



LOS ANGELES DEWATERING DISCHARGES

“TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT”

Watershed Protection



Clean Water Program



Solid Resources Program



Env. Quality Program



OUTLINE

- BACKGROUND
- LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE
- BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES – DEWATERING



BACKGROUND

Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Dewatering Discharges

In order to protect storm drains, channels, creeks and bays, guidelines have been established regarding the dewatering discharges in the City of Los Angeles.

Why is this procedure necessary?

The decision on how to handle dewatering discharges is based on Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board of the State of California “MS-4” [Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (Ms4 Stormwater Program) Discharges] and NPDES permit of the City



LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE 62.80

LAMC 62.80 DRAINAGE OF WATER INTO STREETS

(a) It is unlawful for any person to drain water or other liquids or permit water or other liquids to be drained from lands or premises under such person's management or control onto any public street, or causes interference with or creates a hazard to public travel.



LOS ANGELES

MUNICIPAL CODE 64.70

LAMC 64.70.03 ELIMINATION OF ILLICT DISCHARGES AND ILLICIT CONNECTIONS

A. Prohibitions of Illicit Discharges. No person shall discharge non-storm water to the storm drain system, unless authorized by a separate or general NPDES Permit or if the discharges is exempted or conditionally exempted by the Municipal Storm Waters and Urban Runoff NPDES Permit for Los Angeles County, as provided or as subsequently amended or if granted as a special wavier or exemption by the Regional Board.



LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE 64.70

LAMC 64.70.03 ELIMINATION OF ILLICT DISCHARGES AND ILLICIT CONNECTIONS

1. **Exempt Discharges.** The following non-stormwater discharges are exempt from obtaining a separate or general NPDES permit and are allowed to be discharged into the storm drain system:
 - a) Flows from riparian habitats or wetlands;
 - b) Diverted stream flows;
 - c) Flows from natural springs;
 - d) Rising ground waters;
 - e) Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration; and
 - f) Discharge of flows from emergency fire fighting activities.



LOS ANGELES

MUNICIPAL CODE 64.70

LAMC 64.70.03 ELIMINATION OF ILLICT DISCHARGES AND ILLICIT CONNECTIONS. Continued

2. **Conditionally Exempt Discharges.** The following non-stormwater discharges may be allowed to be discharged into the storm drain system, subject to all appropriate BMP's.

- a) Discharge from lawn and landscape irrigation;
- b) Water line flushing;
- c) Discharges from potable waters sources;
- d) Foundation drains;
- e) Footing drains;
- f) Air conditioning condensate;
- g) Irrigation water;
- h) Water from crawl space pumps;
- i) Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges;
- j) Discharges from individual residential car washing
- k) Discharges from non-profit car washing;
- l) Street washing (including sidewalk washing); and
- m) Other categories approved by California RWQCB, Los Angeles Region



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP'S)

REQUIREMENTS TO DISCHARGE TO THE STORM DRAIN (for dewatering)

NOTE:

1. Always consult with your project engineer or local agency on the dewatering practice that will work best for your site.
2. Direct dumping of dewatering material in to wetlands, lakes, creeks, rivers, marshes, or the storm drain is **illegal**.
3. Always consult the local Water Board to verify construction water permitting practices.



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP'S)

REQUIREMENTS TO DISCHARGE TO THE STORM DRAIN (for dewatering)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Dewatering design should consider the volume and velocity of the dewatering discharge so it does not overwhelm the system, creating scouring and erosion issues.
2. Pump sediment-laden water to either:
 - A sediment control structure - Pump into a sediment basin or through a manufactured dewatering device, like a sediment bag. Make sure you do not exceed the capacity of the structure.
 - An infiltration trench - Pump water through perforated pipe in a gravel pit or container. Don't let erosion at hose outfall occur.
 - A buffer strip or zone - Pump into a vegetated buffer zone, like a swale, to remove sediment. Don't let erosion at hose outfall to occur



CONTACT INFO

The following agencies are responsible for granting permits for connections and discharges to the storm drain system:

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. This permit is required for non-stormwater discharges to the storm drain system that are not “Exempted” or “Conditionally Exempted”. Contact the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board located at 320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013, or call (213) 576- 6600.



Thank you

