

Quick Reference Handout*

Non-Stormwater Discharges under LA MS4 Permit¹

All non-stormwater discharges are prohibited from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) except for those discharges listed below as specified in the LA MS4 Permit.

Authorized Non-Stormwater Discharges

The following authorized non-stormwater discharges are allowed if they are either:

- Separately regulated by an individual or general NPDES permit
- Temporary and authorized by USEPA under CERCLA 104(a) and 104(b), typically associated with authorized groundwater remediation actions
- Emergency firefighting activities necessary for the protection of life or property
- Natural flows including: natural springs; flows from riparian habitats and wetlands; diverted stream flows authorized by the State or Regional Water Board; uncontaminated groundwater infiltration; and rising ground waters where ground water seepage is not otherwise covered by a NPDES permit
- Conditionally exempt, as explained below

Conditional Exemptions from Non-Stormwater Discharge Prohibition

The following categories of non-storm water discharges are exempt if they comply with the terms listed below, including the implementation of Permit-specified Best Management Practices (BMPs), and are not a source of pollutants:

- Dewatering of lakes
- Landscape irrigation
- Dechlorinated/debrominated swimming pool/spa discharges
- Dewatering of decorative fountains
- Non-commercial car washing by residents or non-profit organizations

¹ California Regional Water Quality Control Board—Los Angeles, Order No. R4-2012-0175, NPDES Permit No. CAS004001 Waste Discharge Requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharges within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County, Except those Discharges Originating from the City of Long Beach MS4.

*This document has been prepared for general information and education by Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec). Neither Geosyntec nor any person acting on its behalf makes any warranty or representation, express or implied, that any information disclosed in this document is applicable or appropriate for a specific activity, site or regulated agency or entity. Please refer to the relevant implementing municipal code and Order No. R4-2012-0175, Section III Discharge Prohibitions for purposes of enforcement and precise permit language.

- Street/sidewalk wash water using only high pressure, low volume potable water with no cleaning agents
- There are separate conditional exemptions for MS4s that discharge to an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).



Terms for All Conditionally Exempt Non-Stormwater Discharges:

- Must ensure there are no potential sources of pollutants in the flow path of the of the non-stormwater discharges to prevent introduction of pollutants to the MS4 and receiving water.
- Discharges greater than 100,000 gallons require advance notification, monitoring, and record keeping.
- BMPs for the non-essential categories can be found in Table 8 of MS4 Permit (copied below).