

- Treat stormwater runoff before discharge from the site.
- Match peak runoff flows and durations to pre-project conditions.
- Cover or control sources of stormwater pollutants.
- Maintain treatment devices in perpetuity.

Stormwater C.3 Regulations Fact Sheet

New Rules for Development Projects

New regulations require many Bay Area development projects to treat stormwater runoff before it may be discharged to creeks or municipal storm drains.

Projects may also be required to detain or infiltrate runoff so that peak flows and durations match pre-project conditions.

Project plans must incorporate measures to prevent pollutants from entering runoff. For example, most outdoor equipment and work areas must be bermed and roofed.

In February 2003, the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards for the San Francisco Bay Region and the Central Valley Region revised Provision “C.3” in the NPDES permit governing discharges from the municipal storm drain systems of Contra Costa

County, its cities and towns. The new permit provision is being phased in from 2004 through 2006.

The new “C.3” requirements are separate from—and in addition to—requirements for erosion and sediment control and for pollution prevention measures during construction.

Project site designs must minimize the area of new roofs and paving. Where feasible, pervious surfaces should be used instead of paving so that runoff can percolate to the underlying soil. Runoff from impervious areas must be captured and treated. The permit specifies ways to calculate the required size of treatment devices.

In addition, project applicants must prepare plans and execute agreements to insure that the stormwater treatment devices are maintained

in perpetuity.

Through the Contra Costa Clean Water Program, local governments have created a *Stormwater C.3 Guidebook* to help developers comply with the new requirements.

Applicants for development review of projects that are subject to the requirements (see p. 4) should obtain and review the *Stormwater C.3 Guidebook*.

This fact sheet provides a quick summary to help you get started on planning “C.3” compliance for your site.



Step by Step: Your Path Through Project Review

The Clean Water Program’s *Stormwater C.3 Guidebook* provides step-by-step guidance that will help you incorporate the required features into the site, drainage, and landscape designs for your project.

The process starts with a pre-application meeting with local planning department staff. At this meeting, you can get up-to-date information on the specific requirements that will apply to your

project.

The local planning department will require that you submit a Stormwater Control Plan as part of your application for planning and zoning approvals. Your Stormwater Control Plan will include all of the information needed to demonstrate that your project complies with the Water Board’s “C.3” regulations.

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Stormwater Control Plan Example Checklist

Show on drawings:

- Existing natural hydrologic features (depressions, watercourses, relatively undisturbed areas) and significant natural resources.
- Soil types and depths to groundwater (if proposing to use infiltration devices).
- Existing and proposed site drainage network and connections to drainage off-site.
- Existing condition of the site, identifying currently pervious and impervious areas.
- Separate drainage areas, depending on complexity of drainage network.
- Surface treatment and square feet of each impervious and pervious surface in each drainage area.
- Proposed design features and surface treatments used to minimize imperviousness.
- Pollutant source areas, including loading docks, food service areas, refuse areas, outdoor processes and storage, vehicle cleaning, repair or maintenance, fuel dispensing, equipment washing, etc.

Include in a report accompanying the drawings:

- Narrative analysis or description of site features and conditions that constrain, or provide opportunities for, stormwater control.
- Narrative description of site design characteristics that protect natural resources.
- Narrative description and/or tabulation of site design characteristics, building features, and pavement selections that reduce imperviousness of the site.
- Calculation of existing vs. proposed runoff and determination if hydrograph modification requirements apply.
- Tabulation of pervious and impervious area, showing self-retaining areas and areas tributary to each infiltration, treatment, or hydrograph modification BMP.
- Preliminary designs, including calculations, for each treatment or hydromodification management BMP. Designs should include elevations showing sufficient hydraulic head for each feature or device.
- A table of identified pollutant source areas and for each, the source control measure(s) used to reduce pollutants to the maximum extent practicable.
- Identification of any conflicts with codes or requirements or any other anticipated obstacles to implementing the Stormwater Control Plan.
- General description of maintenance for treatment/hydrograph modification BMPs.
- Agreement to ensure maintenance and municipality's ability to verify maintenance.
- Certification by a qualified architect, landscape architect, or civil engineer.

“Applicants are encouraged to engage a qualified professional to prepare the Stormwater Control Plan. The Plan must be certified by a qualified Architect, Landscape Architect, or Civil Engineer.”

Guidebook shows path through project review

(Continued from page 1)

Applicants are strongly encouraged to engage a qualified professional to prepare the Stormwater Control Plan. The Plan must be certified by a qualified Architect, Landscape Architect, or Civil Engineer.

Planning staff will use a checklist similar to that on page 2 (opposite) to determine if your Stormwater Control Plan is complete. Following planning and zoning approval, you will ensure that each item in your Stormwater Control Plan is incorporated in the project construction plans.

“Consider stormwater requirements at the very beginning of your site design and landscape design process.”

Tips for Cost-Effective Compliance

To minimize the cost of building and maintaining permanent stormwater controls, the Contra Costa Clean Water Program recommends that you:

- Consider stormwater requirements at the very beginning of your site design and landscape design process.
- Follow the procedures in the *Stormwater C.3 Guidebook* to design and document your site design and stormwater controls.
- Use gravity to drain to and away from swales and other bioretention or biofiltration BMPs. Integrate these BMPs into site landscaping.
- Consider maintenance needs when selecting and determining the location of BMPs.

The Path to “C.3” Compliance

Attend a pre-application meeting with Planning staff

Follow the *Stormwater C.3 Guidebook* instructions as you develop your preliminary site plan, drainage plan, and landscaping plan for your project.

Prepare a Stormwater Control Plan and submit it with your application for planning and zoning approval.

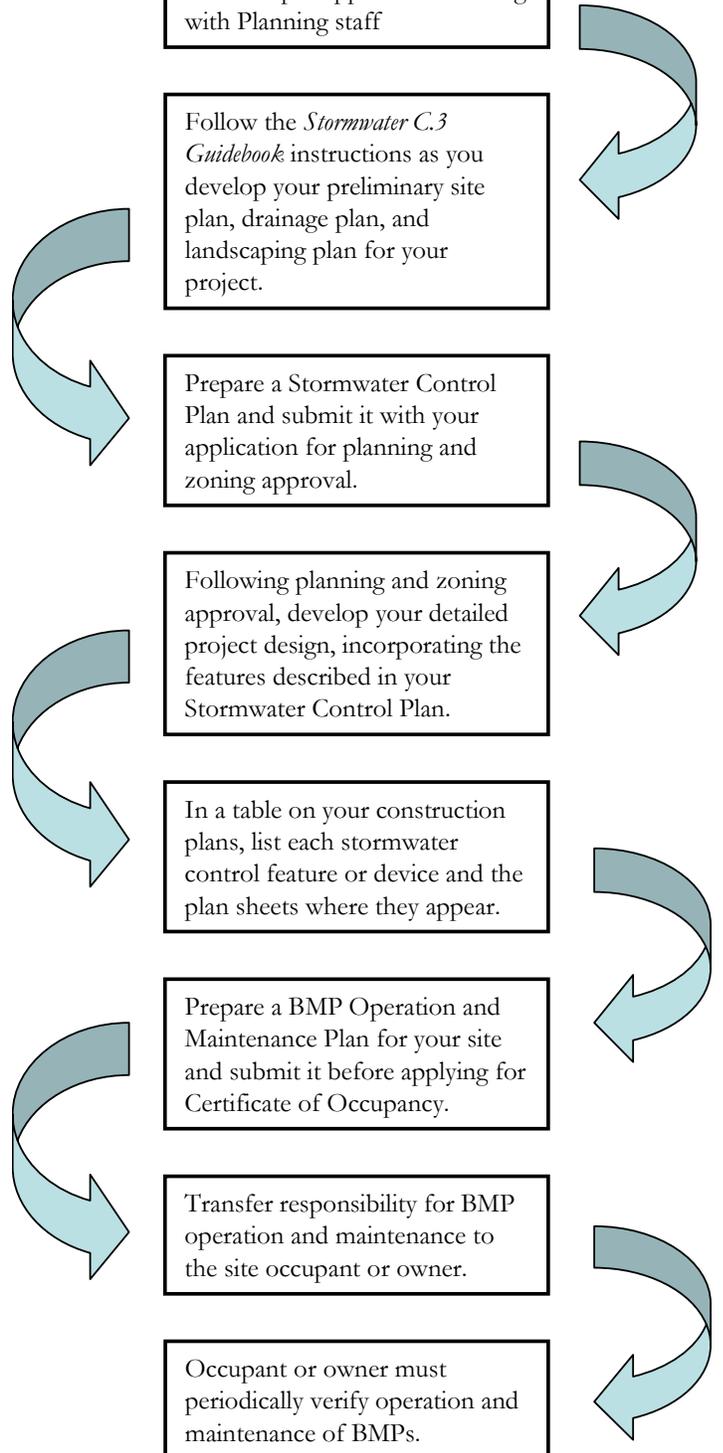
Following planning and zoning approval, develop your detailed project design, incorporating the features described in your Stormwater Control Plan.

In a table on your construction plans, list each stormwater control feature or device and the plan sheets where they appear.

Prepare a BMP Operation and Maintenance Plan for your site and submit it before applying for Certificate of Occupancy.

Transfer responsibility for BMP operation and maintenance to the site occupant or owner.

Occupant or owner must periodically verify operation and maintenance of BMPs.



- City of Antioch
- City of Brentwood
- City of Clayton
- City of Concord
- Town of Danville
- City of El Cerrito
- City of Hercules
- City of Lafayette
- City of Martinez
- Town of Moraga
- City of Oakley
- City of Orinda
- City of Pinole
- City of Pittsburg
- City of Pleasant Hill
- City of Richmond
- City of San Pablo
- City of San Ramon
- City of Walnut Creek
- Contra Costa County
- Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are the requirements consistent throughout the Bay Area?

A: The Water Board has imposed the same requirements on municipalities in Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Alameda Counties and on Fairfield, Suisun City, and Vallejo in Solano County. Implementation varies somewhat from place to place. Municipal staff from 21 Contra Costa agencies have worked together to agree on a *Guidebook* that will be used throughout the County. Each municipality may have exceptions or additional requirements. Check with local planning staff.

Q: Will Water Board staff be reviewing development projects?

A: Not for C.3 compliance. Municipal planning staff will review projects to ensure they comply with Provision C.3. If a project directly impacts a stream, the developer may also need to separately obtain a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Water Board. In addition, Water Board staff may comment on project CEQA documentation.

Q: My project site was previously paved. There will be less runoff after the project than before. Do I still need to meet the “C.3” requirements?

A: Yes. Your Stormwater Control Plan should demonstrate that your project will not increase stormwater flows. In addition, stormwater treatment BMPs and measures to control pollutant sources will be required.

Q: What are the allowable pollutant discharge limits for stormwater?

A: Non-stormwater discharges to storm drains are prohibited. Persons involved in activities which may produce stormwater pollutants must implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable. There are no numeric limits for pollutants in stormwater discharges, nor are there performance criteria for stormwater treatment devices. However, Provision C.3 does include criteria for sizing treatment devices.

Q: What is the design storm for sizing detention and treatment BMPs?

A: Provision C.3 specifies how treatment BMPs are to be sized. The criteria are based on continuous rainfall data over a long period and are designed to capture 80% of the total rainfall volume.

The Program is developing methods to compare pre- and post-development runoff flows.

Q: Am I required to monitor to insure the BMPs are working?

Your municipalities' treatment BMP operation and maintenance verification program will require you to periodically inspect the BMPs. No sampling of effluent is required.

Q: These requirements apply only to new development, but most stormwater pollution comes from already existing development.

A: Each municipality conducts an extensive program to reduce pollutants from existing sources. This program includes regular inspections of industrial and commercial properties and extensive public outreach.

Do the “C.3” Requirements Apply to My Project?

- YES, if your application for planning and zoning approval is “deemed complete” after *Feb. 15, 2005*, and your project creates or replaces more than one acre of impervious area.
- The threshold drops from one acre to 10,000 square feet effective *August 15, 2006*.
- If more than 50% of

existing impervious surface is replaced, the entire project is subject to the new regulations. If less than 50% is replaced, the new regulations apply to the replaced portion.

- Exemptions: Routine replacement or resurfacing of roofs and pavement.
- Requirements to match pre-project hydrology take

effect sometime after *May 15, 2005*.

