

**1.1 BACKGROUND**

The municipal stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (Permit) issued to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, the County of Los Angeles, and 84 incorporated cities within the Los Angeles County by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board on December 13, 2001. The Permit requires Permittees to implement an Illicit Connections and Illicit Discharges Elimination Program. This document describes a program that Permittees can follow to implement their own Illicit Connections and Illicit Discharges Elimination Program in compliance with the Permit.

Part 4.G of the Permit contains requirements specifically for the identification and elimination of illicit connections and illicit discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), generally referred to in this document as “storm drain system.” The Permit requirements are shown in Table 1-1. They are fully enforceable and can only be changed through action by the Regional Board. The model program contents will be reviewed and approved by the Regional Board staff (Executive Officer) and can be changed by approval of the Executive Officer.

<b>Table 1-1 Permit Requirements - Illicit Connections and Illicit Discharges</b>		
<b>Permit Section</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Compliance Date</b>
4.G.1.a	Develop an Implementation Program which specifies how each Permittee is implementing revisions to the IC/ID Program of the SQMP.	Implementation Program must be documented, and available for review and approval by the Regional Board Executive Officer, upon request.
4.G.1.b	Develop and maintain a listing of all permitted connections to the storm drain system.	February 03, 2003.
4.G.1.b	Map, at a scale and in a format specified by the Principal Permittee, all illicit connections and discharges on the baseline maps and transmit this information to the Principal Permittee.	To be determined by the Principal Permittee. The Principal Permittee must use the information no later than February 03, 2003.
4.G.1.b	Principal Permittee must use the information submitted by all Permittees to begin an annual evaluation of patterns and trends of illicit connections and illicit discharges.	February 03, 2003.
4.G.1.c	Train all targeted employees who are responsible for the identification, investigation, termination, cleanup, and reporting of illicit connections and illicit discharges.	For Permittees with a population of less than 250,000 (2000 U.S. Census), training shall be completed by August 01, 2002. For Permittees with a population of 250,000 or more (2000 U.S. Census), training shall be completed by February 03, 2003.

Table 1-1 Permit Requirements - Illicit Connections and Illicit Discharges		
Permit Section	Requirement	Compliance Date
4.G.2.a.1.i	Field screen open channels in the storm drain system for illicit connections.	February 03, 2003.
4.G.2.a.1.ii	Field screen underground pipes in priority areas of the storm drain system for illicit connections.	February 01, 2005.
4.G.2.a.1.i	Field screen underground pipes with a diameter of 36 inches or greater in the storm drain system for illicit connections.	December 12, 2006.
4.G.2.a.1	Report to the Principal Permittee on the location and length of open channels or underground pipes that have been screened, and on the status of suspected, confirmed, and terminated illicit connections.	Information to be provided to the Principal Permittee on an annual basis.
4.G.2.a.2	Complete a review of all permitted connections to the storm drain system, to confirm compliance with Part 1 of the Permit (Discharge Prohibition).	December 12, 2006.
4.G.2.b.1	Initiate an investigation of reported suspected illicit connections to the storm drain system.	Within 21 days of receiving a report of a suspected illicit connection.
4.G.2.b.2	Terminate illicit connections to the storm drain system.	Within 180 days from confirmation of the illicit nature of the storm drain connection.

The requirement to implement an Illicit Connection/Illicit Discharge Elimination Program is based on one of the two primary objectives set forth in the Federal Clean Water Act amendments of 1987 which established the framework for regulating stormwater discharges from municipal, industrial and construction activities under the NPDES system:

- Effectively prohibit non-stormwater discharges.
- Reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable (MEP).

To meet this statutory objective, the federal regulatory requirements for municipal Permittees include implementing a comprehensive program, and best management practices (BMPs) to *detect and remove illicit discharges and improper disposal into the storm drain system.*

**1.2 NATURE AND TYPES OF ILLICIT DISCHARGES AND ILLICIT CONNECTIONS**

**1.2.1 Illicit Discharges**

The Permit has established definitions of illicit discharge and illicit disposal as follows:

*“Illicit Discharge: Any discharge to the storm drain system that is prohibited under local, state or federal statutes, ordinances, codes or regulations. The term illicit discharge includes all non-storm water discharges except discharges pursuant to an NPDES permit, discharges that are identified in Part 1, ‘Discharge Prohibitions’ of this order, and discharges authorized by the Regional Board Executive Officer.”*

*“Illicit Disposal: Any disposal, either intentionally or unintentionally, of material(s) or waste(s) that can pollute storm water.”*

Categories of non-stormwater discharges that are not prohibited under the Permit are listed in Table 1-2.

The context of illicit discharges and illicit disposal used in this model program includes several categories as follows:

- Incidental spills or disposal of wastes or non-stormwater. These may be intentional, unintentional or accidental and would typically enter the storm drain system directly through drain inlets, catch basins or manholes or be deposited in the public right-of-way such that wash-off would reach the storm drain system.
- Discharges of sanitary sewage due to overflows or leaks; usually incidental but may be continuous.
- Continuous or intermittent discharges of prohibited non-stormwater other than through an illicit connection. These typically occur as surface runoff from outside the public right-of-way (e.g., area washdown from an industrial site).

Continuous or intermittent non-stormwater discharges through an illicit connection (see Section 1.2.2).

<b>Table 1-2 Exempt Discharges<sup>(1)</sup></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discharges in compliance with a separate NPDES permit/waste discharge requirements (WDR) or granted a discharge exemption by the Regional Board, the Executive Officer, or the State Water Resources Control Board.</li> </ul>
<p>Exempted discharges <sup>(2)</sup> including:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Category A – Natural flow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Natural springs and rising ground water;</li> <li>2. Flows from riparian habitats or wetlands;</li> <li>3. Stream diversions, permitted by the State Board; and</li> <li>4. Uncontaminated ground water infiltration [as defined by 40CFR 35.2005(20)]</li> </ol>

Category B – Flows from emergency fire fighting activity.

Category C – Flows incidental to urban activities:

1. Reclaimed and potable landscape irrigation runoff;
2. Potable drinking water supply and distribution system releases (consistent with American Water Works Association guidelines for dechlorination and suspended reduction practices);
3. Drains for foundations, footings, and crawl spaces;
4. Air conditioning condensate;
5. Dechlorinated/debrominated swimming pool discharges;
6. Dewatering of lakes and decorative fountains;
7. Non-commercial car washing by residents or by non-profit organizations; and
8. Sidewalk rinsing.

- (1) The Executive Officer may add or remove categories of non-storm water discharges.
- (2) However, if any such discharges are determined to be a source of pollutants by the Regional Board Executive Officer, the discharge will no longer be exempt from this prohibition unless the Permittee implements conditions approved by the Regional Board Executive Officer to ensure that the discharge is not a source of pollutants. Notwithstanding the above, the Regional Board Executive Officer may impose additional prohibitions of non-storm water discharges in consideration of anti-degradation policies and TMDLs.

### 1.2.2 Illicit Connections

The Permit defines illicit connection as:

*“Illicit Connection: Any man-made conveyance that is connected to the storm drain system without a permit, excluding roof-drains and other similar type connections. Examples include channels, pipelines, conduits, inlets, or outlets that are connected directly to the storm drain system.”*

However, since not all agencies formally permit connections, as used in this model program an illicit connection is any man-made conveyance that is connected to the storm drain system and through which prohibited non-stormwater flows are discharged. This includes channels, pipelines, conduits, inlets or outlets that are connected directly to the storm drain system. Roof drains, area drains, and other similar connections which are intended to convey only stormwater runoff are excluded, unless they are also used to convey an illicit discharge.

### 1.3 PROGRAM SUMMARY

Each Permittee will continue implementation of an illicit connection/illicit discharge elimination program that includes the following components:

- Illicit discharge elimination
- Illicit connection elimination
- Public reporting
- Reporting hazardous substances entering the storm drain system

A brief summary of the baseline objectives of each component relative to the nature and type of illicit discharges and illicit connections follows.

### **1.3.1 Illicit Discharge Elimination**

The goal of this component is to detect and eliminate illicit discharges from entering the storm drain system to reduce pollutants from such discharge to the maximum extent practicable. The baseline objectives are:

- Incidental spills, or disposal (including sanitary sewer leaks or overflows) reported by the public or other agencies or observed by Permittee field staff during the course of their normal daily activities will be investigated, contained and cleaned up.
- Prohibited non-stormwater discharges to the storm drain system reported by the public or other agencies or observed by Permittee field staff during the course of their normal daily activities (such as surface runoff associated with washdown from an industrial site) will be eliminated through voluntary termination or enforcement action.
- Suspected prohibited non-storm discharges in the storm drain system reported by the public or other agencies or observed by Permittee staff during the course of their normal daily activities, that may result from illicit connections or whose origin is unknown, will be investigated to determine the nature and source of the discharge and eliminated through voluntary termination or enforcement action.

Permittees shall investigate and respond with activities to abate and clean up illicit discharges, in accordance with the time and the methods defined in this model program.

Implementation requirements for this component of the program are contained in Section 2.

### **1.3.2 Illicit Connection Elimination**

The goal of this component is to detect and eliminate illicit connections to reduce pollutants discharged through such connections to the maximum extent practicable. The baseline objectives are:

- A screen of the storm drain system will be conducted by maintenance personnel for illicit connections following the schedule contained in Table of Section 3 of this report (Part 4.G.2.a.1 of the Permit)..
- A connection to the storm drain system, that is suspected or observed to be the source of an illicit discharge, will be investigated to determine the source and nature of the discharge. The connection may be discovered while investigating a suspected illicit discharge, or while field screening the storm drain system in accordance with requirements set forth in Part 4.G.2.a.1 of the Permit, or detected by field staff during the course of their normal daily activities.

- Once the illicit connection/discharge has been investigated as described in Section 2, one of the following actions must occur:
  - If the discharge is determined to consist only of exempted non-stormwater, the connection will be allowed to remain and will no longer be considered an illicit connection. Permittees may elect to issue a permit for the connection or allow the connection to remain if information on the connection is recorded as described in the model program; or
  - The discharge will be permitted through a separate NPDES permit; or
  - The connection will be terminated through voluntary action or enforcement proceedings.

Permittees shall investigate and terminate illicit connections in accordance with the time and the methods defined in this model program.

Implementation requirements for this component of the program are contained in Section 3.

### **1.3.3 Public Reporting**

The goal of this component is to promote, publicize and facilitate public reporting of illicit discharges and illicit disposal practices. The baseline objective is:

- Each permittee will implement a program to receive incoming calls from the public regarding potential illicit discharges and illicit disposal practices, communicate and coordinate a response, follow up with the complainant, and maintain documentation.

Implementation requirements for this component of the program are contained in Section 4.

### **1.3.4 Reporting Hazardous Substances Entering the Storm Drain System**

The goal of this component is to facilitate appropriate reporting of hazardous substances entering the storm drain system as a result of an illicit discharge. The baseline objective is:

- Each permittee will implement a program to report and document reportable quantities of hazardous substances entering the storm drain system.

## **1.4 IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM ARE CONTAINED IN SECTION 5.PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Performance measures define the level of Permittee program activities that are needed to ensure compliance with this model program and the goals outlined under the Permit. Appendix A outlines the specific activities to be tracked through the use of performance measures, and representative target goals for each measure.

The program activities discussed in this model program are intended to identify and eliminate discharges associated with illegal dumping or illicit connections to the storm drain system. As a result, the performance measures in Appendix A are based upon accepted practices described in this model program and performance standards in compliance with NPDES permit conditions.