

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 21, 2008 Public Workshop

Draft Municipal Storm Water Permit

Mona Dougherty, P.E.
Water Resources Control Engineer

Background

- Clean Water Act – 1972
 - NPDES Program
 - Traditional point sources
- Water Quality Act – 1987
 - Storm water regulation

Municipal Storm Water Permit Program

- **Phase I - Santa Rosa area**
 - City of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County and SCWA as Permittees
 - Adopted in May 1997
 - Renewed June 2003, expanded permit areas, post-development controls
- **Phase II - Included rest of Region with cities of population 10,000+ (presently 12 permittees, enrolled in late 2005)**

Storm Water Runoff Is Largest Source of Water Pollution

- Pollutants run off impervious surfaces
- Higher concentrations and more types of pollutants in storm water
- Increased loads of pollutants into receiving waters

Hydromodification

- Increased volume and rate of runoff
- Increased flooding
- Erosion
- Habitat loss and degradation
- Sediment discharge
- Decreased groundwater recharge



This stream has downcut several feet in elevation because of increased storm water flow.

In many highly urbanized areas, natural streams have been channelized to speed runoff transport, but these fail to provide any habitat value.



Principal Modifications in the New Permit

- Permit Boundary
- New Development Requirements
- Hydromodification Mitigation Plan
- Illicit Discharge
- Inspection Tools

Permit Boundary

- Expanded County-wide
 - Impaired waters
 - TMDLs being developed, storm water contributes
 - Endangered species
 - Consistent standards to protect Russian River
 - Coastal areas of biological significance and recreation

New Development Requirements

- Revise SUSMP
- Prioritize best management practices (BMPs) to pollutants of concern
- LID and landscape BMPs
- Reduced size threshold based on land use

Low Impact Development (LID)

- Mimic natural hydrology
- Retain natural soils and vegetation
- Small, distributed BMPs
- Landscape and biological treatment
- Raingardens, swales, bioretention



Hydromodification Mitigation Plan

- Interim and final plan
- Developed by Permittees
- BMPs and compliance verification

Illicit Discharges

- County-wide spill response
- Public outreach county-wide
- Tracking and reporting of discharges

Inspection Tools

- Tools for consistent inspections
- Required BMPs for construction, commercial, and industrial sites
- BMP handbooks for guidance

MS4 Phase I Storm Water Permit Renewal

- October 22 – Comments due
- Late November – Agenda package mailed
 - Comments, staff responses, updated permit
- December 11 – Permit adoption hearing