

Non-Stormwater Discharge Exceptions

In the Municipal NPDES Permits for Orange County which regulate stormwater runoff, there are certain categories of non-stormwater discharges identified which are not required to be prohibited by the municipality unless it is determined that they are a significant source of pollutants to waters of the United States.

The following is a list of those allowable discharges, or discharge exceptions, as defined in the Water Quality Ordinances for the County of Orange (Title 4, Division 13 OCCO* § 4-13-10 et seq.) and the Orange County Flood Control District (Title 9, Division 1 OCCO* § 9-1-10 et seq.):

- a. Discharges composed entirely of stormwater;
- b. Discharges authorized by current EPA or Regional Water Quality Control Board issued NPDES permits, State General Permits, or other waivers, permits or approvals granted by a government agency with jurisdiction over such discharges;
- c. Stormwater discharges from property for which best management practices set forth in municipal Development Project Guidance and Local Implementation Plans (LIPs) are being implemented and followed;
- d. Discharges to the stormwater drainage system from:
 1. Rising groundwaters or infiltration of groundwater uncontaminated by Sewage, or from natural springs;
 2. Uncontaminated pumped groundwater;
 3. Foundation or footing drains, including water from crawl space pumps;
 4. Air conditioning condensation;
 5. Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands, including diverted stream flows;
 6. Water line flushing, except from fire suppression sprinkler system maintenance and testing discharges. If any discharges that fall within this exception are subject to State or Regional Water Quality Control Board permits, they are locally exempt only if the discharger is in compliance with said permits;
 7. Potable water sources, except to the extent such discharges are subject to but not in compliance with State General Permits or other general permits issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board;
 8. Non-commercial car washing;
 9. De-chlorinated swimming pools;
 10. Emergency fire fighting activities;

11. Runoff from landscape, lawn and agricultural irrigation allowed by the NPDES municipal stormwater Permit applicable to that portion of the Stormwater Drainage System to which the discharge occurs.

- e. Discharges authorized pursuant to a municipally-issued discharge permit;
- f. Stormwater discharges from property for which the property owner/manager/discharger has reduced to the maximum extent practicable the amount of pollutants in such discharge; and,
- g. Discharges otherwise authorized pursuant to federal or state laws or regulations.

Note: before causing any non-stormwater discharge that impacts the stormdrain system, please check with your local jurisdiction (city) and/or homeowner association (HOA). Individual cities and HOAs may prohibit some of these categories. Also, some of these categories may still require a discharge permit from the Orange County Flood Control District and/or written coverage under and compliance with a “de minimus impact” permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board governing your area. If you are not sure about your discharge, please contact your local jurisdiction or OC Watersheds at (714) 955-0600 or (877) 89-SPILL.