

Frequently Asked Questions

When was the permit adopted and when do I need to submit an application?

The statewide NPDES permit was adopted on November 18, 2014 and became effective on February 26, 2015, and has a **September 1, 2015** due date for both the application or a Notice of Non-Applicability.

If I have a Regional Board NPDES Permit for discharges not covered under the Statewide General NPDES Permit do I still need to submit an application?

Yes, it is the intention of the State Water Board to regulate all mandatory low-threat-type discharges from community water systems statewide with consistent regulation. This means that with the transition from Regional Water Board permits to the statewide permit, the Regional Water Boards will no longer be regulating the mandatory low-threat-type discharges from drinking water systems that meet the criteria of the statewide permit. Therefore, discharges from a drinking water system with less than 1000 connections that occur due to Safe Drinking Water Act and California Health and Safety Code requirements, NPDES regulatory coverage is to be provided through the new statewide permit, not a Regional Water Board permit.

Do all drinking water systems need to apply?

This permit only applies to drinking water systems that are community drinking water systems and water purveyors that are wholesalers and/or operators of community drinking water systems. The permit does not apply to non-community drinking water systems such as private industrial companies that operate a system for its employees or transient or non-transient drinking water systems such as state parks or rest stops.

Do I need to submit a Notice of Non Applicability (NONA) if I am not a community drinking water system or a transient or non-transient system?

No, the requirement to submit a NONA only applies to the community drinking water systems or wholesalers that for one of the reasons listed in the NONA form they do not discharge to a water of the U.S.

If I operate a Drinking Water Treatment Plant and have filter backwash discharges do I obtain coverage under this Permit?

Yes if you are a community drinking water system and your filter backwash is discharged to a reservoir that is considered off-stream or not a water of the U.S. or is discharged to a sanitary sewer, or is recycled back to the headworks of the treatment plant.

If I operate a community drinking water system with less than 1000 connections do I need to submit an NOI or a NONA.

For community drinking water systems that are less than 1000 connections (does not include wholesalers) the statewide permit leaves does not require the submittal of an application. Instead it leaves it optional to enroll under the Permit by submitting an NOI or optional to inform us that there are no discharges by submitting a NONA. However, to be in compliance with the clean water act requirements and avoid third party lawsuits, the community drinking water system should enroll under the statewide permit if it has discharges that enter a water of the U.S.