

# Fact Sheet

## Statewide General NPDES Permit for Discharges from Drinking Water Systems

Water purveyors<sup>1</sup> regularly discharge from their drinking water systems into storm drains or other conveyances that drain to surface waters. Planned discharges are part of a water purveyor's essential operations to comply with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the California Health and Safety Code for providing reliable and safe drinking water. Surface water discharges also occur from pipe breaks, system failures, and emergencies.

The information in this Fact Sheet is provided as reference and in no way should be interpreted as regulatory law. For further details about the *Statewide General NPDES Permit for Discharges from Drinking Water Systems* please review Order WQ 2014-0194-DWQ General Order NO. CAG140001.

See: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/npdes/docs/drinkingwater/final\\_statewide\\_wqo2014\\_0194\\_dwq.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/docs/drinkingwater/final_statewide_wqo2014_0194_dwq.pdf).

For questions or concerns regarding this factsheet, please contact the CA-NV AWWA Environmental, Health and Safety Committee.

	REQUIREMENTS	PERMIT REFERENCE
<b>WHO SHOULD SEEK COVERAGE</b>	Any community water system or water purveyor that discharges from a drinking water system. Drinking water systems with 1,000 or more connections must either enroll under the permit, or submit a “notice of non-applicability” for their system. Systems with fewer than 1,000 connections that discharge to waters of the United States are not required to enroll in this Order, but non-enrollment does not exempt dischargers from Federal Clean Water Act requirements.	Page 4-6 Attachment B2
<b>NOTICE OF NON- APPLICABILITY</b>	CWS can apply for a Notice of Non-Applicability (NONA) instead of applying for a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the following cases: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The CWS must be a permittee or co-permittee of an existing MS4 permit, the MS4 permit allows CWS discharges and all discharges enter their own MS4 system and there are no direct discharges to a WOTUS (Water of the US).</li><li>2. A CWS discharges solely to MS4 systems, they have a local agreement with the MS4 operator, and the corresponding Regional Water Board Executive Officer provides written confirmation to the State Water Board that the local agreement provides sufficient regulation of the subject drinking water system discharges through an existing MS4 NPDES permit.</li><li>3. The CWS is regulated under an existing individual site specific NPDES permit because 1) the discharges is outside the scope of the Statewide permit or 2) are adopted to address TMDL specific requirements because drinking water discharges have been found to cause an impairment of the water body.</li></ol>	Page 5-6 Attachment B2

<sup>1</sup>A water purveyor is defined as any entity that discharges from a drinking water system, including water purveyors, wholesalers, distributors, districts, municipalities, private companies, and other entities that own or operate a community drinking water system.

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<b>TIMELINE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Order adopted November 18, 2014</li><li>• Order effective February 26, 2015</li><li>• Notice of Intent Application <i>OR</i> Notice of Non-Applicability forms due September 1, 2015</li><li>• Order expires February 25, 2020</li></ul>	Page 2 & 5															
<b>FEES</b>	<p>Submit a fee with your application package payable to the State Water Board in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 23, or subsequent fee regulations updates. Agencies with more than one drinking water system can submit one application and pay one application fee. Annual fees will be assessed per system.</p> <table><tr><th>Service Connections</th><th>Application Fee Only</th><th>Application &amp; Annual Fee</th></tr><tr><td>15-999</td><td>\$100</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>1,000-9,999</td><td></td><td>\$500</td></tr><tr><td>10,000+</td><td></td><td>\$2,062</td></tr><tr><td>Transmission Only</td><td></td><td>\$2,062</td></tr></table>	Service Connections	Application Fee Only	Application & Annual Fee	15-999	\$100		1,000-9,999		\$500	10,000+		\$2,062	Transmission Only		\$2,062	Page 8
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<b>WHAT DISCHARGES ARE COVERED</b> <i>(list is not exhaustive)</i>	<b><u>Planned Discharges:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater supply well flushing or pump-to-waste.</li> <li>• Groundwater well development, rehabilitation, and testing.</li> <li>• Groundwater monitoring for purpose of supply well development, rehabilitation and testing.</li> <li>• Trench dewatering of drinking water during planned repairs.</li> <li>• Transmission system installation, cleaning, and testing.</li> <li>• Water treatment plant operations (excluding filter backwash that is discharged to a WOTUS)</li> <li>• Distribution system storage tank or reservoir releases.</li> <li>• Distribution system dewatering, flushing, and pressure testing.</li> <li>• Fire flow / fire hydrant testing.</li> <li>• Meter testing.</li> <li>• Automated water quality analyzers operations.</li> <li>• Pressure relief valves.</li> <li>• Unscheduled activities that must be undertaken to comply with mandates of the Federal Drinking Water Act and California Health and Safety Code.</li> </ul>	<b><u>Emergency Discharges:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency drinking water system failures and repairs including transmission and distribution system failures and repairs.</li> <li>• Trench dewatering due to an emergency failure.</li> <li>• Operation errors.</li> <li>• Catastrophic events.</li> </ul>	Page 6-7
<b>NOTICE OF INTENT</b>	<p>Attachment B1 must be submitted with your NOI application package. Dischargers must also submit a schematic including the general location of drinking water facilities and/or service area boundaries, general location of all groundwater supply wells and/or discharge locations, identification of all parts of supply and distribution system within 300 feet of receiving waters. NOI must also include the names of all named receiving water bodies and/or major downstream water bodies, a description of the multiple uses of the water prior to surface water discharge or beneficial reuse that the discharges will serve (i.e. ground water recharge, irrigation) and the reasons that the discharge water cannot be utilized for multiple uses or beneficial reuse. All NOI application packages are due to the State Board by September 1, 2015.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page 8-9</li> <li>• Attach. B</li> </ul>

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	REQUIREMENTS	PERMIT REFERENCE
<b>EFFLUENT LIMITS</b>	<p><b>Total <math>Cl_2</math> Residual</b> – 0.019 mg/L. However, The Reporting Limit for Chlorine is 0.1 mg/L. Any result below 0.1 mg/L should be reported as &lt; 0.1 and is in compliance with the effluent limitations. Applies to all superchlorinated discharges, all planned discharges within 300 feet of a Water of the US.</p> <p><b>Turbidity</b> – 225 NTU. Applies to discharges within 300 feet of ocean waters.</p> <p><b>Turbidity Action Level</b> – 100 NTU. Applies to all groundwater well development, rehabilitation, or operation discharges</p> <p>In addition to these effluent limits, dischargers cannot cause or contribute to an exceedence of a water quality objective in a receiving water. The water quality objectives can be found in the Basin Plan for each Regional Board. BMPs, such as planning, procedures, and training must be implemented.</p>	Page 14-16 Page 18
<b>TMDLs</b>	Systems with discharges to waters of the U.S. identified in Attachment F of the Permit will be required to provide supplemental information with their application. The supplemental information will need to contain laboratory analyses for the TMDL constituents of concern and information on TMDL specific Best Management Practices. This supplemental information will be used by the State Water Resources Control Board to determine if coverage under the Statewide Permit is applicable to these discharges, or if an individual permit may be required.	Page 5, 7, 9, 12-13, Attachment F Attachment G

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<b>MONITORING</b>	Monitoring Frequency depends on the duration of the discharge and varies from 1-3 samples per event. Sampling shall take place downstream of Best Management Practices (BMPs).			Attachment E
	<p><b>Single Discharge Event Monitoring</b> Event must be monitored if discharge fits any of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• superchlorinated discharges</li> <li>• all discharges from well development and/or rehabilitation activities,</li> <li>• individual discharges greater than 325,850 gallons (one acre-foot)</li> </ul> <p>Constituents to monitor for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total chlorine residual (not required for non-chlorinated discharges)</li> <li>• pH (only required for superchlorinated discharges)</li> <li>• Estimate volume</li> <li>• Turbidity (visual estimate for superchlorinated and discharges &gt; 1 AF. Grab sample for well development/rehabilitation discharges)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Annual Representative Monitoring</b> Discharges that occur multiple times during the course of business operations that fit all the criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The same general water source (ground water or surface water of similar water quality)</li> <li>• The same water treatment</li> <li>• The same type of implemented BMPs</li> </ul> <p>Constituents to monitor for (once annually)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chlorine, total residual (not required for non-chlorinated discharges)</li> <li>• Estimate volume</li> <li>• Turbidity (visual estimate)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Receiving Water Monitoring</b> The receiving water must be visually monitored for all direct planned discharges that do not comply with the requirements contained in the effluent limits set forth in section IV. <i>Discharge Specifications and Effluent Limits</i> of the Order (see “Effluent Limits” on page 3 of this Fact Sheet) and the discharge potentially causes or contributes to an adverse effect or impact to beneficial uses. Receiving water monitoring shall be conducted and documented during or immediately after the Discharger became aware of a non-compliant discharge that adversely effects or impacts beneficial uses of the receiving water. The Discharger shall monitor the point of confluence of the discharge and the receiving water.</p>	

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<b>TRAINING</b>	Training will have to be conducted annually and records available upon inspection. Training to include use of colorimeter, reporting and monitoring requirements and use of BMPs.	Attachment B Attachment E Attachment F
<b>RECORDKEEPING</b>	<p>The following information shall be recorded in self-monitoring reports and maintained in the Discharger's main office and made available upon request of State and Regional Water Board staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Table of all monitoring data</li><li>• Log of BMPs implemented</li><li>• A record of the number of direct discharges to a water of the U.S. that is greater than 50,000 gallons</li><li>• Total volume used for beneficial use</li></ul> <p>All records related to this permit shall be kept for 3 years</p>	Attachment E
<b>REPORTING</b>	<p>Submit to the State Water Board annually by March 1<sup>st</sup></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. All non-compliant discharge monitoring information contained in the Discharger's self-monitoring report for the past calendar year.</li><li>2. Annual Discharge Volume<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A record of the number of direct discharges to a water of the U.S. that is greater than 50,000 gallons, during each calendar year.</li><li>• An estimate of the total volume discharged to surface water during each calendar year.</li><li>• An estimate of the total volume of discharge water directed to a reuse or beneficial use.</li></ul></li><li>3. Site schematic labeled with representative monitoring locations and identifying the portions of the system that the representative monitoring results represent.</li></ol>	Attachment E

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NOTIFICATION	<p><b><i>Planned Discharges:</i></b> Pre-notification 3 days prior to any planned discharge greater than 1 acre foot to Regional Board and MS4 Operator.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The start date of discharge</li><li>2. The location of discharge and the applicable receiving water</li><li>3. The estimated volume of discharge, and</li><li>4. The reasons for discharge</li></ol> <p><b><i>Emergency or Non-Compliance Discharges:</i></b> Notify Regional Board and MS4 Operator within 24 hours of becoming aware of an adverse effect(s) or impact on beneficial uses of the receiving water body due to non-compliance or due to a system failure or emergency involving a discharge from its drinking water system. Written follow up required within 5 days if discharge poses a health hazard or damages the environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The location and extent of non-compliance or emergency discharge;</li><li>b. The cause of the non-compliance or emergency discharge;</li><li>c. The date, time and expected duration of the non-compliance or emergency discharge;</li><li>d. The estimated volume of discharge;</li><li>e. The applicable receiving water body; and</li><li>f. The corrective actions taken (or being taken) to prevent future non-compliance or repair the system failure.</li></ol>	Attachment E Attachment F