

**Sacramento County Code Chapter 15.12 (Stormwater Ordinance)**  
**August 19, 2004 final version**

**Article 2: Prohibited Discharges**

**15.12.200 Prohibited Non-Stormwater Discharge.**

Except as provided in Section 15.12.210, it shall be unlawful for any Person to make or cause to be made any Non-Stormwater Discharge into the County Storm Drain System or directly to Natural Surface Waters.

**15.12.210 Exceptions To Non-Stormwater Discharge Prohibition.**

The following Discharges to the County Storm Drain System are exempt from the otherwise applicable Discharge prohibition set forth in Section 15.12.200:

- a. Any Discharge regulated under a NPDES permit issued to the Discharger, and administered by the State pursuant to Chapter 5.5 of Division 7 of the Water Code, provided that any such Discharge is in compliance with all requirements of the NPDES permit and all other applicable laws and regulations.
- b. Any Discharge from any of the following activities provided that any such Discharge does not cause or contribute to the violation of any Receiving Water Limitation as determined by the Administrator.
  1. water line flushing;
  2. landscape irrigation;
  3. diverted stream flows;
  4. rising ground waters;
  5. uncontaminated ground water infiltration [as defined in 40 CFR 35.2005(20)] to separate storm sewers;
  6. uncontaminated pumped ground water;
  7. Discharges from potable water sources;
  8. foundation drains;
  9. air conditioning condensate;
  10. uncontaminated irrigation water;
  11. springs;
  12. water from crawl space pumps;
  13. footing drains;
  14. lawn watering;
  15. individual residential car washing;
  16. flows from riparian habitats and wetlands;
  17. dechlorinated swimming pool Discharges; or
  18. Discharges or flows from emergency fire fighting activities.
- c. Any Discharges which the Administrator, the County Health Officer or the Regional Board determines in writing are necessary for the protection of public health or safety.
- d. Additional categories of Non-Stormwater Discharges which do not cause or contribute to the violation of any Receiving Water Limitation may be excepted from the otherwise applicable prohibition by the Administrator upon approval of the Executive Officer of the Regional Board, as provided in the Municipal Stormwater Permit, or any successor permit.

**15.12.220 Exception to Otherwise Applicable Exemptions.**

Notwithstanding the exemptions provided for in Section 15.12.210 above, if the Regional Board or the Administrator determines that a Discharge which is otherwise exempt from the prohibition on Discharges causes or significantly contributes to the violation of any Receiving Water Limitation or results in the conveyance of significant quantities of Pollutants to Natural Surface Waters, or is otherwise a danger to public health or safety, the Administrator may give written notice to the owner or operator of the facility that the Discharge exception shall not apply to the Discharge at issue following expiration of the thirty (30) day period commencing upon delivery of the notice. Upon expiration of such thirty (30) day period, any such Discharge shall be unlawful. Upon finding that any continuance of the Discharge poses an immediate significant threat to the environment or to public health and safety, the Administrator may waive the thirty day waiting period and require immediate cessation of the Discharge.

**15.12.230 Prohibited Stormwater Discharges.**

It shall be unlawful for any Person to Discharge, or cause to be Discharged, any Stormwater or Material to the County Storm Drain System which results in, or contributes to a violation of a Receiving Water Limitation or a violation of the Municipal Stormwater Permit.

**15.12.240 Prohibited Conditions.**

- a. In the interest of preventing prohibited Discharges from occurring, it shall be unlawful for any Person to maintain, or cause to be maintained, any of the following conditions:
  - 1. Unmitigated Stormwater Pollution Source;
  - 2. Threatened Prohibited Non-Stormwater Discharge;
  - 3. Prohibited Non-Stormwater Discharge Installation;
  - 4. Illicit Connection;
- b. Illicit Connections shall be subject to removal and abatement by the County pursuant to this Chapter and Chapter 16.02 of this Code.
- c. The prohibition set forth in subsection (a)(4) above shall apply to Illicit Connections in existence at the time that this Chapter becomes effective. Upon the effective date of this Chapter, any Person who maintains an Illicit Connection shall have thirty (30) days from the effective date of this Chapter to disconnect and discontinue use of such connection. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any Person who maintains an Illicit Connection, as defined in Section 15.12.130, may apply to the County for a Sacramento County Water Agency Permit to continue the connection subject to applicable County standards. No permit shall be issued for any connection or any physical facility or apparatus that is installed, intended, serves, or is known to convey a prohibited Discharge to the County Storm Drain System or waters of the State.

**15.12.250 Negligence or Intent Not Required.**

A violation of the provisions of this Article shall occur irrespective of the negligence or intent of the violator to construct, maintain, operate or utilize an Illicit Connection or to cause, allow or facilitate any prohibited Discharge.