

## COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

### News You Can Use

#### STORMWATER COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS AT *RESTAURANTS*

**Purpose**

The purpose of this Compliance Assistance Bulletin is to help restaurant and food facility operators comply with Stormwater Program requirements and prepare for inspections.

**Issue**

As mandated by State requirements, the County of Sacramento, along with the cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Folsom and Rancho Cordova are required to implement a stormwater compliance program as of July 1, 2004.

Detergents, cleansers, food waste, grease, oil, liquids from dumpsters, mop water, and pressure washer effluent are routinely discharged into the storm drainage system. When these pollutants enter the storm drainage system, they flow untreated to our creeks and rivers, cause harm to aquatic life, degrade the quality of local waters, and can block underground pipes. In addition, rat, fly, and cockroach populations increase due to accumulations of food, grease, and debris in storm drain catch basins. The storm drainage system includes all storm drains, roadside gutter pans and ditches, drainage channels and swales, creeks and streams.

**Stormwater Compliance Inspections/**

The Environmental Specialist (ES) that currently inspects your restaurant will add a Stormwater Compliance Inspection, in conjunction with your routine restaurant inspection, once every three years. **The following are typical areas of concern:**

**Typical Areas of Concern**

- **Dumpsters:** Lids must be closed when not in use and waste containers should be leak-free, no accumulation of trash, litter, and rubbish on the ground.
- **Tallow Bins:** (grease/oil bins): Lids must be closed when not in use, no accumulation of grease on the ground or near the storm drain. If grease spills, clean it up without washing it into the storm drainage system.
- **Outdoor Storage:** Waste or other materials must be contained and managed to prevent the discharge of pollutants into the storm drainage system.
- **Indoor Drains:** must be plumbed to the sanitary sewer or approved private sewage disposal system, in a compliant manner.
- **Outdoor Interceptors:** must be maintained to prevent overflow of grease to the storm drainage system and be kept in good working condition.
- **Waste Water Management:** Waste water from all equipment, mats, surfaces, and pressure washing activities (even if performed by a contractor) must be collected before entering the storm drainage system or leaving the property, and discharged to the sanitary sewer. For more information see Best Management Practices for Pressure Washers on the Department's website at [EMD.SACCOUNTY.NET](http://EMD.SACCOUNTY.NET).
- **Storm Drains:** The areas in and around storm drains should be free of accumulated food waste, mop strings, waste water, detergents, grease, oil, and other items.
- **Roof Top Equipment:** must be maintained to prevent grease and other non-stormwater discharges.

*Continued on reverse*

**Corrective Action**

Stormwater violations will result in a **Notice of Violation** that requires the violations to be corrected and proof of compliance to be submitted within a given time frame. Extensions may be granted on a case by case basis. If additional enforcement action is necessary due to failure to comply, it will be progressive and depend on the severity and duration of the violation. Fines of up to a maximum of \$5000 per violation are authorized by local ordinance.

**Questions and Answers****What is the difference between storm drains and sanitary sewers?**

The storm drain system directs untreated water into creeks, rivers, and oceans, causing water pollution and is harmful to fish and other aquatic life. The sanitary sewer system directs water to a treatment plant where it is treated prior to discharge. Drains located in streets and parking lots are storm drains. Outdoor drains rarely lead to the sanitary sewer.

**Why should I be concerned about stormwater and storm drains?**

Water pollution is everyone's business and should be a major concern for all residents. Polluted stormwater is a major source of contamination in our creeks and rivers.

**Will another inspector, in addition to my regular Health Inspector, visit my restaurant to conduct a stormwater inspection?**

No, your Health Inspector (Environmental Specialist) will conduct both the food inspection and the stormwater inspection, thereby providing an efficient and cost-effective response to State and Federal mandates.

**How often will my restaurant be inspected for stormwater compliance?**

Your restaurant will be inspected once every three years.

**Will I have to post my Stormwater Inspection Report?**

No, you will receive both a Food Inspection Report and a separate Stormwater Inspection Report—only the Food Inspection Report must be posted.

**For More Information**

For more information call (916) 875-8440 or go to the Department website [EMD.SACCOUNTY.NET](http://EMD.SACCOUNTY.NET).

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This Bulletin was developed in collaboration with the California Restaurant Association