
State Water Resources Control Board

Application Requirements for Trash Full Capture System Certification (Updated August 2025)

In accordance with the Trash Provisions,¹ the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Executive Director or designee certifies trash full capture systems (Systems).

How to Apply for Certification of a New System

To apply for certification of a new System, the applicant shall submit an application in accordance with the requirements labeled “Application Submittal Requirements” below. The application shall be submitted electronically to State Water Board staff at DWQ-Trash-Program-MS4@Waterboards.ca.gov.

Upon determining that an application is complete, the System is designed to meet the definition of a full capture system,² and the application has been approved for vector control accessibility by the Mosquito Vector Control Association of California (see below), the Executive Director or designee will certify the System. When evaluating a System for certification, the Executive Director also reviews its overall design to ensure that the System is functional in the field to meet the Trash Provisions. For example, a curb inlet-based System that does not trap the maximum size of trash entering through the curb inlet would not be considered functional though it has a 5-millimeter screen.

Upon certification or amendment of a previously certified System, State Water Board staff will notify the applicant and update both the Executive Director Designee Certification of Trash Full Capture Systems and the Certified Trash Full Capture Systems Available to the Public lists as appropriate for posting to the State Water Board’s Trash Implementation Program webpage.

¹ Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California to Control Trash (Ocean Plan) and Part 1 Trash Provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, And Estuaries of California adopted by the State Water Board located on the [Statewide Water Quality Control Plans for Trash](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/trash_control/documentation.html) webpage (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/trash_control/documentation.html).

² A full capture system traps all particles that are 5 millimeters or greater and has a design treatment capacity that is either: a) of not less than the peak flow rate resulting from a one-year, one-hour storm in the sub-drainage area, or b) appropriately designed to carry at least the same flows as the corresponding storm drain.

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Certification of a System does not constitute an endorsement by the State Water Board. The Executive Director reserves the right to decertify any System for reasons including, but not limited to, that the System has been discontinued, has been found to not trap trash in accordance with the Trash Provisions, no longer has Mosquito Vector Control Association of California approval, or otherwise does not satisfy the requirements of the Trash Provisions or Executive Director certification.

How to Submit an Amended Application for a Currently Certified System

An applicant shall submit an amended application under the following circumstances:

1. **Major Revisions.** If an applicant is proposing design feature revisions to a certified System (including revisions to or additions of filters, screens, configurations, bypass, feeder troughs, or other physical characteristics that affect the functionality of a certified System), the applicant must submit an amended application for re-certification before use or sale of the updated System. The amended application must include the details related to the revisions.
2. **Minor Revisions.** If the applicant is proposing minor revisions³ to the original certified application (e.g. routine revisions to the applicant's contact information, changes to installation or maintenance instructions), the applicant may do so without delaying the use or sale of the certified System. Such minor revisions do not affect a System's certification status. The Executive Director reserves the right to require recertification of an amended application with such revisions if it is determined that the revisions are significant enough to warrant re-certification. In such an instance and upon notice from State Water Board staff, the applicant must wait for re-certification of the updated application prior to use or sale of the updated System.

When submitting an amended application, the applicant must include in its Cover Letter, in addition to the requirements in section 1 below, a statement regarding the nature of the revisions (i.e. whether the proposed revisions are minor or not), a summary of the proposed revisions, and the sections of the application that are revised. The application shall be submitted electronically to DWQ-Trash-Program-MS4@Waterboards.ca.gov as described above. Please note that when ownership of a System is transferred/sold between independent parties, supporting documentation must be included clearly indicating that both parties acknowledge the date of the transfer/sale. The previous owner is responsible for the design of all Systems manufactured up to the date of transfer.

Project-Specific System Application Requirements

A project-specific System is a System that is custom designed and is not intended for sale to the public. Project-specific applications follow the same certification process as described above, but the application includes additional requirements. For assistance or

³ When a certified System's name or ownership changes, identify the original System name and/or owner, and the effective date of an ownership change with supporting documentation. In addition, ensure the revised application includes the proper relabeling of all System photos, graphics, illustrations, etc.

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to obtain a copy of the project-specific application, please contact staff via email at DWQ-Trash-Program-MS4@Waterboards.ca.gov.

Vector Control Accessibility

According to the California Health and Safety Code, California landowners are legally responsible to abate (eliminate the source of) a public nuisance arising from their property, including mosquitoes. Mosquito vector control districts have substantial authority to access public and private property, inspect known or suspected sources of mosquitoes, abate mosquito sources, and charge the landowner for work performed and/or charge fees if a landowner is unwilling or unable to address a mosquito source arising from their property.

If not designed and installed properly, a System may impede the mosquito vector control district's ability to (1) visually inspect the System and/or storm vault for mosquito breeding, and (2) apply the appropriate chemical treatment. Moreover, some Systems may create a habitat⁴ for mosquitoes. Prior to installation of any System, the local mosquito vector control district should be contacted to ensure the installation conforms to the local district's visual inspection, treatment, and vector breeding minimizing guidelines. The Mosquito Vector Control Association of California may also be contacted via email at Trashtreatment@mvcac.org.

Confidentiality

Applicants who include specific proprietary information that should not be publicly disclosed shall include a *Confidentiality Justification Letter* that clearly identifies the privileged or confidential information and explains why the information should not be publicly disclosed. In general, the State Water Board considers proprietary information confidential when it consists of trade secrets (e.g., manufacturing processes and/or materials that are not patent protected). If the confidentiality justification is approved, the application that is available to the public will not display the confidential information, although an approved confidentiality justification may not, in all circumstances, prevent disclosure of the information in response to a Public Records Act request.

Applicants are encouraged to contact DWQ-Trash-Program-MS4@Waterboards.ca.gov prior to submitting a *Confidentiality Justification Letter*. Applications submitted with *Confidentiality Justification Letters* that are denied shall be returned to the applicant.

⁴ For a System that causes standing water that may cause mosquito breeding, it is recommended, but not required, that the manufacturer include in the application either an optional sealed manhole cover or a solid (under-manhole cover) insert. Some municipalities, in conjunction with their local mosquito vector control districts, may require the installation of sealed manhole covers or solid inserts to reduce mosquito habitat for such Systems that cause standing water.

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Application Submittal Requirements

The submittal for certification shall be consistent and formatted to address each of the requirements in the sections and subsections below. If any requirement is not applicable, include the requirement and indicate N/A with a brief explanation.

1. **Cover Letter.** A cover letter shall include the following:

- a. The System name and general description. If the System has more than one configuration (i.e., grate inlet and curb inlet), the System name should incorporate the configuration name(s).
- b. The name of the applicant. If privately owned or, if the System is owned by a corporation, also include the name and position of the highest corporate officer (e.g., Chief Executive Officer or president). If the application is signed by the owner's authorized representative (e.g., Vice-President, Department Director, etc.), identify the name and position of the authorized representative. The contact information for the System owner and authorized representative shall include the mailing address, email address, and telephone numbers (office and cell).
- c. The applicant's webpage address where the System can be found on the applicant's website.
- d. The location of the System's manufacturing site(s).
- e. A brief summary of any field or laboratory testing results that demonstrates the System functions as described within the application (see section 8).
- f. A description or list of locations, if any, where the System has been installed for the purposes of trapping trash. Include the name and contact information of as many as three municipalities purchasing and installing the System.
- g. If the System is designed to operate outside of a typical stormwater catch basin and is able to trap trash from high flows, indicate a preference to be listed as a high flow capacity System on the State Water Board's website.
- h. The application shall be signed by the owner or authorized representative (not the technical or sales representative) and include 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 that 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.

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2. **Table of Contents.** The Table of Contents shall be consistent with the six sections (sections 3-8) and corresponding subsections below. Appendices, and references to corresponding page numbers may be added.
3. **Physical Description.** Describe each configuration of the System (do not include references to the System's ability to reduce other pollutants such as sediment, oil, metals, etc.) in accordance with the following:
 - a. **Trash Capture:** Describe how the System traps trash particles 5-millimeters or greater. Unless the System is designed to self-clean the screen or filter area, screens and filters sizes must be between 4.5 to 5 millimeters. Expandable filters must be sized to trap trash 5-millimeters or greater when fully expanded.
 - b. **Peak Flows/Trash Capture Volumes:** Explain how the System is sized for varying peak flow rates and trash capture peak volumes.
 - c. **Hydraulic Capacity:**
 - 1) For all standard sizes and configurations, provide a table of the hydraulic capacity for the conditions of no screen blinding and zero trash capture in the System and at several intervals of screen blinding (including 50 percent) or trash capture volume. If the System includes feeder troughs, see section 3.h and 8.c below; and.
 - 2) Provide the methods or equations used to determine hydraulic capacity of the System. If equations are used, provide one example calculation for a selected System size.
 - d. **Comparison Table:** For all standard sizes, provide a table that includes the peak flow rates and recommended maximum trash capture volumes.
 - e. **Design Drawings:** Provide simple design drawings for all standard System sizes, configurations, and optional components (i.e., deflector lid or screen). Design drawings should depict the top, side, and three-dimensional perspective. Design drawing must include width, depth, and height. Engineered drawings shall be attached.
 - f. **Optional Components:** If the System includes components that are only required under specific conditions, explain the purpose of each component and the conditions for which each component is mandatory or optional.
 - g. **Bypass:** Provide the maximum flow rate of the Systems bypass and explain how the bypass functions to only allow bypass of flows exceeding the design peak flow rate.
 - h. **Feeder Troughs:** If the System includes feeder troughs, the feeder troughs must be designed (via a back splash or other design elements) to minimize clogging and over-topping of stormwater and floatable trash.
 - i. **Calibration Feature:** If the System includes an adjustable calibration feature, describe how the calibration feature functions. Include example design

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drawings depicting the System before and after the calibration.

- j. ***Previously Trapped Trash***: Explain the condition(s) under which the System re-introduces previously trapped trash (i.e., via the bypass).
- k. ***Photos***: Provide photographs of an installed System (if available).
- l. ***Material Type***: Provide each material and material grade used to construct the System (e.g., stainless steel, plastic, etc.).
- m. ***Design Life***: Provide the estimated design life.

4. Installation Guidance. The installation guidance shall include the following:

- a. Standard System installation procedures, any non-standard System installation procedures, and any applicable calibration procedures.
- b. Description of System installation limitations.
- c. Methods for diagnosing and correcting installation errors.

5. Operation and Maintenance Information. Operation and maintenance information shall include the following:

- a. Inspection procedures.
- b. Recommended minimum maintenance frequency necessary to maintain the System's hydraulic capacity. This subsection shall also direct municipalities to review and comply with the minimum maintenance frequency required by the applicable municipal stormwater permit.
- c. Maintenance procedures to remove trash, clean the trash capture screen, and maintain the integrity and performance of the System.
- d. Essential equipment and materials needed for maintenance.
- e. Description of the effects of deferred maintenance on System structural integrity and performance.
- f. Repair procedures for the System's structural and screening components.

6. Vector Control Accessibility. Vector control accessibility information shall include the following:

- a. The description of how mosquito vector control personnel can readily access the bottom of the storm water vault and/or System for visual observation and mosquito treatment. A video may be required for Systems with complex vector control accessibility procedures.
- b. System drawings that depict the vector control accessibility including sight lines.
- c. The date the System application was submitted for vector control accessibility design verification via email to the Mosquito Vector Control

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Association of California at Trashtreatment@mvcac.org. The Mosquito Vector Control Association of California has prepared a video, the [Trash Capture Device Designs for Mosquito Control on Vimeo](https://vimeo.com/462828578/5ca5a8d9d2), (<https://vimeo.com/462828578/5ca5a8d9d2>) providing information regarding vector control accessibility.

- d. Once received, the date of the Mosquito Vector Control Association of California Letter of Verification. The letter shall be attached to the application. This letter verifies that the System design allows full visual access for presence of standing water and treatment of mosquitoes when necessary.

7. Reliability Information. Reliability information shall include the following:

- a. Estimated design life of the System and screens.
- b. Warranty information.
- c. Customer support information.

8. Field and Laboratory Testing Information and Analysis. Field and laboratory testing includes a demonstration that the System captures trash particles of 5-millimeters or greater and other System functionality and performance (i.e., hydraulic capacity). Field and laboratory testing is required as follows:

- a. For Systems that include 5-millimeter screening, field or laboratory testing is optional. Applicants may provide available field or laboratory testing information; or
- b. If the System does not include a 5-millimeter screen, field or laboratory testing is mandatory.
- c. If the System includes feeder troughs, laboratory testing should be included to demonstrate over-top prevention.