

## Standard Provisions

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### 1. General Authority

Various storm water program components (e.g. IDDE) require enforceable controls on third party activities to ensure successful implementation of the program. Some non-traditional operators, however, may not have the necessary legal or regulatory authority to adopt enforceable controls. As with local governments that lack such authority, NTMS4s shall utilize the authority they do possess and seek cooperative agreements with local municipalities to implement enforceable controls.

### 2. Duty to Comply

The Permittee shall comply with all conditions of this Permit. Any Permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the CWA and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, which may be grounds for enforcement action or denial of General Permit coverage. [40 CFR 122.41(a)]

The Permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established under Section 307(a) of the CWA for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if this Permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.

In the event that the Permittee is removed from coverage under the General Permit, the Permittee will be required to seek coverage under an individual or alternative general permit.

### 3. General Permit Actions

This General Permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the Permittee for a General Permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not nullify any General Permit condition.

If any toxic effluent standard or prohibition (including any schedule of compliance specified in such effluent standard or prohibition) is promulgated under §307(a) of CWA for a toxic pollutant which is present in the discharge and that standard or prohibition is more stringent than any limitation on the pollutant in this General Permit, this General Permit shall be modified or revoked and reissued to conform to the toxic effluent standard or prohibition and Permittee will be so notified.

### 4. Enforcement

- a. The enforcement provisions contained in this section shall not act as a limitation on the statutory or regulatory authority of the State and Regional Water Board.

- b. Any violation of the permit constitutes violation of the California Water Code and regulations adopted hereunder and the provisions of the Clean Water Act, and is the basis for enforcement, permit termination, permit revocation and reissuance, denial of an application for permit reissuance; or a combination thereof.
  - c. The State Water Board has authority to regulate discharges from a MS4 on a system-wide or jurisdiction-wide basis. [CWA Section 402(p) & 40 CFR 122.26(a)(v)]
  - d. The State and Regional Boards may impose administrative civil liability, may refer a discharger to the State Attorney General to seek civil monetary penalties, may seek injunctive relief or take other appropriate enforcement action as provided in the California Water Code or federal law for violation of Board orders.
  - e. It shall not be a defense for the Permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this order and permit.
  - f. Significant penalties may be imposed for violation of this General Permit, pursuant to CWC section 13385 and other State and federal statutes. Court-imposed liability may exceed \$25,000 per day, and Regional Water Board's may impose administrative fines exceeding \$10,000 per day. [40 CFR 122.41(a)(2)&(3)]
  - g. The Clean Water Act provides that any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than six months per violation, or by both. [40 CFR 122.41(k)(2)]
  - h. The Clean Water Act provides that any person who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this permit shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both. Higher penalties may be imposed for repeat offenders. [40 CFR 122.41(j)(5)]
5. Noncompliance Reporting

Permittees who cannot certify compliance and/or who have had other instances of noncompliance shall notify the appropriate Regional Water Board within 30 days. Instances of noncompliance resulting in emergencies (i.e., that endanger human health or the environment) shall be reported orally to the Regional Water Board within 24 hours from the time the discharger becomes aware of the circumstance and in writing to the Regional Water Board within five days of the occurrence. The notification shall identify the noncompliance event and an initial assessment of any

impact caused by the event, describe the actions necessary to achieve compliance, and include a time schedule indicating when compliance will be achieved. The time schedule and corrective measures are subject to modification by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer.

6. Duty to Mitigate

The Permittee shall take all responsible steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this General Permit that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment. [40 CFR 122.41(d)]

7. Proper Operation and Maintenance

The Permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain any facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the Permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this General Permit and with the requirements of the storm water program. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. Proper operation and maintenance may require the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems installed by the Permittee when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this General Permit. [40 CFR 122.41(e)]

8. Property Rights

This General Permit does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor does it authorize any infringement of federal, State, or local laws or regulations.[40 CFR 122.41(g)]

9. Duty to Provide Information

The Permittee shall furnish Regional Water Boards or U.S. EPA, during normal business hours, any requested information to determine compliance with this General Permit. The Permittee shall also furnish, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this General Permit. [40 CFR 122.41(h)]

10. Inspection and Entry

Upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, the Permittee shall allow the State and Regional Water Boards, U.S. EPA, or municipal storm water management agency to enter upon the Permittee premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted or where records are required to be kept under the conditions of this General Permit to [40 CFR 122.41(i)]:

- a. Have access to and copy at reasonable times any records that are required to be kept under the conditions of this Permit;

- b. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities or equipment (including monitoring and control equipment) that are related to or may impact any storm water or non-storm water discharge; and
- c. Conduct monitoring activities at reasonable times to ensure Permit compliance.
- d. Photograph or videotape outdoor areas of the facility to document compliance or non-compliance with this Permit.

11. Signatory Requirements

All NOIs, certifications, reports, or other information prepared in accordance with this General Permit that are submitted to State or Regional Water Boards shall be signed by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or duly authorized representative. The principal executive officer of a Federal agency includes the chief executive officer of the agency or the senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit of the agency (e.g., Regional Administrator of U.S. EPA). For the military: any military officer or Department of Defense civilian, acting in an equivalent capacity to a military officer, who has been designated.

12. Certification

Any person signing documents under this General Permit shall make the following certification:

*I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete.*

*I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.*

13. Anticipated Noncompliance

The Permittee will give advance notice to the Regional Water Board of any planned changes in the regulated Small MS4 activity that may result in noncompliance with General Permit requirements.

14. Penalties for Falsification of Reports

Section 309(c)(4) of CWA provides that any person who knowingly makes any false material statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this General Permit, including reports of compliance or noncompliance, shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than two years or by both.

15. Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions

- a. Part 309 of CWA provides significant penalties for any person who violates a permit condition implementing Parts 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of CWA or any permit condition or limitation implementing any such section in a permit issued under Part 402. Any person who violates any permit condition of this General Permit is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$27,500 per calendar day of such violation, as well as any other appropriate sanction provided by Part 309 of CWA.
- b. the California Water Code also provides for administrative, civil, and criminal penalties, which in some cases are greater than those under CWA.

16. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability

Nothing in this General Permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action against the Permittee or relieve the Permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the Permittee is or may be subject to under Part 311 of CWA.

17. Severability

The provisions of this General Permit are severable; and, if any provision of this General Permit or the application of any provision of this General Permit to any circumstance is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances and the remainder of this General Permit shall not be affected thereby.

18. Reopener Clause

This General Permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause due to promulgation of amended regulations, or otherwise in accordance with 40 CFR sections 122.62, 122.63, 122.64, and 124.5.

19. Availability

A copy of this General Permit and Annual Reports shall be made available for public review, program evaluation (audit) and inspection.

20. Transfers

This General Permit is not transferable. A Permittee shall submit written notification to the appropriate Regional Water Board to terminate coverage of this General Permit.

21. Continuation of Expired Permit

This General Permit expires five years from the date of adoption. This General Permit continues in force and in effect until a new General Permit is issued or the State Water Board rescinds this General Permit. Only those Small MS4s authorized to discharge under the expired General Permit are covered by the continued General Permit.