

## Stormwater Pollution

The storm drains that keep our parking lots, streets and businesses from flooding lead to the Los Angeles River.

Stormwater runoff enters the storm drain system through grates and curb inlets called catch basins. Unlike water that enters the sanitary sewer system, water that enters the storm drain system travels, untreated, directly to the Los Angeles River, carrying with it pollutants that the stormwater contacted.

Pollutants such as trash, oil, grease, soap, animal waste and chemicals that are spilled onto the ground, poured into storm drains, stored outside or placed in the trash (even in a sealed container) can be washed down the storm drains by stormwater.

Stormwater Pollution can have financial consequences and adversely affect human health, marine life, and property values.

**It is your responsibility to manage your facility in a way that protects the quality of our waterways and marine resources.**

## Resources

To report illegal dumping in storm drains, clogged catch basins, hazardous waste spills, sewer back-ups, and water line breaks, call:

**(888) CLEAN-LA** (Los Angeles County)

or

**(323) 722-4805** (City of Commerce).



If there is a storm drain inlet on your property (not in the public right-of-way), it is your responsibility to remove accumulated debris from the inlet and mark it with “no dumping, drains to ocean” or an equivalent statement.

# Stormwater Pollution Prevention

## Industrial and Commercial Businesses



**City of Commerce  
Environmental Services**  
(323) 722-4805



## Stormwater Regulations

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program was created under the Clean Water Act to regulate pollutant discharges. There are three general stormwater permits: Municipal, Industrial and Construction.

### *Municipal Stormwater Permit*

The City of Commerce is a Permittee under the Los Angeles Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. To comply with the Municipal Stormwater Permit, the City of Commerce must track, educate, inspect and ensure compliance with municipal ordinances at industrial and commercial businesses.

### *Industrial General Permit (IGP)*

Facilities with outdoor activities/storage may require coverage under the Industrial General Permit. Coverage is required if a facility has a regulated Standard Industrial Classification (SIC Code):

[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/sicnum.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/sicnum.shtml)

Information about the IGP and how to apply for coverage is available on the State Water Resource Control Board website:

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/industrial.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/industrial.shtml)



## Non-Stormwater Discharges (NSWD)

NSWDs are discharges that do not originate from precipitation events. This includes discharges of process water, air conditioner condensate, vehicle wash water, irrigation water, concrete washout water, etc.

Employees should know that it is illegal to allow any discharge except stormwater to enter the storm drain system. Non-stormwater discharges should be contained and eliminated.



Illegal non-stormwater discharge from a facility using a hose to wash the sidewalk.

## Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs are practices to prevent or reduce surface water pollution.

### *Good Housekeeping*

- Outdoor areas are free of litter and debris.
- Trash bins and dumpsters are kept closed.
- Use dry cleanup methods (sweep) or high pressure, low volume spray. Prevent water from entering the storm drain.
- Operations such as painting, grinding, sanding, degreasing, or parts cleaning should be conducted indoors, when possible. Dust and debris from operations should be contained.

### *Spill and Leak Response*

- Prevent spills by training employees on proper material handling techniques.
- Keep a well-stocked spill kit.
- Clean-up spills immediately with absorbent materials. Dispose of materials properly.
- Store chemicals in secondary containment.

### *Material Handling and Waste Management*

- Store materials and equipment under roofs, if possible.
- Greasy or rusty equipment should be protected from stormwater; cover exposed materials with a tarp prior to storms.
- Dispose of used oil and chemicals according to applicable regulations using a registered waste hauler.

### *Preventative Maintenance*

- Repair leaking equipment immediately.
- Perform routine inspections of vehicles, equipment and chemical storage areas.

### *Employee Training*

- Train employees on BMPs implementation.
- Post or distribute this brochure.