

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM JUNE 29, 2005 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

- Q. If a facility has been issued a site specific National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), could the business be exempted from the proposed County Stormwater Industrial/Commercial Inspection Permit (Stormwater Permit)?
- A. **Yes. If the Regional Board has issued a site specific NPDES Permit that contains stormwater provisions then a facility can be exempted from the proposed Stormwater Permit. If there are changes to the proposed ordinance relating to exemptions they will be posted on this website.**
- Q. County Sanitation Districts – Would maintenance yards that are not covered by a site specific NPDES Permit be required to be under permit?
- A. **If the maintenance yard is not covered by an NPDES permit other requirements in the MS4 permit for public agencies or within a larger permitted facility then it may be required to be under the proposed Stormwater Permit.**
- Q. Who will be doing inspections in the unincorporated areas for restaurants?
- A. **The County Department of Health Services will be conducting Stormwater Permit inspections at restaurants in addition to the regular Retail Food Inspections.**
- Q. Army Reserve – Will the Army Reserve bases be required to be under permit?
- A. **If a base is in the unincorporated area and not subject to an individual, Phase II or general NPDES Permit then it would be required to be under the Stormwater Permit.**
- Q. PW Environmental - Would a cleanup site with an NPDES permit, i.e. treated contaminated groundwater entering the storm drain, be required to be under the Stormwater Permit?
- A. **Such discharges are normally covered under a specific general NPDES Permit which is not the same as a General Industrial Activities Stormwater Permit (GIASP) or a site specific NPDES Permit. Such discharges would not be required to be permitted under the proposed ordinance since they already have an NPDES Permit. However, the facility where the discharge originates may be required to possess a Stormwater Permit.**
- Q. What mechanism is required to demonstrate to the County that the facility has a NPDES permit to get exempt from this permit?
- A. **Upon notification by Public Works, facilities may respond by furnishing their NPDES Permit (with CAS number) which will be verified and the exemption granted. The notification will detail the exemptions under this Stormwater Permit and requirements for exemption from the permit.**
- Q. Will this ordinance be applied to the incorporated cities?
- A. **Incorporated cities which will be contracting with Public Works to implement the Stormwater Permit program would need to adopt the County ordinance in order for it to apply to facilities within their jurisdiction.**

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- Q. For very small businesses not currently covered by permit such as a small woodworking shop, is there a way to show no exposure to receive exemption from the permit?
- A. **If the business is a covered SIC facility and it can be demonstrated there is no exposure then it could be exempted. Demonstration of no exposure will be required and may be verified by Public Works.**
- Q. Southern California Gas – Based on previous drafts of the proposed ordinance, we feel as if comments made were not responded in full, specifically with respect to customer service facilities/operation facilities which do not currently require an NPDES permit. These facilities have a SIC code of 4925. The SIC code is very general. It is not defined as an industrial or commercial type of work, but we do storage and staging.
- A. **The SIC classification may be general for your business, but the storage and other operations at the facility may still be exposed to rainfall and/or stormwater runoff which may require the facility to be under permit. A site visit may be required by Public Works in order to determine if it the facility would fall under the permit. The main issue is the determination of whether these facilities are classified correctly as industrial/commercial sites. This issue is under review.**
- Q. Southern California Gas – When you compare SIC code 49 listed in the draft ordinance it does not match up with ten required SIC code 49 facilities in 40CFR. Not all SIC code 49 facilities would be required to be under permit.
- A. **Public Works will review to determine if there are any discrepancies.**
- Q. What will you look for in the typical inspection?
- A. **We would be looking for implementation of appropriate BMPs to prevent introduction of pollutants into stormwater runoff (i.e., verifying that the trash bin lid is closed, that the parking lot is clear of trash, and that working areas are covered and designed to prevent run-on and run-off, etc). See the stormwater inspection forms also posted on this website for a more detailed overview of what the inspection covers.**
- Q. The rates are higher than in the last draft ordinance in 2003. Why did they go up? Should we expect it to go up in the future?
- A. **The application fee is lower but the annual fees are higher based on a new fee study approved by the Auditor Controller. The ordinance allows for annual adjustments base on the Consumer Price Index.**
- Q. There was no draft of the stormwater ordinance on your website.
- A. **Revisions to the previous proposed ordinance were still under review by County Counsel at the time of the meeting. Public Works will post a draft of the Stormwater Permit ordinance on the www.888CleanLA.com website the week of July 18, 2005.**

If you have questions, please contact Tim Smith of Environmental Programs Division, at (626) 458-3517, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.