



Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan

The City of San Diego is committed to implementing corrective measures to mitigate the pollution problems associated with urban runoff. In addition, the City is legally mandated to implement the provisions of the San Diego Municipal Storm Water Permit (California Regional Water Quality Control Board - San Diego Region, Order No. 2001-01). The municipal permit requires development and implementation of a Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) to reduce the negative impacts to receiving waters (e.g. our beaches and bays) from development runoff. The SUSMP is one of many City-wide efforts to address surface waters contamination in the San Diego region and reduce by half the current days of beach closures and postings by 2004.

1. **What is the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan?** The Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan, or SUSMP (pronounced "su-sump"), identifies a number of permanent Best Management Practices (BMPs) requirements which apply to public and private new development or significant redevelopment projects in order to protect and enhance the water quality of the region's surface waters (note that construction phase BMPs are addressed through other standards and guidelines). Permanent BMPs are site design features and storm water treatment devices that remain operational in a project once the site is in use.
2. **Who developed the SUSMP?** A model SUSMP was developed by the City of San Diego in cooperation with the 19 other local jurisdictions within the county (collectively referred to as *copermittees*), including the San Diego Unified Port District, in conformance with the requirements of the San Diego Municipal Storm Water Permit. The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted the model SUSMP in June 12th of this year. The model SUSMP is available for download at the Regional Board website, http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/Programs/Storm_Water/storm_water.html.
3. City and other jurisdictions are in the process of developing and implementing their local regulations that are based on the model SUSMP developed cooperatively at the regional level. The City of San Diego's regulations, contained in what will be called the "Storm Water Standards," are currently being drafted. The *Storm Water Standards* will include information regarding the City's permanent BMP (i.e., SUSMP) and construction BMP requirements, and detail the processes by which these requirements will be incorporated into private projects.
4. **When will the SUSMP requirements go into effect?** The City of San Diego will incorporate these requirements in all permits issued on or after December 2, 2002, including projects currently in process or with previous approvals. Public projects must incorporate these requirements in all construction contracts awarded on or after December 10, 2002.
5. **What is the goal of the SUSMP?** The goal of the SUSMP is to employ practicable policies to ensure that new development does not result in long-term increases of pollutants from a project site once it is in use.
6. **What development projects are subject to the requirements identified in the SUSMP?** Generally, all new development and significant redevelopment projects that meet one of the following criteria will be considered a *priority project* and will be subject to the SUSMP:
 - Residential development of 10 or more units
 - Commercial development with a project footprint greater than 100,000 square feet
 - Automotive repair shops
 - Restaurants*
 - Hillside development resulting in an impervious surface which is greater than 5,000 square feet
 - Projects resulting in an impervious surface exceeding 2,500 square feet and discharging to receiving waters within Environmentally Sensitive Areas
 - Parking lots > 5,000 square feet or with > 15 parking spaces and potentially exposed to urban runoff
 - Streets, roads, highways, and freeways which would create a new paved surface that is 5,000 square feet or greater.

In the instance where a project feature, such as a parking lot, falls into a priority project category, the entire project footprint is subject to the SUSMP requirements. Refer to the model SUSMP for more details on the SUSMP criteria.

* Restaurants with a footprint under 5,000 square feet are exempt from the SUSMP treatment requirements (see Section IV of the model SUSMP).

7. **What does the SUSMP require?** The SUSMP requires the protection of receiving waters through the incorporation of permanent storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) into the project design.

For private projects, all affected priority project applicants will be required to submit a project specific Water Quality Control Plan subject to the approval of the City Engineer. This document must identify any pollutants of concern in receiving waters as well as the pollutants that could be generated by the proposal. Additionally, project applicants will be required to identify any *conditions of concern* (potential permanent impacts to downstream channels and habitat integrity) that could result from any proposed modifications to existing hydrologic conditions. Based on this information, the Water Quality Control Plan will identify which site design, source control and treatment control BMPs have been incorporated into the project in conformance with the applicable SUSMP requirements.

For public projects, City project managers will be required to ensure that SUSMP requirements are incorporated into the project design and bid specifications prior to bidding for construction contracts. The SUSMP requirements must also be shown in drawings and plans before the project is allowed to proceed into the grading and/or construction phase.

8. **How are site design, source control and treatment control BMPs defined?** Site design BMPs refer to a large array of design principles that seek to minimize pollutant sources by improving/minimizing the project footprint. Examples include impervious surface reduction, use of drought tolerant plant materials in landscaping and slow conveyance of runoff through vegetated areas. Source control BMPs are geared towards minimizing the contact between potential pollutant sources and urban runoff. There are two categories of source control BMPs: operational and structural. Examples of operational source control BMPs include good housekeeping practices, preventive maintenance procedures and employee training. Structural source control BMPs refer to physical, structural, or mechanical devices or facilities that aim to prevent pollutants from entering storm water. Examples of structural source control BMPs include roof structures over trash storage areas and berms around fuel dispensing areas. Treatment control BMPs, such as detention basins and grass swales, refer to 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.
9. **Where can I find more specific information about the City of San Diego SUSMP requirements?** Once completed, the City of San Diego's Storm Water Standards may be purchased for the cost of reproduction at the offices of the Land Development Review Division, 1222 First Avenue, Second Floor, San Diego, CA 92101. Alternatively, the Storm Water Standards will be made available online at the City's web site, www.sannet.gov.
10. **Who can I contact to find out more?** Private Projects: Contact the City's Development Services Department, Engineering Section, at (619) 446-5292. Public Projects: Contact the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program, Engineering Best Management Practices Development Section, at (619) 525-8625.

Think & Act Blue

