

Frequently Asked Questions

Impervious Surface Area and Stormwater Treatment Measures Form

This sheet is intended to help answer some frequently asked questions regarding the impervious surface area and stormwater treatment measures form.

Q. What is impervious surface area and why is it being tracked?

- A.** Impervious surface area is defined as any surface that prevents rain (water) from infiltrating into the soil, thereby resulting in runoff. Examples of impervious surfaces include rooftops, roadways, parking lots, and buildings. The City of Emeryville's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES Permit), which is issued and enforced by the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFRWQCB), requires tracking the development of impervious surface area.

Q. What are post-construction stormwater treatment controls?

- A.** Post-construction stormwater treatment controls or Best Management Practices (BMPs) are structural and/or engineered devices incorporated on site to treat/capture pollutants in stormwater runoff. Examples include: swales, bioretention, filters, oil/water separators, wet ponds, retention ponds, constructed wetlands, etc. These treatment measures are permanent controls that remain in place after construction and must be maintained throughout the life of the development site.

Q. Why do I have to fill out this form?

- A.** This form is required for all applicants that wish to develop or redevelop a site within the City of Emeryville. The City is legally required to track the information submitted on the form and to report this information to the SFRWQCB.

Q. I have heard that developments will soon be subject to more specific stormwater treatment measures. What does this mean?

- A.** The City's NPDES Permit issued by the SFRWQCB mandates that beginning February 15, 2005 all projects creating 1 acre or more of impervious surface area must incorporate post-construction stormwater treatment controls on site. Beginning August 15, 2006 these requirements will apply to all projects creating 10,000 sq. feet or more of impervious surface area. Stormwater treatment controls will also need to satisfy specific numeric sizing criteria as identified in the NPDES permit.

The design of post-construction stormwater treatment controls must be certified by the applicant's Civil Engineer/Landscape Architect, and are subject to review from the City's Public Works Department. Additionally, an Operations and Maintenance Agreement must be submitted to verify that the stormwater treatment controls will be maintained.

Q. Where can I find more information?

- A.** For more information regarding the recently reissued NPDES permit and stormwater quality design techniques, including treatment controls you can contact the City of Emeryville, Public Works Department Environmental Analyst, Peter Schultze-Allen at (510) 596-3728.