

2018 Industrial Storm Water General Permit Amendment

The State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively, Water Boards) regulate runoff of storm water from industrial, construction and municipal sources in California through with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. Storm water is historically perceived as a nuisance because it mobilizes pollutants such as motor oil, heavy metals, and trash which flow into water bodies either directly or via storm sewer systems, threatening aquatic life and public health. The State Water Board is actively shifting the perception of storm water – from a source of pollution to a water resource.

Statewide Industrial General Permit

The California statewide NPDES Industrial Storm Water General Permit¹ (General Permit) regulates the discharge of storm water associated with industrial activity as defined by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

Recent 2018 Amendment to the Statewide General Permit

On November 6, 2018 the State Water Board amended the General Permit to incorporate the following additional requirements. The additional requirements become effective on July 1, 2020.

1. **Sufficiently Sensitive Test Method Ruling:** The U.S. EPA update to the Clean Water Act mandates NPDES permits to require analytical test methods that measure and quantify pollutants at levels identified in the NPDES permit requirements. Facility operators are required to use test methods that are sufficiently sensitive to detect and quantify pollutants at or below the applicable water quality criteria, action levels, or effluent limitations.
2. **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Requirements:** TMDLs are adopted U.S. EPA and Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan requirements addressing restoration of impaired water bodies. Attachment E of the General Order contains the translated pollutant-and waterbody-specific TMDL requirements applicable to discharges of industrial storm water within specified geographical locations. Facility operators are required to collect industrial storm water samples for TMDL-related pollutants and comply with applicable requirements if:
 - 1) The facility discharges industrial storm water and/or authorized non-storm water discharges, either directly or through a municipal separate storm sewer system, to impaired waterbodies identified in Attachment E; and
 - 2) The discharge contains the identified TMDL-related pollutants associated with the impaired receiving waterbody.

¹ State Water Resources Control Board Order WQ 2014-0057-DWQ as amended by Orders 2015-0122-DWQ and the 2018 Amendment documents.

Dischargers compare industrial storm water samples to applicable pollutant-specific Numeric Action Levels, TMDL-specific Numeric Action Levels, and/or TMDL-specific Numeric Effluent Limitations. The facility operator must respond to exceedances of one or more Action Levels by implementing best management practices and conducting corresponding reporting. Exceedances of Numeric Effluent Limitations are considered permit violations and may be subject to mandatory minimum penalties as detailed in Water Code section 13385.

3. **Statewide Options Incentivizing On-Site or Regional Storm Water Capture and Use:** Attachment I of the General Permit includes new compliance options incentivizing storm water capture. Facility operators choosing to implement the on-site compliance option are required to implement best management practices that capture, infiltrate, divert and/or evapotranspire the volume of runoff produced up to, and during, the 85th percentile 24-hour precipitation event based on local historical precipitation data and records. Facility operators choosing to implement the regional compliance option must enter into a local agreement with appropriate municipalities or other entities and participate in the development, implementation and operation of the regional storm water capture best management practice(s) receiving the industrial storm water discharges. Facility operators meeting all implementation requirements for one of the proposed compliance options will be deemed in compliance with multiple General Permit requirements, including those related to TMDL implementation (as applicable).

Next Steps

The new requirements associated with the 2018 amendment of the General Permit will become effective on July 1, 2020.

View and download the 2018 Industrial General Permit Amendment and implementation resources from the State Water Board's website:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/igp_20140057dwg.shtml

Sign up for E-Mail alerts at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html

Click on 'water quality'

Click on 'Storm Water Industrial Permitting Issues'

Please email questions to: stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov

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