



STRATEGY TO OPTIMIZE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OF STORMWATER

Standardizing Cost Reporting in Municipal Stormwater Permits

The State Water Board's Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Stormwater (STORMS) Unit is reviewing cost reporting categories for Phase I municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits. The STORMS team is hosting a workshop to gather feedback from MS4 permittees and other interested stakeholders on the cost reporting categories.

What are the goals of the project?

The STORMS Unit is developing a new reporting format with standardized cost reporting categories that would apply to MS4 permittees statewide. Current cost reporting requirements in MS4 permits differ by region, resulting in inconsistent cost estimation for stormwater programs statewide. By standardizing the cost reporting categories, it will be easier for permittees to track and estimate true costs associated with implementation of their MS4 permits.

What are the proposed categories?

1. Overall Program Management and Administration
2. Public Education, Outreach, Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Planning and Land Development
5. Industrial and Commercial Facilities
6. Construction Site Management
7. Municipal Maintenance
8. Projects
9. Trash Management
10. Water Quality Monitoring
11. Special Programs
12. Miscellaneous Costs

How were the proposed categories developed?

STORMS staff reviewed previously developed cost reporting guidelines as well as program requirements in existing MS4 permits. Staff also spoke with selected permittees across the state to identify the range of permit-required activities and how to categorize them. STORMS staff designed the proposed categories to meet the following criteria:

- Expenditures in each category should be directly related to permit requirements
- Categories should be broad enough to address diverse approaches in different regions
- Transitioning from existing categories should be a simple process

To register for the workshop, read descriptions for the proposed categories, and learn more, visit the STORMS website: bit.ly/stormwater_strategy

Written comments on the proposed cost reporting categories may be submitted to Nabiul Afrooz (Nabiul.Afrooz@waterboards.ca.gov).