



*Protect Creeks and the Bay: Keep Sediments and Contaminated Water out of the Storm Drain System*

**MARIN COUNTY STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM  
Best Management Practices for TRENCH DEWATERING**

**Requirements for Dewatering Discharges from Minor Street Excavations**

- The Federal Clean Water Act, the California Water Code, and local ordinances **prohibit** non-stormwater discharges to the storm drain system.
- Non-stormwater discharges include water that is actually or potentially contaminated with any pollutant, including, but not limited to, sewage, grease, drilling mud and oil.
- Uncontaminated pumped groundwater or accumulated rainwater may be discharged to the storm drain system but must be managed to minimize sediment reaching storm drains and ensure downstream creeks, wetlands, and the Bay are not polluted.
- The storm drain system includes streets, gutters, storm drain inlets, ditches, creeks, and wetlands.

IF YOUR SITE OR PROJECT REQUIRES DEWATERING, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL STORMWATER COORDINATOR BEFORE DISCHARGING WATER TO THE STORM DRAIN SYSTEM. *CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE REVERSE PAGE.*

As necessary, local municipal staff will determine whether flows from dewatering a particular excavation may be discharged to the storm drain system and what measures must be taken to reduce sediment in the discharge.

Depending on circumstances, holders of encroachment or building permits may be directed to use one or more of the following measures:

- Avoid the discharge. Disperse pumped water to a level dirt or landscaped area to allow infiltration or use for dust control. Be sure to prevent damage to landscaping.
- Build a sediment trap (temporary basin formed by excavation or earthen embankment across a low drainage area to detain sediment-laden runoff and allow sediment to settle out before discharging).
- Use a mobile weir tank, dewatering tank, or sand filter (follow vendor instructions).
- At minimum, use a gravity bag filter (dewatering bag) or similar filtration device (follow vendor instructions).

Odors, discoloration, or an oily sheen can indicate contaminants in the water. Dewatering discharges containing contaminants may need to be captured and treated or hauled to a suitable disposal site.

Some dewatering discharges require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). For more information, call the RWQCB or visit their website:

Phone: 510-622-2300

Web: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/npdes\\_gen\\_permit.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/npdes_gen_permit.shtml)



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**Marin County Local Municipal Stormwater Coordinators (415 Prefix)**

**Town of San Anselmo**  
258-4616 or 258-2600 (M-Th)

**City of Sausalito**  
289-4111 or 289-4100 ext. 106

**Town of Corte Madera**  
927-5069 or 927-5057 (M-Th)

**City of San Rafael**  
485-3355

**City of Belvedere**  
435-3838 (M-Th)

**County of Marin**  
499-3748 or 499-6528

**Town of Ross**  
453-8287 or 453-1453 ext. 163

**Town of Tiburon**  
435-7354 or 435-7399

**Town of Fairfax**  
458-0291 or 453-1584 (M-Th)

**City of Larkspur**  
927-5028 or 927-5017 (M-Th)

**City of Novato**  
899-8246

**City of Mill Valley**  
388-4033 ext. 116



**References:**

California State Water Resources Control Board, *Municipal Phase II Stormwater NPDES Permit CASQA, Dewatering Operations*: <http://www.cabmphandbooks.com/Documents/Construction/NS-2.pdf>

Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program,  
[http://www.mcstoppp.org/acrobat/AP2010\\_20050520%20.pdf](http://www.mcstoppp.org/acrobat/AP2010_20050520%20.pdf)

Caltrans, *Construction Site Best Management Practices Manual, Dewatering Operations NS-2*  
(<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/NS02Update.doc>)

**Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program**  
**P.O. Box 4186 • San Rafael, CA 94913 • 415-499-6528**  
[www.mcstoppp.org](http://www.mcstoppp.org)

If you require materials in alternative formats, please contact:  
415-473-4381 voice/TTY or [disabilityaccess@co.marin.ca.us](mailto:disabilityaccess@co.marin.ca.us)