# Current Stormwater Quality Control Requirements

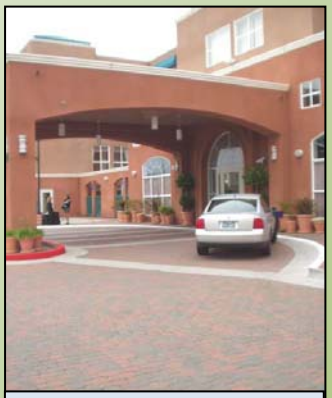
Information for Developers, Builders and Project Applicants
(Updated July 2016)

SAN MATEO COUNTYWIDE Water Pollution Prevention Program

## Stormwater Controls

Stormwater runoff from urbanized areas is a major source of pollution to local creeks and San Francisco Bay. To comply with the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP), reissued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2015, local agencies in San Mateo County require development projects to incorporate appropriate stormwater controls. These may include the following:

1. **Site Design Measures** are permanent features that reduce water quality impacts by:
   - Reducing impervious surfaces
   - Directing runoff from impervious surfaces to vegetated areas
2. **Source Controls** prevent potential pollutant sources from contacting rainfall and stormwater. Examples include:
   - Roofed trash enclosures
   - Pest-resistant landscaping
   - Sanitary sewer drains for vehicle wash areas
3. **Stormwater Treatment Measures** are engineered systems that remove pollutants from stormwater before it reaches a storm drain, creek, or the Bay. The treatment measures selected must be Low Impact Development (LID) techniques (see box at right) except for certain types of projects.



*Pervious pavers in Millbrae*

4. **Hydromodification Management (HM)** reduces erosive flows in creeks that can occur when amounts of impervious surface on a project site are increased.
5. **Construction Site Controls** required during the construction phase of project include:
   - Control of erosion on slopes and/or areas of exposed soil.
   - Keeping sediment on site using perimeter barriers and storm drain inlet protection.
   - Proper management of construction materials, chemicals, and wastes on site.

**Low Impact Development (LID) techniques** reduce stormwater runoff and mimic a site's predevelopment hydrology. LID treatment options include infiltration, evapotranspiration, rainwater harvesting and use, and biotreatment.

Projects disturbing one acre or more must comply with the State Construction General Permit. For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml

## Determining Project Requirements

To determine if Stormwater Control Requirements apply to your project and identify appropriate controls, municipality staff will ask you to fill out either:

- **The Stormwater Checklist for Small Projects** for single family homes, projects that create and/or replace between 2,500 and 10,000 sq. ft. of impervious surface, and "special land use projects" (see page 2) that create and/or replace between 2,500 and 5,000 sq. ft. of impervious surface.
- **The C.3 Regulated Projects Checklist** for projects that create and/or replace 10,000 sq. ft. or more of impervious surface, and "special land use projects" (see page 2) that create and/or replace 5,000 sq. ft. or more of impervious surface.

- **LID Requirements/Stormwater Treatment Measures** apply to:
  - Projects that create and/or replace 10,000 square feet or more of impervious surface, and
  - "Special Land Use Category" projects that create and/or replace 5,000 square feet or more of impervious surface.

**Special Land Use Categories** are
- Uncovered parking areas (stand-alone or part of another use)
- Restaurants
- Auto service facilities[1]
- Retail gasoline outlets

LID reduces water quality impacts by preserving and recreating natural landscape features, minimizing imperviousness, and using stormwater as a resource. This may be accomplished by installing rain barrels or cisterns, green roofs, permeable pavement, or stormwater treatment measures designed to infiltrate or detain stormwater runoff, so that all of the rainwater runoff required to be treated per the stormwater permit soaks into the ground, is stored for irrigation or in-building use, evaporates, or is taken up by plants. Landscape-based "biotreatment," such as a bioretention area or flow-through planter with an underdrain system that conveys treated water to the storm drain, is also allowed. Biotreatment systems contain a specified biotreatment soil and have a surface area that is approximately 4% of the contributing impervious area. Biotreatment systems should be designed to maximize infiltration into native soil wherever possible.

*Bioretention system in Daly City*

Vault-based treatment systems may not be used as stand-alone treatment, except for limited use of media filters in certain high density and transit-oriented "Special Projects" described in Appendix J of the SMCWPPP C.3 Technical Guidance Manual.

- **Hydromodification Management (HM) requirements** apply if a project creates and/or replaces 1 acre or more of impervious surface, increases impervious surface over pre-project conditions AND is located in a susceptible area.

**Requirements for Small and Single Family Home Projects** (Effective December 1, 2012) apply to:
- Projects that create and/or replace at least 2,500 square feet, but less than 10,000 square feet, of impervious surface
- Stand-alone single family home projects that create and/or replace 2,500 square feet or more of impervious surface

These projects must incorporate one of the following site design measures:
1. Direct roof runoff into cisterns or rain barrels.
2. Direct roof runoff into vegetated areas.
3. Direct runoff from (sidewalks, walkways, and/or patios onto vegetated areas.
4. Direct runoff from driveways/uncovered parking lots onto vegetated areas.
5. Construct sidewalks, walkways, and/or patios with permeable surfaces.
6. Construct bike lanes, driveways, and/or uncovered parking lots with permeable surfaces

No treatment measures are required for these projects.

## For More Information:

- Contact the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program at www.flowstobay.org (For the New Development webpage, click on "At Work", then "New Development". For a list of local contacts for new development, click "local permitting agency".)
- The Stormwater Checklist for Small Projects, the C.3 Checklist for Regulated Projects, the C.3 Technical Guidance Manual, and other guidance documents are provided on the New Development webpage.

*Bioretention system in Burlingame*

[1]Auto service facilities include those described by the following Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: 5013. 5014. 5541. 7532. 7533. 7534.7536. 7537. 7538. 7539.