

COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Industrial Waste Section
P.O. Box 4998
Whittier, CA 90607-4998**

Dry Weather Urban Runoff Diversion Policy

In the interest of promoting public health and safety, assisting Sanitation Districts' cities and County unincorporated areas with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit compliance and increasing the availability of recycled water, the Sanitation Districts have approved, under the terms and conditions of this policy, the diversion of dry weather urban runoff into the wastewater collection system. Dry weather urban runoff originates from human activities, including, but not limited to, car washing, landscape irrigation, street washing, dewatering during construction activities, fountains, pond and tank testing and from natural occurrences like groundwater seepage that discharges to the storm drain system. Dry weather urban runoff may contain high levels of bacteria and other pollutants that enter the waterways. Diversions of dry weather urban runoff have been permitted to the Sanitation Districts wastewater collection system.

The agencies responsible for the storm water collection systems are required to obtain permits from the Sanitation Districts, install equipment to remove large solids, provide the means for measuring flow, provide necessary monitoring and control systems and pay appropriate fees. The permits also recognize that the permittees are responsible for complying with the Sanitation Districts' *Wastewater Ordinance*, including local effluent limitations. In some cases the permits limit the daily discharge period and/or peak flow where capacity issues are a concern.

As the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board through its MS4 permitting process has imposed more stringent requirements on the Sanitation Districts' cities and the County to reduce the discharge of pollutants to their stormwater systems to the maximum extent possible, there continue to be inquiries into the ability of the Sanitation Districts to accept additional dry weather urban runoff diversions. In an effort to aid the inquiring entities in selecting priorities, the following requirements are provided in accordance with the Sanitation Districts' *Wastewater Ordinance*.

Dry Weather Urban Runoff Diversion Requirements

The following general requirements will apply to all dry weather urban runoff diversions within the Sanitation Districts' service area. Details may be obtained by contacting the Sanitation Districts' Industrial Waste Section at extension 2900 or accessing the Sanitation Districts' Website at www.lacsd.org.

- All projects for dry weather urban runoff diversion to the Sanitation Districts' sewer system must obtain an Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit (permit) prior to activation of facilities. The permit application and instructions may be obtained from the Sanitation

Districts' Website www.lacsd.org under the Industrial Waste Section.

- Dry weather urban runoff diversions should consolidate multiple smaller storm drains where feasible. Drains identified by multiple agency workgroups should be given priority for diversions.
- To the extent feasible, non-contaminated dry weather urban runoff flows should be segregated from diverted flows. Tributary flows from industrial facilities being discharged under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits are considered non-contaminated dry weather flows. All NPDES permitted flows tributary to the diversion point must be identified to the Sanitation Districts.
- The Sanitation Districts may allow for year round discharge provided the wastewater collection and treatment facilities are not adversely impacted and there is an identified environmental benefit. In some circumstances dry weather urban runoff discharge permits will limit diversions to May 1 - September 30, and/or during off-peak hours.
- The permits will have a duration not to exceed 5 years from the date of approval. Six (6) months prior to expiration of the permit, the permittee will need to apply for a permit renewal.
- Off peak discharge will generally be required for all dry weather urban runoff diversion projects regardless of immediate downstream sewer conditions. The Sanitation Districts may allow 24-hour per day discharge provided the wastewater collection and treatment facilities are not adversely impacted and there is an identified environmental benefit.
- The discharge rate will generally be limited to ensure that the downstream sewer will not flow more than 3/4 depth. If the dry weather urban runoff discharge will cause the sewer to flow at greater than 3/4 depth, or if the Sanitation Districts have concerns about other operational difficulties related to the wastewater collection and treatment facilities, the allowable flow rate may be decreased.
- The discharge of urban runoff flow to the sewer must be pumped. The force main must have a check valve between the pump and the connection to the sewer. It should be installed and maintained by the permittees to ensure that wastewater does not backflow into the storm drain system.
- Facilities providing for the removal of trash, debris, sediment and potentially other pollutants from entering the Sanitation Districts' sewerage system must be provided. Debris larger than 3/8-inch must not be discharged.
- An effluent flow meter to measure the quantity of discharge flow must be installed. The flow meter should have a non-resettable totalizer and an instantaneous recorder to assist in the peak flow compliance determination.

- The acreage of the area tributary to the diversion point must be provided to the Sanitation Districts. The applicant must perform an investigation to determine if any significant inappropriate wastestreams are tributary to the dry weather urban runoff diversion. A report of the investigation must be submitted with the permit application. The permittee should exercise procedures to minimize the generation of unnecessary dry weather urban runoff flows.
- The Sanitation Districts may require the permittee to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and pollution prevention strategies to minimize or eliminate nuisance flow and pollutants, from the area or site served by the proposed urban runoff diversion project.
- A gas detector to shut down the operation upon reaching a 20% Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) must be provided for any urban runoff diversion structure.
- A rain collector capable of measuring 0.1" of rainwater must be installed. Upon sensing 0.1" of rainwater, the system must automatically shut off power to the discharge pump, with the newly accumulated flow discharging to the storm drain. Pumping should not be restarted for up to 24-hours after cessation of the rain event. Diversion levels lower than 0.1" may be required by the Sanitation Districts depending on downstream wastewater collection system conditions.
- The permittee will be required to provide the Sanitation Districts unencumbered access to either the source of power or the controls to the discharge pump so that diversion may be interrupted should a spill occur upstream or should any other event occur that may adversely impact the Sanitation Districts' wastewater collection and treatment facilities.
- Should the dry weather urban runoff diversion have the possibility of significantly impacting the Sanitation Districts' wastewater collection and treatment facilities, the permittee will be required to install and maintain a communication and control system such that the discharge can be continuously monitored and shut off by the Sanitation Districts from a remote location in the event that the Sanitation District's ability to convey or adequately treat discharges is threatened. The connection will not be placed into service until the communication and control systems have passed functional testing.
- Periodic sampling of the dry weather urban runoff flows and submission of self-monitoring reports will be required.
- The permittee will be required to pay connection fees, annual surcharges, and any required permit processing fees in accordance with the Sanitation Districts' Ordinances.
- The permittee will be responsible for the quality of the wastewater discharged to the sewer system, and must meet the Sanitation Districts' wastewater discharge standards.
- Wastewater diversions will not be allowed where incompatible pollutants have been detected in quantities that may interfere with the downstream treatment plant's ability to achieve waste discharge or water recycling requirements.

- The permittee should provide the Sanitation Districts a map of the storm drain system tributary to the dry weather urban runoff diversion point in a GIS layer consistent with the Sanitation Districts' standards.
- The local permitting agency may have additional requirements, especially if the discharge is to a local sewer within that agency's service area.
- The permittee will be required to indemnify and hold the Sanitation Districts harmless from liability associated with the dry weather urban runoff, including but not limited to failure of the check valve/pump system to prevent sewage from backing into the storm drain.