PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO
STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM
Best Management Practices for TRENCH DEWATERING

Requirements for Dewatering Discharges from Minor Street Excavations

- The Federal Clean Water Act, the California Water Code, and local ordinances **prohibit** non-stormwater discharges to the storm drain system.
- Non-stormwater discharges include water that is actually or potentially contaminated with any pollutant, including, but not limited to, sewage, grease, drilling mud and oil.
- Uncontaminated pumped groundwater or accumulated rainwater may be discharged to the storm drain system but must be managed to minimize sediment reaching storm drains and ensure downstream creeks, wetlands, and the Bay are not polluted.
- The storm drain system includes streets, gutters, storm drain inlets, ditches, creeks, and wetlands.

IF YOUR SITE OR PROJECT REQUIRES DEWATERING, CONTACT THE PORT STORMWATER COORDINATOR BEFORE DISCHARGING WATER TO THE STORM DRAIN SYSTEM. *CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE REVERSE PAGE*.

As necessary, Port staff will determine whether flows from dewatering a particular excavation may be discharged to the storm drain system and what measures must be taken to reduce sediment in the discharge.

Depending on circumstances, holders of encroachment or building permits may be directed to use one or more of the following measures:

- Avoid the discharge. Disperse pumped water to a level dirt or landscaped area to allow infiltration or use for dust control. Be sure to prevent damage to landscaping.
- Build a sediment trap (temporary basin formed by excavation or earthen embankment across a low drainage area to detain sediment-laden runoff and allow sediment to settle out before discharging).
- Use a mobile weir tank, dewatering tank, or sand filter (follow vendor instructions).
- At minimum, use a gravity bag filter (dewatering bag) or similar filtration device (follow vendor instructions).

Odors, discoloration, or an oily sheen can indicate contaminants in the water. Dewatering discharges containing contaminants may need to be captured and treated or hauled to a suitable disposal site.

Some dewatering discharges require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

For more information, call the RWQCB or visit their website:
Phone: 510-622-2329
Web: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay or
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

Protect Creeks and the Bay: Keep Sediments and Contaminated Water Out of the Storm Drain System

For more information on best management practices to use while dewatering, please refer to the below fact sheets:
CASQA, Dewatering Operations:
http://prg.ocpublicworks.com/DocmgmtInternet/Download.aspx?id=748
Caltrans, Construction Site Best Management Practices Manual, Dewatering Operations:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/NS02Update.pdf

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