

Stormwater: Category 2 BMPs – Improper Discharges to Storm Drains

Department: Environmental Protection

Program: Stormwater

Owner: Program Manager, Darrin Gambelin

Authority: ES&H Manual, Chapter 26, Stormwater

Category 2 best management practices (BMPs) help eliminate improper discharges to the storm drain system. (Descriptions of authorized and unauthorized discharges as they are specified in the permit are included below.)

BMPs

- 2.1 Inspect and maintain the storm drain system. Keep surface grates and areas around storm drains clean. Clean out catch basins so that accumulated pollutants do not wash down the storm drains.
- 2.2 Consider protecting on-site drains with inserts or filters designed to capture pollutants unique to your operation.
- 2.3 Only allow authorized discharges to the storm drain system (see below).
- 2.4 Take measures to reduce sediment and debris from entering storm drains (such as street sweeping, housekeeping, wattles, storm drain inserts, and flow redirection/infiltration into landscaping).
- 2.5 Take measures to dissipate/reduce erosion potential of high flows.
- 2.6 Take measures to reduce runoff from irrigation.
- 2.7 Do not allow condensate from compressors or air conditioning units to run across parking lots or other paved surfaces that may contact pollutants on its way to the storm drain; use a pipe or trench to direct the flow. Label condensate lines for easy identification.
- 2.8 Label storm drain inlets and catch basins “No dumping – Flows to San Francisquito Creek”.

Note For a complete list of all BMP categories, see Stormwater: Best Management Practices Index.¹

Authorized Discharges

Many SLAC operations institute a wide range of BMPs in order to minimize the amount of pollutants that could potentially enter the storm drain system as a result of stormwater washing across the site. In addition to stormwater, certain discharges of non-stormwater are authorized by the general permit if they pose no threat to the beneficial uses of San Francisquito Creek. These permit-specified sources of clean, potable water are

1 Stormwater: Best Management Practices Index (SLAC-I-750-0A16V-001), <http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/eshmanual/references/stormIndexBMP.pdf>

Stormwater: Category 2 BMPs – Improper Discharges to Storm Drains

- Fire hydrant flushing water and all water associated with the testing of the fire fighting system
- Drinking fountain water
- Untreated and uncontaminated atmospheric condensates including refrigeration, air conditioning, and compressor condensate
- Landscape irrigation watering runoff
- Outdoor safety showers and eye washes
- Ground water
- Foundation or construction footing drainage

Unauthorized Discharges

The two types of unauthorized discharges are illicit connections and illegal dumping.

Illicit Connections

Illicit connections are improper permanent connections that allow wastewater to enter a storm drain, including some that may have been allowed in the past. Any connection that allows sanitary or process wastewater to enter the storm drain is prohibited; no indoor drains or sinks may be connected to the storm drain system.

Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping is the discharge into the storm drain of water that has been exposed to industrial activities or to other discharges. Illegal dumping may inadvertently introduce pollutants into the storm drain, catch basins, or areas that drain to them.

Examples of water that must not enter the storm drain include saw-cut slurry, tunnel water, wash water for vehicles, tools, and equipment; and water that was used to power wash buildings.

If you have a discharge that you cannot eliminate, contact the stormwater program manager or see the Water Resources web page for more information.²

2 “Water Resources for SLAC”, <http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/groups/ep/water/>