

Stormwater Capture Volumetric Assessment and Inventory Background & Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Background

California's Water Supply Strategy¹ calls for making new water available for use by capturing stormwater. To do so, a statewide baseline of existing capture is needed. Establishment of this baseline requires two primary activities:

- 1) Develop and implement a methodology to establish a statewide inventory of infrastructure, devices, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that capture urban stormwater runoff.
- 2) Develop and implement a methodology that uses the inventory to estimate total urban capture throughout the state and quantify the amount of captured runoff made available for use.

To develop the inventory, the CA State Water Resources Control Board's Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Stormwater (STORMS) program and the Office of Water Programs (OWP) at California State University, Sacramento are seeking data submittals from agencies conducting stormwater capture. The data request, which includes optional use of a spreadsheet template, is being released via e-mail the week of October 28th, 2024. Two informational webinars will be hosted to support the data request on Thursday, October 31st at 10:00am and Tuesday, November 12th at 1:00pm. The same details will be provided at each webinar.

FAQ

Q1. How is "urban stormwater capture and use" defined?

For purposes of this project, urban stormwater "capture" refers to the intentional collection of urban stormwater runoff; while "use" refers to the intentional use of urban stormwater runoff for 1) irrigation in-lieu of potable water supplies, and 2) recharge of groundwater in pumped aquifers.

Q2. What stormwater capture devices are of interest?

Stormwater capture devices or BMPs of interest include rain gardens, infiltration basins, infiltration galleries, infiltration trenches, spreading grounds, porous pavement, capture & use storage, and dry wells.

Q3. Are dams, levees, and other similar flood control structures of interest?

No, the scope of this project revolves around the capture of stormwater runoff from urban catchments and not stormwater that naturally runs off into surface waters or is otherwise captured to prevent downstream flooding.

Q4. How will this inventory be used?

The inventory will be used to estimate of the volume of stormwater runoff captured over the past several years.

Q5. Can we send an existing database of our inventory instead of populating the template?

Yes! Existing databases, as well as As-Builts or Design Documents in lieu of an inventory or database are of interest! Please contact Dakota Keene at the Office of Water Programs via the following information to coordinate delivery. dakota.keene@owp.csus.edu | 916-278-8124

¹ CA DNR et al. 2022. CA Department of Natural Resources, CA Department of Water Resources, CA State Water Resources Control Board, California Environmental Protection Agency, and CA Department of Food and Agriculture. California's Water Supply Strategy – Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future. August 2022.