows:

- (A) Directing personnel or contractors to implement the Maintenance Stormwater Management Program requirements.
- (B) Assuring personnel under their supervision receive training on stormwater management practices.
- (C) Evaluating the performance of personnel with respect to stormwater management duties and responsibilities.

- (D) Reviewing the implementation and effectiveness of the Maintenance Stormwater Management Program BMPs.

Maintenance Supervisors are responsible for direct supervision of Maintenance crews. Supervisors provide on-the-job training for specific crew assignments, including compliance with water quality protection requirements. Supervisors have on-site responsibility for BMP implementation.

District NPDES Coordinators are responsible for ensuring that the Caltrans Stormwater Management Program requirements are implemented within their District. The NPDES role includes a variety of tasks, such as coordinating with Headquarters and other District functional units, reviewing regulatory and NPDES Permit compliance documents, tracking implementation data, and addressing other Stormwater Management Program requirements. For additional information related to the District NPDES Coordinator responsibilities, refer to the District NPDES Coordinator Handbook link provided in Section [F.01.01](#) of this chapter.

District Maintenance Stormwater Coordinators are established in each district. Districts have designated stormwater coordinators in other functional units such as, Environmental, Construction and Design. District Maintenance Stormwater Coordinator responsibilities include:

- (A) Serving as the point of contact for regulatory inquiries regarding implementation of the Maintenance Stormwater Management Program.
- (B) Reviewing proposed stormwater compliance programs for elements related to Maintenance activities.
- (C) Monitoring and evaluating BMPs implementation and effectiveness as related to Maintenance activities.
- (D) Participating in meetings related to stormwater management issues (e.g., nonfunctional BMPs which require repair, replacement, or retrofit) with stormwater coordinators from other functional units in the district to discuss problems and concerns, and areas that need attention.
- (E) Scheduling periodic training of maintenance personnel in stormwater quality management and BMP implementation.
- (F) Compiling and preparing materials and supporting data for the Division of Maintenance portion of the Caltrans Statewide Stormwater Management Program Annual Report to the SWRCB.
- (G) Developing and certifying new or revised Facility Pollution Prevention Plans (FPPP) to be compliant with NPDES Permit requirements.
- (H) Evaluating treatment BMPs and other stormwater elements of a project turned over to Maintenance by Construction upon 90% completion. New treatment BMPs are entered in the IMMS TBMP inventory for regular maintenance.

- (I) Reporting known IC/ID or illegal dumping issues to the District NPDES Coordinators and providing assistance as needed to resolve the issues.

District Hazardous Material Coordinators (also referred to as District Hazardous Material Managers) coordinate response to spills of hazardous substances on Caltrans right-of-way, and coordinates management of Caltrans-generated hazardous waste. The District Hazardous Material Coordinator is usually responsible for providing training information associated with hazardous materials and may be responsible to assist in implementing stormwater quality protection practices in the district.

District Landscape Specialists provide guidance regarding use of pesticides and chemical control of vegetation in field Maintenance operations. The Landscape Specialist is responsible for ensuring that all chemicals used in the district are approved by the responsible regulatory agencies.

Maintenance Leadworkers conduct tailgate meetings (in absence of the Maintenance Supervisor) to review environmental concerns, BMPs, and ensure that appropriate procedures are implemented during Maintenance activities.

Maintenance Workers/Landscape Workers/Equipment Operators are responsible for implementing BMPs while conducting Maintenance activities.

District Equipment Managers ensure vehicle inspections, including checks for leaks on district Maintenance vehicles and implementation of other stormwater related BMPs, as applicable.

Equipment Shop Superintendents are the front-line managers who direct vehicle servicing and repair activities within an equipment shop or service region.

Mechanics (resident/traveling) are responsible for implementing BMPs while conducting vehicle servicing and repair activities.

F.03 Background and Legal Requirements

The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA), incorporated the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit process as issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1990. The federal stormwater regulations require municipal, construction and industrial stormwater discharges to comply with an NPDES Permit. The EPA delegated NPDES permitting authority to the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as enforced by the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs).

Aspects of Caltrans facilities and highway systems fall under the jurisdiction of NPDES stormwater regulations for two primary reasons:

- (A) Highways and related properties are served by extensive stormwater drainage systems, including dewatering, and pumping facilities that are often connected to and are often comparable in purpose and operation to regulated MS4s which are authorized and regulated by the NPDES Permit system.

- (B) Construction activities along state highways, maintenance stations and related facilities often results in soil disturbance for which specific requirements are contained in the federal regulations and the State’s General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity which is periodically issued by the SWRCB.

To achieve a consistent approach to comply with the applicable stormwater regulations, Caltrans and the SWRCB determined that a NPDES Permit, and consistent guidance would be the most effective approach to address Caltrans’ activities in all districts to achieve the stormwater program objectives.

Approximately every five years, the SWRCB reviews Caltrans’ historical compliance as well as developing water quality standards and policies in determining whether to extend, amend or issue a revised NPDES Permit to Caltrans. A copy of the Caltrans NPDES Statewide Stormwater Permit is required in every Caltrans facility which can be downloaded from the SWRCB website or Caltrans’ Stormwater Compliance program provided in Section [F.01.01](#) of this chapter.

The NPDES Permit Discharge Prohibition, 3.1 states “Stormwater discharges regulated under this Order containing pollutants that have not been reduced to the maximum extent practicable (MEP) are prohibited. The Department shall achieve the pollutant reductions described in this Prohibition through compliance with the provisions of this Order and implementation of its approved Stormwater Management Plan...” The MEP standard involves applying BMPs that are effective in reducing or eliminating the discharge of pollutants. MEP emphasizes pollutant reduction and source control BMPs to prevent pollutants from entering storm water runoff.

The SWMP is the Caltrans policy document that describes how Caltrans conducts its stormwater management activities (i.e., procedures and practices), provides descriptions of each of the major management program elements, discusses the processes used to evaluate and select appropriate BMPs, and presents key implementation responsibilities and schedules. Section 8 of the SWMP describes the Maintenance Stormwater Management Program. The NPDES Permit requires Caltrans to implement a year-round program statewide to effectively control stormwater and non-stormwater discharges. To meet NPDES Permit stormwater discharge requirements, Caltrans has implemented four general categories of BMPs including Maintenance BMPs. Approved maintenance BMPs are described in the Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbook Maintenance Staff Guide.

Violation and Enforcement of the NPDES Permit Order

Any violation of the Order constitutes a violation of the Water Code and regulations adopted hereunder and the provisions of the Clean Water Act, and is the basis for an enforcement action, NPDES Permit termination, NPDES Permit revocation and reissuance, denial of an application for NPDES Permit reissuance, or a combination thereof.

The State and Regional Water Boards may impose administrative civil liability, may refer the Department to the State Attorney General to seek civil monetary penalties, may seek injunctive relief, or may take other appropriate enforcement action as provided in the Water Code or federal law.

All applications, reports, or information submitted to the State Water Board or Regional Water Boards shall be signed and certified under penalty of perjury. The Clean Water Act provides that any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this Order including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than six months per violation, or by both.

Other Regulatory Agencies

CalRecycle: Waste discharge on land is the concern of CalRecycle and local enforcement agencies at the county level. The regulation of waste facilities engaged in transfer and permanent disposal is handled by CalRecycle under Title 27.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC): Handling hazardous materials that are toxic such as treated wood, contaminated soils and asphalt grindings are subject to variances prescribed by the DTSC. Maintenance forces should consult with their district hazmat managers where storage and disposal of hazardous materials are concerned.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH): Cooperate and coordinate with the CDPH through local vector control agencies on issues related to vector production in treatment BMPs. The districts shall prepare, maintain, and report an inventory of structural BMPs that retain water for more than 96 hours every two years (odd number years) in the Annual Report to the State Water Board.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Maintenance activities may impact aquatic and wildlife in or near waterbodies and other environmentally sensitive areas. Caltrans should follow CDFW requirements before commencing work to control discharges at or surrounding waterbodies.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR): Excessive or prohibited chemicals applied on landscape to control growth of unwanted vegetation may affect receiving waterbodies when carried by stormwater runoff. See Volume 1, Chapter C2 of the Maintenance Manual and CDPR involvement in controlling the volume and type of chemicals applied in Caltrans right-of-way.

F.04 Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbook – Maintenance Staff Guide

The Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbook – Maintenance Staff Guide (Staff Guide) is the implementing document in the Maintenance effort to comply with the provisions of the NPDES Permit and to protect water resources. The Staff Guide provides detailed description, implementation, and maintenance of BMPs used in maintenance activities.

The key components of the Maintenance Staff Guide are:

- (A) Objectives of Maintenance Stormwater Management Program.
- (B) Pollutants of Concern for Highway Maintenance Activities and Facilities.

- (C) Incorporation of Stormwater Controls into Maintenance Programs and Activities.
- (D) Program Effectiveness and Evaluation.
- (E) Detailed Maintenance BMPs for use in field maintenance activities, both at maintenance stations, and for each type of maintenance operation.

F.05 Targeted Objectives of the Maintenance Stormwater Management Program

Maintenance managers must be aware of specific objectives of the program that are targeted and reported periodically as part of program effectiveness and evaluation. Information for these activities shall be entered accurately in IMMS to reach a correct assessment of maintenance performance in complying with the NPDES Permit and the SWMP. Targeted objectives include:

- (A) Stormwater treatment BMPs are to be inspected, cleaned, maintained, or repaired at least once a year. Inspect prior to and during the rainy season for functionality. For those treatment BMPs with standing water that could not be drained after 96 hours, notify the district maintenance stormwater coordinator and local vector control agency.

All drain inlets and catch basins are to be inspected at least once a year in urbanized areas and cleaned of waste or debris if they reach 50 percent capacity or less as necessary.

Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) are ocean or estuarine areas designated by the State Water Board that require special protection of species or biological communities to the extent where alteration of natural water quality is undesirable. The discharge of waste, or non-exempt non-stormwater to ASBS is expressly prohibited. Certain ASBS have been determined to priority discharge locations which have exceedance of specific pollutants and are subject to a ASBS Compliance Plan (NPDES Permit, Attachment C, section C4).

Elements of the ASBS Compliance Plan require, for example, that ASBS stormwater outfall drains equal to or greater than 18 inches in diameter, or width, shall be inspected once prior to the beginning of the rainy season and once during the rainy season and maintained to remove trash and debris. ASBS priority sites can be found in Table C-1 of Attachment C to the NPDES Permit.

- (B) Training of Maintenance personnel relating to stormwater BMP implementation is required for new employees. A refresher course is required every four years. District Maintenance should aim to train 25 percent of field personnel annually to meet the required four-year cycle. To ensure continuous stormwater practices awareness a BMP tailgate meeting is held every ten working days as part of training. Maintenance field contractors should be trained in Caltrans stormwater BMP implementation prior to start of operations.

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- (C) Facility Pollution Prevention Plan (FPPP) shall be revised or updated whenever a NPDES Permit violation is found or if there are changes to the facility or its operator, or any incident that could threaten water quality but no later than the three years from the last update.
 - (D) All highway slopes statewide shall be inspected within five years to check for erosion. Maintenance personnel should inspect at least 20 percent of highway shoulders annually in their districts to meet this objective. Identified unstable or eroding surface shall be reported as minor or major in IMMS, and slopes prone to erosion shall be prioritized for repair and stabilization based on frequency of slips/slides in the same vicinity.
 - (E) Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) are waste allocations for water bodies impaired with specific pollutants of concern. In TMDL watershed areas where Caltrans is an identified waste contributor, Maintenance shall implement BMPs to reduce the sediment, debris or trash load coming from Caltrans right-of-way such as soil stabilization and sediment control, sweeping, and drainage cleaning.
 - (F) Maintenance facilities including waste or material storage sites, CHP or Border Protection stations, equipment shops and rest areas are evaluated by independent quality assurance (IQA) auditors for NPDES Permit compliance. While maintenance yards and storage sites are inspected monthly by supervisors, the IQA conducts unannounced reviews of at least 20 percent of statewide facilities annually.
 - (G) Chemical vegetation control aims to reduce pesticide use. Pesticide volume, type, and location application to control the spread or growth of unwanted vegetation is reported annually. Refer to Volume 1, Chapter C2 of the Maintenance for more information on use and recordkeeping of pesticides.
 - (H) Solid waste collected in maintenance facilities prior to disposal shall be accounted and reported by volume annually to the maintenance stormwater coordinator as part of waste management inventory. Volume of highway trash and litter collected from drainage systems are reported annually. Refer to Volume 1, Chapter D1 of the Maintenance Manual for more information on litter, debris, and sediment removal.
 - (I) Incidents of emergency, field, or administrative non-compliance such as highway spills, discharge of pollutants, or failure to maintain FPPPs require filing an Incident Report Form to the district NPDES coordinator, who reports the incident through the SWRCB tracking system. The form with additional information can be found in Attachment I of the NPDES Permit.
 - (J) To maximize trash collection and minimize the potential for discharge into receiving waters, a limited number of installed full trash capture devices are supplemented by enhanced institutional controls. These enhanced institutional controls may include litter pickup, sweeping, drain cleaning and related trash reduction programs.

F.06 Permit Compliance and Assessment

To ensure compliance and assess the effectiveness of the Maintenance Stormwater Management Program, a minimum of twenty percent (20%) of active facilities and ten (10) highway maintenance activities in each district are audited for compliance with BMP implementation annually.

A third-party auditor conducts the inspection of facilities and highway activities as coordinated by Maintenance stormwater coordinators from headquarters and the districts. Facility supervisors shall provide the inspectors access to the facility premises and buildings to evaluate the site on BMP implementation and administrative requirements during business hours. Administrative requirements include keeping monthly records of facility inspections by the supervisor and update of the FPPP. Findings and deficiencies after the inspection are conveyed to the facility supervisor/manager and DMSWC for corrective actions within two weeks of the date of audit. Results of the district facilities and highway activities evaluations are reported in the Annual Report to the SWRCB as an effectiveness assessment of the Maintenance Stormwater Management Program.

F.07 Public Education and Outreach in Stormwater Compliance

In Caltrans' right of way accessible to the public, education and outreach regarding stormwater compliance are implicated, the following actions apply:

Drain Stenciling: Drain inlets within Caltrans right-of-way and which are exposed to pedestrian traffic shall be stenciled with drain inlet markers specified in the current Standard Plans. The drain stenciling informs the public that waste should not be dumped into the storm drains as it directly flows into the receiving waterbodies without any treatment.

IC/ID Response: Waste from illicit discharges into Caltrans right-of-way not only increases Caltrans risk from enforcement violations but also adds more waste load that Maintenance forces need to address. Maintenance forces should always monitor the right-of-way to note potential illicit connections or discharges and should conduct an IC/ID survey in their work area at the beginning of highway activities. Assistance from the CHP, the District NPDES coordinator, involved municipality or RWQCB may be sought if the discharge cannot be stopped without difficulty. See (IC/ID) and Illegal Dumping Response Plan provided in Section [F.01.01](#) of this chapter, for procedures on investigation to resolution and reporting.

Trash Reduction: While trash generated by Caltrans operations is properly disposed of trash generated by motorists and adjacent sources which lands on Caltrans' highways and facilities may enter the stormwater system and remain or be discharged through Caltrans' system into receiving waters. Maintenance forces shall conduct enhanced litter pick up and trash reduction efforts such as drain cleaning and sweeping to eliminate the discharge of trash into waterbodies. Significant trash generating areas (STGA) or major highway segments in urbanized areas are the focus of enhanced trash reduction activities and can be found in the Caltrans Statewide Trash Implementation Plan provided in Section [F.01.01](#) of this chapter.

Encampments: Maintenance forces shall follow current Maintenance policy directives and safety procedures in the cleanup of encampments. The Maintenance Policy Directive for encampment removal (MPD-1001-R1) can be found on the Maintenance Policy Directives hyperlink provided in Section [F.01.01](#) of this chapter. In addition, to reduce potential sources of bacteria from stormwater runoff, refer to Volume 1, Chapter 1 of the Maintenance Manual for encampment removal and cleanup.