

## Monitoring Monday - Let's look at stormwater

Join us each Monday as the Clean Water Team shares resources on a water quality monitoring. This Monday is about Stormwater.

Stormwater ( storm water, runoff, urban drool...) is generated from rain and snowmelt events that flow over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops, and does not soak into the ground. Storm water is often considered a nuisance because it mobilizes pollutants like trash, chemicals, oils, and dirt/sediment that can harm our rivers, streams, lakes, and coastal waters. In most cases, storm water flows directly to water bodies through sewer systems, contributing a major source of pollution to rivers, lakes, and the ocean.

Storm water discharges in California are regulated through [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System](#) (NPDES) permits. The Federal Clean Water Act (Clean Water Act) prohibits certain discharges of storm water containing pollutants except in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The NPDES storm water program regulates some stormwater discharges from three potential sources: [municipal separate storm sewer systems](#) (MS4s), [construction activities](#), and [industrial activities](#).

However, storm water may also act as a resource and recharge to groundwater when properly managed. The Water Boards are actively involved in initiatives to improve the management of storm water as a resource. With the focus on storm water as a resource for local landscape and agricultural irrigation, and groundwater recharge. To protect these resources, communities, construction companies, industries, and others, use stormwater controls, known as best management practices (BMPs). These BMPs filter out pollutants and/or prevent pollution by controlling it at its source.

- [Low Impact Development](#) (LID) refers to systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes that result in the infiltration, evapotranspiration or use of stormwater in order to protect water quality and associated aquatic habitat. Unlike traditional storm water management that collects and conveys storm water runoff through storm drains, pipes, or other conveyances to a centralized storm water facility, LID takes a different approach by using site design and storm water management to maintain the site's pre-development runoff rates and volumes.
- [Green Infrastructure](#) (GI) refers to the management of wet weather flows using these processes, and to refer to the patchwork of natural areas that provide habitat, flood protection, cleaner air, and cleaner water. This expands the low impact development approach to a larger community scale and presents similar sustainable opportunities to local governments and regional projects.

Monitoring and tracking storm water quality helps us understand how well these programs, activities by permittees, and/or best management practices are working. Next Monday we will take a look at monitoring stormwater.

## RESOURCES

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program  
[www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program)

FACT SHEET: Storm Water Management in California  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/stormwater\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/stormwater_factsheet.pdf)

Storm Water Program (SWRCB)  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/)

Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Stormwater (STORMS)  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/storms/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/storms/)

California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA)  
[www.casqa.org](http://www.casqa.org)

## VIDEOS

After the Storm- A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Stormwater  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtZD173HfyE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtZD173HfyE)

Storm Water Films  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormfilm/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/stormfilm/)

Where Does Stormwater Go?  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdcXmerZWdc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdcXmerZWdc)

Central Coast Stormwater, California  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCMiOOqxUGV6ly1Y2mG\\_10VQ/featured](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMiOOqxUGV6ly1Y2mG_10VQ/featured)

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