

Town of Ogden Stormwater Management Glossary Terms

Best Management Practices (BMPs) – Activities or structural improvements that help reduce the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff. BMPs include public education and outreach, treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control runoff, spillage, leakage, sludge and waste disposal, and drainage from raw material storage.

Clean Water Act – Amendments made to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act in 1972 to establish water quality standards and to create the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System to protect the waters and waterways of the U. S. by regulating the discharge of pollutants from point source discharges and municipal separate storm sewer systems.

Combined Sewer System – A sewer system designed to convey both sanitary wastewater and stormwater.

Detention Pond – Pond that stores a volume of water for a given period of time and then discharges the water downstream.

Discharge – An outflow of water from a stream, pipe, ground water system or watershed.

Ecosystem – All of the plants and animals in an area that interact to make up the local environment.

Erosion – The overall process of the transport of material on the earth's surface including the movement of soil and rock by agents such as water, wind, or gravity.

Groundwater – All of the water contained in void space beneath the earth's surface.

Heavy Metals – Metals such as zinc, copper, lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium, iron, manganese, nickel, molybdenum and silver that, even in low concentrations can be toxic or lethal to humans, animals and aquatic life.

Illicit Discharge – The term refers to any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater unless authorized via an NPDES permit or otherwise excluded from regulation. Thus, not all illicit discharges are illegal or prohibited.

Industrial Waste – Unwanted materials from an industrial operation, this may include liquids, sludge, solids, or hazardous waste.

Large Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (Large MS4) – All municipal separate storm sewers that are located in an incorporated place with a population of 250,000 or more according to the latest Census.

Maintain or Improve Water Quality – This statement is to mean that no MS4 shall allow for an increase in turbidity to local waters that will cause a substantial visible contrast to natural conditions; the MS4s shall not allow suspended, colloidal and settleable solids from sewage,

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industrial wastes or other wastes that will cause deposition or impair local waters for their best usages; and no MS4 shall allow residue from oil and floating substances attributable to sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes, nor visible oil film nor globules or grease.

Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) – A water quality standard that applies to all MS4 operators under NPDES permits. The standard has no exact definition, as it was intended to be flexible to allow operators to tailor their stormwater programs to their particular site.

Medium Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (Medium MS4) – This includes all municipal separate storm sewers that are located in an incorporated place with a population of more than 100,000 but less than 250,000.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) – Areas with a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and storm drains) that are not a combined sewer or part of a publicly owned treatment system and are owned or operated and regulated by a municipality or authorized agency. MS4s may be small, medium or large with the medium or large MS4s being principally determined by population size.

Non-Point Source Pollutants (NPS) – Pollution coming from many diffuse sources whose origin is often difficult to identify. This pollution occurs as rain or snowmelt travels over the land surface and picks up pollutants such as fertilizer, pesticides, and chemicals from cars. This pollution is difficult to regulate due to its origin from many different sources. These pollutants enter waterways untreated and are a major threat to aquatic organisms and people who fish, use waters and waterways for recreational purposes or as an untreated drinking water source.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) – This is the EPA's regulatory program to control the discharge of pollutants to waters and waterways of the United States.

Notice of Intent (NOI) – An application to notify the permitting authority of a facility's intention to be covered by a general permit. This exempts a facility from having to submit an individual or group application.

Nutrients – The term typically refers to nitrogen and phosphorus or compounds containing free amounts of the two elements. These elements are essential for the growth of plant life, but can create problems in the form of algal blooms, depletion of dissolved oxygen and pH changes in streams and other water bodies when higher concentrations are allowed to enter drainage systems and lakes.

Ordinance – A law based on state statutory authority developed and approved by a governmental agency to allow them to regulate the enforcement of criteria contained within the specific law and to invoke sanctions and other enforcement measures to ensure facilities comply with the criteria.

Outfall – the point where a sewer or drainage discharges into a receiving waterway.

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Point Source Pollution – This is pollution coming from a single, definable source, such as a factory.

Retention Pond – Pond that stores a volume of water without allowing it to discharge downstream.

Runoff – Any drainage that leaves an area as surface flow.

Sanitary Sewer – Is an underground pipe system that carries sanitary waste and other wastewater to a treatment plant.

Sediment – Material derived from the weathering of rock such as sand and soil. This material can be detrimental to aquatic life and habitats if too much is allowed to wash into rivers and ponds.

Site Plan – Is a geographic representation of the layout of buildings and other important features on a tract of land.

Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (SMS4s) – Are MS4s that are not merely determined by population, but are much broader in scope, they are land areas with conveyances that are designated because of one or more of the following criteria: 1) they discharge to sensitive waters; 2) they are experiencing high growth or have a high growth potential; 3) they are contiguous to urbanized areas and other MS4s; 4) they are a significant contributor of pollutants to the waters of the U. S.; or 5) they have ineffective protection of water quality through other programs.

State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) – The state's regulatory program to control the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States.

Storm Drain – Any drain which drains directly into the storm sewer system, usually found along roadways or in parking lots.

Storm Sewer – Is an underground pipe system that carries runoff from streets and other surfaces.

Storm Sewershed – The land area that drains into the storm sewer system based on the surface topography. Adjacent catchment areas that drain to adjacent outfalls are not separate storm sewersheds.

Stormwater – Stormwater or snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.

Stormwater Management – Any measure associated with the planning, maintenance, and regulation of facilities which collect, store, or convey stormwater.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) – A plan developed by a facility or entity that thoroughly evaluates potential pollutant sources at a site and selects and implements

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appropriate best management practice measures designed to prevent or control the discharge of pollutants in stormwater runoff.

Surface Runoff – Is the flow of water across the land surface that occurs when the rainfall rate exceeds the ability of the soil to absorb the water. This is of primary concern when dealing with impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, roofs, roads, or driveways where water cannot infiltrate at all.

Surface Water – Is any water that remains on the earth's surface, such as ponds, rivers, streams, impoundments, wetlands, oceans, etc.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) – Is a regulatory limit of the maximum amount of a pollutant type that can be released into a body of water in a twenty-four hour period without adversely affecting water quality.

Tributary – A stream which drains into another larger stream or body of water.

Urbanized Area (UA) – Is a land area consisting of one or more central places and the adjacent densely settled surrounding area (urban fringe). that together have a residential population of at least 50,000 and a minimum average population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile.

Watershed – A geographic area in which water flowing across the surface will drain into a certain stream or river and flow out of the area via that stream or river, or all of the land that drains to a particular body of water, also known as a catchment or drainage basin.

Waters of the US – These are surface waters defined as wetlands, lakes (including dry lakes), rivers, streams (including intermittent streams, ephemeral washes and arroyos), mudflats, sandflats, sloughs, wet meadows, playa lakes, natural ponds, and man-made impoundments.

Wetlands – Is an area of land where part of the surface is covered with water or the soil is completely saturated with water for a large majority of the year. Wetlands provide an important habitat for many different types of plant and animal species. Wetlands are also natural stormwater control areas, since they filter out pollutants and are able to retain large amounts of water during storm events.