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BACKGROUND

In 1972, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also referred to as the Clean Water Act [CWA]) was amended to provide that the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States from any point source is effectively prohibited unless the discharge is in compliance with an NPDES permit. The 1987 amendments to the CWA added Section 402(p) which establishes a framework for regulating municipal and industrial storm water discharges under the NPDES Program. On November 16, 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) published final regulations that establish application requirements for storm water permits. The regulations require that storm water associated with industrial activity (storm water) that discharges either directly to surface waters or indirectly through municipal separate storm sewers must be regulated by an NPDES permit.

U.S. EPA developed a four-tier permit issuance strategy for storm water discharges associated with industrial activity as follows:

Tier I, Baseline Permitting--One or more general permits will be developed to initially cover the majority of storm water discharges associated with industrial activity.

Tier II, Watershed Permitting--Facilities within watersheds shown to be adversely impacted by storm water discharges associated with industrial activity will be targeted for individual or watershed-specific general permits.

Tier III, Industry-Specific Permitting--Specific industry categories will be targeted for individual or industry-specific general permits.

Tier IV, Facility-Specific Permitting--A variety of factors will be used to target specific facilities for individual permits.

The regulations allow authorized states to issue general permits or individual permits to regulate storm water discharges.

Consistent with Tier I, Baseline Permitting, of the U.S. EPA permitting strategy, the State Water Board issued a statewide General Permit on November 19, 1991 that applied to all storm water discharges requiring a permit except construction activity. The monitoring requirements of this General Permit were amended September 17, 1992. A separate statewide general permit has been issued for construction activity.

To obtain authorization for continued and future storm water discharge under this General Permit, each facility operator must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI). This approach is consistent with the four-tier permitting strategy described in Federal regulations, i.e., Tier 1, Baseline Permitting. Tier 1, Baseline Permitting, enables the State to begin reducing pollutants in industrial storm water in the most efficient manner possible.

This General Permit generally requires facility operators to:

1. Eliminate unauthorized non-storm water discharges;
2. Develop and implement a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP); and
3. Perform monitoring of storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges.

TYPES OF STORM WATER DISCHARGES COVERED BY THIS GENERAL PERMIT

This General Permit is intended to cover all new or existing storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges from facilities required by Federal regulations to obtain a permit including those (1) facilities previously covered by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. 92-011 (as amended by Order No. 92-116), (2) facilities designated by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), (3) facilities whose operators seek coverage under this General Permit, (4) and facilities required by future U.S. EPA storm water regulations.

The General Permit is intended to cover all facilities described in Attachment 1, whether the facility is primary or is auxiliary to the facility operator's function. For example, even though a school district's primary function is education, a facility which it operates for vehicle maintenance of school buses is a transportation facility which is covered by this General Permit.

The definition of "storm water associated with industrial activity" is provided in Attachment 4, Definition 9, of this General Permit. Facilities that discharge storm water associated with industrial activity requiring a General Permit are listed by category in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 122.26(b)(14) (Federal Register, Volume 55 on

Pages 48065-66) and in Attachment 1 of this General Permit. The facilities can be publicly or privately owned. A general description of these categories are:

1. Facilities subject to storm water effluent limitations guidelines, new source performance standards, or toxic pollutant effluent standards (40 CFR Subchapter N);
2. Manufacturing facilities;
3. Mining/oil and gas facilities;
4. Hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facilities;
5. Landfills, land application sites, and open dumps that receive industrial waste;
6. Recycling facilities such as metal scrap yards, battery reclaimers, salvage yards, automobile yards;
7. Steam electric generating facilities;
8. Transportation facilities that conduct any type of vehicle maintenance such as fueling, cleaning, repairing, etc.;
9. Sewage treatment plants;
10. Construction activity (covered by a separate general permit); and
11. Certain facilities (often referred to as "light industry") where industrial materials, equipment, or activities are exposed to storm water.

For the most part, these facilities are identified in the Federal regulations by a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC).

Category 1 Dischargers

The following categories of facilities currently have storm water effluent limitation guidelines for at least one of their subcategories. They are cement manufacturing (40 CFR Part 411); feedlots (40 CFR Part 412); fertilizer manufacturing (40 CFR Part 418); petroleum refining (40 CFR Part 419); phosphate manufacturing (40 CFR Part 422); steam electric power generation (40 CFR Part 423); coal mining (40 CFR Part 434); mineral mining and processing (40 CFR Part 436); ore mining and dressing (40 CFR Part 440); and asphalt emulsion (40 CFR Part 443). A facility operator whose facility falls into one of these general categories should examine the effluent guidelines to determine if the facility is categorized in one of the subcategories that have storm water effluent guidelines. If

a facility is classified as one of those subcategories, that facility is subject to the standards listed in the CFR for that category and is subject to this General Permit. This General Permit contains additional requirements (see Section B.6.) for facilities with storm water effluent limitations guidelines.

Category 5 Dischargers

Inactive or closed landfills, land application sites, and open dumps that have received industrial wastes (Category 5) may be subject to this General Permit unless the storm water discharges from the sites are already regulated by an NPDES permit issued by the appropriate Regional Water Board. Facility operators of closed landfills that are regulated by waste discharge requirements (WDRs) may be required to comply with this General Permit. In some cases, it may be appropriate for closed landfills to be covered by the State Water Board's General Permit during closure activities. New landfill construction should be covered by the Construction Activities General Permit. Facility operators should contact their Regional Water Board to determine the appropriate permit coverage.

Category 10 Dischargers

Facility operators of Category 10 (light industry) facilities are not subject to this General Permit if they can certify that the following minimum conditions at their facilities are met:

1. All prohibited non-storm water discharges have been eliminated or otherwise permitted.
2. All areas of past exposure have been inspected and cleaned, as appropriate.
3. All materials related to industrial activity (including waste materials) are not exposed to storm water or authorized non-storm water discharges.
4. All industrial activities and industrial equipment are not exposed to storm water or authorized non-storm water discharges.
5. There is no exposure of materials associated with industrial activity through other direct or indirect pathways such as particulates from stacks and exhaust systems.
6. There is periodic re-evaluation of the facility to ensure Conditions 1, 3, 4, and 5 are continuously met.

Currently, facility operators that can certify that the above conditions are met are not required to notify the State Water

Board or Regional Water Board. These facility operators are advised to retain such certification documentation on site.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated the exemption granted by U.S. EPA for storm water discharges from facilities in Category 11 that do not have exposure and remanded the regulation to U.S. EPA for further action. The State Water Board, at this time, is not requiring storm water discharges from facilities in Category 11 that do not have exposure to be covered by this General Permit. Instead, the State Water Board will await future U.S. EPA or court action clarifying the types of storm water discharges that must be permitted. If necessary, the State Water Board will reopen the General Permit to accommodate such a clarification.

Section 1068 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991 exempts municipal agencies serving populations of less than 100,000 from Phase I permit requirements for most facilities they operate (uncontrolled sanitary landfills, power plants, and airports are still required to be permitted in Phase I). Phase II of the Permit Program scheduled to begin August 7, 2001 will cover the facilities that are exempt from Phase I permit requirements.

TYPES OF DISCHARGES NOT COVERED BY THIS GENERAL PERMIT

1. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY: Discharges from construction activity of five acres or more, including clearing, grading, and excavation. A separate general permit was adopted on August 20, 1992 for this industrial category.
2. FACILITIES WHICH HAVE NPDES PERMITS CONTAINING STORM WATER PROVISIONS: Some storm water discharges may be regulated by other individual or general NPDES permits issued by the State Water Board or the Regional Water Boards. These discharges shall not be regulated by this General Permit. When the individual or general NPDES permits for such discharges expire, the State Water Board or Regional Water Board may authorize coverage under this General Permit or another general NPDES permit, or may issue a new individual NPDES permit consistent with the Federal and State storm water regulations. Interested parties may petition the State Water Board or appropriate Regional Water Board to issue individual or General NPDES Permits. General Permits may be issued for a particular industrial group or watershed area.
3. FACILITIES DETERMINED INELIGIBLE BY REGIONAL WATER BOARDS: Regional Water Boards may determine that discharges from a facility or groups of facilities, otherwise eligible for coverage under this General Permit, have potential water quality impacts that may not be appropriately addressed by

this General Permit. In such cases, a Regional Water Board may require such discharges to be covered by an individual or general NPDES permit. Interested persons may petition the appropriate Regional Water Board to issue individual NPDES permits. The applicability of this General Permit to such discharges will be terminated upon adoption of an individual NPDES permit or a different general NPDES permit.

4. FACILITIES WHICH DO NOT DISCHARGE STORM WATER TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES: The discharges from the following facilities are not required to be permitted:
 - a. FACILITIES THAT DISCHARGE STORM WATER TO MUNICIPAL SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS: Facilities that discharge storm water to municipal sanitary sewer systems or combined sewer systems are not required by Federal regulations to be covered by an NPDES storm water permit or to submit an NOI to comply with this General Permit. (It should be noted that many municipalities have sewer use ordinances that prohibit storm drain connections to their sanitary sewers.)
 - b. FACILITIES THAT DO NOT DISCHARGE STORM WATER TO SURFACE WATERS OR SEPARATE STORM SEWERS: Storm water that is captured and treated and/or disposed of with the facility's NPDES permitted process wastewater and storm water that is disposed of to evaporation ponds, percolation ponds, or combined sewer systems are not required to obtain a storm water permit. To avoid liability, the facility operator should be certain that no discharge of storm water to surface waters will occur under any circumstances.
5. MOST SILVICULTURAL ACTIVITIES: Storm water discharges from most silvicultural activities such as thinning, harvesting operations, surface drainage, or road construction and maintenance are exempt from this permit. Log sorting or log storage facilities that fall within SIC 2411 are required to be permitted.
6. MINING AND OIL AND GAS FACILITIES: Oil and gas facilities that have not released storm water resulting in a discharge of a reportable quantity (RQ) for which notification is or was required pursuant to 40 CFR Parts 110, 117, and 302 at any time after November 19, 1987 are not required to be permitted unless the industrial storm water discharge contributed to a violation of a water quality standard. Mining facilities that discharge storm water that does not come into contact with any overburden, raw materials, intermediate product, finished product, by-product, or waste

product located at the facility are not required to be permitted. These facilities must be permitted if they have a new release of storm water resulting in a discharge of an RQ.

7. FACILITIES ON INDIAN LANDS: Discharges from facilities on Indian lands will be regulated by the U.S. EPA.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Storm water discharges from facilities described in the section titled "Types of Storm Water Discharges Covered by This General Permit" must be covered by an NPDES permit. An NOI must be submitted by the facility operator for each individual facility to obtain coverage. Certification of the NOI signifies that the facility operator intends to comply with the provisions of the General Permit. Facility operators who have filed NOIs for the State Water Board Order No. 91-013-DWQ (as amended by Order No. 92-12-DWQ) or San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Order No. 92-011 (as amended by Order No. 92-116) will be sent an abbreviated NOI soon after adopting this General Permit that must be completed and returned within 45 days of receipt. Where operations have discontinued and significant materials remain on site (such as at closed landfills), the landowner may be responsible for filing an NOI and complying with this General Permit. A landowner may also file an NOI for a facility if the landowner, rather than the facility operator(s), is responsible for compliance with this General Permit.

A facility operator that does not submit an NOI for a facility must submit an application for an individual NPDES permit. U.S. EPA's regulations [40 CFR 122.21 (a)] exclude facility operators covered by a general permit from requirements to submit an individual permit application unless required by the Regional Water Board. The NOI requirements of this General Permit are intended to establish a mechanism which can be used to establish a clear accounting of the number of facility operators complying with the General Permit, their identities, the nature of operations at the facilities, and location.

All facility operators filing an NOI after the adoption of this General Permit must comply with this General Permit. Existing facility operators who have filed NOIs prior to the adoption of this General Permit shall continue to complete the requirements of the previous General Permit through June 30, 1997 including submitting annual reports to the Regional Water Boards by July 1, 1997. Group Leaders are required to submit an 1996-97 Group Evaluation Report by August 1, 1997.

DESCRIPTION OF GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS

Prohibitions

This General Permit authorizes storm water and authorized non-storm water discharges from facilities that are required to be covered by a storm water permit. This General Permit prohibits discharges of material other than storm water (non-storm water discharges) that are not authorized by the General Permit and discharges containing hazardous substances in storm water in excess of reportable quantities established at 40 CFR 117.3 and 40 CFR 302.4. Authorized non-storm water discharges are addressed in the Special Conditions of the General Permit.

Effluent Limitations

NPDES Permits for storm water discharges must meet all applicable provisions of Sections 301 and 402 of the CWA. These provisions require control of pollutant discharges using best available technology economically achievable (BAT) and best conventional pollutant control technology (BCT) to prevent and reduce pollutants and any more stringent controls necessary to meet water quality standards.

U.S. EPA regulations (40 CFR Subchapter N) establish effluent limitation guidelines for storm water discharges from facilities in ten industrial categories. For these facilities, compliance with the effluent limitation guidelines constitutes compliance with BAT and BCT for the specified pollutants and must be met to comply with this General Permit.

For storm water discharges from facilities not among the ten industrial categories listed in 40 CFR Subchapter N, it is not feasible at this time to establish numeric effluent limitations. The reasons why establishment of numeric effluent limitations is not feasible are discussed in detail in State Water Board Orders No. WQ 91-03 and WQ 91-04. Therefore, this General Permit allows the facility operator to implement best management practices (BMPs) to comply with the requirements of this General Permit. This approach is consistent with the U.S. EPA's August 1, 1996 "Interim Permitting Approach for Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations in Storm Water Permits".

Receiving Water Limitations

Storm water discharges shall not cause or contribute to a violation of an applicable water quality standard. The General Permit requires facility operators to reduce or prevent pollutants in storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges through the development and implementation of BMPs which constitutes compliance with BAT and BCT and, in most cases, compliance with water quality standards. If receiving

water quality standards are exceeded, facility operators are required to submit a written report providing additional BMPs that will be implemented to achieve water quality standards.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs)

All facility operators must prepare, retain on site, and implement an SWPPP. The SWPPP has two major objectives: (1) to help identify the sources of pollution that affect the quality of industrial storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges, and (2) to describe and ensure the implementation of BMPs to reduce or prevent pollutants in industrial storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges.

This General Permit requires development and implementation of an SWPPP emphasizing BMPs. This approach provides the flexibility necessary to establish appropriate BMPs for different types of industrial activities and pollutant sources. As this General Permit covers vastly different types of facilities, the State Water Board recognizes that there is no single best way of developing or organizing an SWPPP. The SWPPP requirements contain the essential elements that all facility operators must consider and address in the SWPPP. This General Permit's SWPPP requirements are more detailed than the previous general permit's SWPPP requirements, and the suggested order of the SWPPP elements have been rearranged (1) to correspond more closely with other storm water permits in effect throughout the country, and (2) to generally follow a more logical path. Facility operators that have already developed and implemented SWPPPs under previous general permits are required to review the SWPPP's requirements contained in this General Permit and then review their existing SWPPP for adequacy. If the existing SWPPP adequately identifies and assesses all potential sources of pollutants and describes the appropriate BMPs necessary to reduce or prevent pollutants, the facility operator is not required to revise the existing SWPPP.

One of the major elements of the SWPPP is the elimination of unauthorized non-storm water discharges to the facility's storm drain system. Unauthorized non-storm water discharges can be generated from a wide variety of potential pollutant sources. They include waters from the rinsing or washing of vehicles, equipment, buildings, or pavement; materials that have been improperly disposed of or dumped, and spilled; or leaked materials. Unauthorized non-storm water discharges can contribute a significant pollutant load to receiving waters. Measures to control spills, leakage, and dumping can often be addressed through BMPs. Unauthorized non-storm water discharges may enter the storm drain system via conveyances such as floor drains. All conveyances should be evaluated to determine whether they convey unauthorized non-storm water discharges to the storm

drain system. Unauthorized non-storm water discharges (even when commingled with storm water) shall be eliminated or covered by a separate NPDES Permit.

There are many non-storm water discharges that, under certain conditions, should not contain pollutants associated with industrial activity (i.e., air conditioning condensate, potable water line testing, landscaping overflow, etc.). Item D, Special Conditions, provides the conditions where certain listed non-storm water discharges are authorized by this General Permit.

Monitoring Program

The General Permit requires development and implementation of a monitoring program. The objectives of the monitoring program are to (1) demonstrate compliance with the General Permit, (2) aid in the implementation of the SWPPP, and (3) measure the effectiveness of the BMPs in reducing or preventing pollutants in storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges.

All facility operators (with the exception of inactive mining operations) are required to:

1. Perform visual observations of storm water discharges and authorized storm water discharges.
2. Collect and analyze samples of storm water discharges. Analysis must include pH, total suspended solids (TSS), total organic carbon (TOC), specific conductance, toxic chemicals, and other pollutants which are likely to be present in storm water discharges in significant quantities, and those parameters listed in Table D of this General Permit. The Table D parameters are those listed in the U.S. EPA Multi-Sector General Permit. Facility operators subject to Federal storm water effluent limitation guidelines in 40 CFR Subchapter N must also sample and analyze for any pollutant specified in the appropriate category of 40 CFR Subchapter N.

Facility operators are not required to collect samples or perform visual observations during adverse climatic conditions. Sample collection and visual observations are required only during scheduled facility operating hours. Visual observations are required only during daylight hours. Facility operators that are unable to collect any of the required samples or visual observations because of the above circumstances must provide documentation to the Regional Water Board in their annual report.

Facility operators may be exempt from performing sampling and analysis if they: (1) do not have areas of industrial activity exposed to storm water, (2) receive an exemption from a local agency which has jurisdiction over the storm sewer system, or (3) receive an exemption from the appropriate Regional Water

Board. Facility operators must always perform sampling and analysis for any pollutant specified in storm water effluent limitation guidelines.

This General Permit contains a new procedure where facility operators, if they meet certain minimum conditions, may certify compliance with the General Permit and reduce the number of sampling events required to be sampled for the remaining term of the General Permit. Each Regional Water Board may develop instructions, guidance, and checklists to assist facility operators to complete sampling reduction requests.

Local agencies that wish to provide sampling and analysis exemptions or reductions to facility operators within their jurisdiction shall develop a certification program that clearly indicates the certification procedures and criteria used by the local agency. At a minimum, these programs should include site inspections, a review of the facility operator's SWPPP, and a review of other records such as monitoring data, receiving water data, etc. The certification program shall be approved by the local Regional Water Board prior to implementation.

Alternative Monitoring

Facility operators are required to develop a facility-specific monitoring program that satisfies both the minimum monitoring program requirements and the objectives of the monitoring program. Some facility operators have indicated that cost-effective alternative monitoring programs can be developed that provide equivalent or more accurate indicators of pollutants and/or BMP performance than a monitoring program based upon the minimum monitoring program requirements. An example of such an alternative monitoring program would be one that identifies sample locations at or near pollutant sources rather than sampling an entire drainage area where the storm water discharge has been diluted with storm water from areas with little or no industrial activity.

The State Water Board does not want to preclude facility operators from developing better, and perhaps more cost-effective, monitoring programs. This General Permit allows facility operators to submit alternative monitoring programs for approval by the Regional Water Board. For individual facilities, these proposals must be facility specific and demonstrate how the alternative monitoring program will result in an equivalent or more accurate indicator of pollutants and/or BMP effectiveness. Facility operators with similar industrial activities may also propose alternative monitoring programs for approval by the Regional Water Boards. These proposals must demonstrate how the alternative monitoring program will result in an equivalent or more accurate indicator of pollutants and/or BMP effectiveness for all of the participating facilities.

Facility operators shall continue to comply with the existing monitoring program requirements until receiving approval by the Regional Water Board.

Group Monitoring

Each facility operator may either perform sampling and analysis individually or participate in a group monitoring program. A group monitoring program may be developed either by a group leader representing a group of similar facilities or by a local agency which holds a storm water permit for a municipal separate storm sewer system for industrial facilities within its jurisdiction. The group leader or local agency responsible for the group monitoring program must schedule all participating facilities to sample two storm events over the life of this General Permit. Facility operators subject to Federal effluent limitations guidelines in 40 CFR Subchapter N must individually sample and analyze for pollutants listed in the appropriate Federal regulations.

Participants within a group may be located within the jurisdiction of more than one Regional Water Board. Multi-Regional Water Board groups must receive the approval of the State Water Board Executive Director (with the concurrence of the appropriate Regional Water Boards).

Each group leader or local agency responsible for group sampling must: (1) provide guidance or training so that the monitoring is done correctly, (2) recommend appropriate BMPs to reduce or prevent pollutants in storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges from group participants, (3) evaluate and report the monitoring data to the State Water Board and/or the appropriate Regional Water Board(s), and (4) conduct two on-site inspections at each facility over the five year term of this General Permit to evaluate facility compliance and recommend BMPs to achieve compliance with this General Permit. The group leader or local agency may designate, hire, or train inspectors to conduct these inspections that are or are not directly affiliated with the group leader or local agency. It is the group leader's or local agency's responsibility to select inspectors that are capable of evaluating each facility's compliance with the General Permit and can recommend appropriate BMPs. All group monitoring plans are subject to State Water Board and/or Regional Water Board(s) review. Consistent with the four-tier permitting strategy described in the Federal regulations, the Regional Water Board(s) may evaluate the data and results from group monitoring to establish future permitting decisions. As appropriate, the State Water Board and/or the Regional Water Board(s) may terminate or require substantial amendment to the group monitoring plans. The State Water Board and/or the Regional Water Board(s) may terminate a facility's participation in group monitoring or require additional monitoring activities.

Retention of Records

The facility operator is required to retain records of all monitoring information, copies of all reports required by this General Permit, and records of all data used to complete the NOI for a period of five years from the date of measurement, report, or monitoring activity. This period may be extended by the State and/or Regional Water Boards. All records are public documents and must be provided to the Regional Water Boards on request.

Watershed Management

The State and Regional Water Boards are undertaking a focussed effort in watershed management throughout the State. In reissuing this General Permit, the State Water Board recognizes both the evolving nature of watershed management and the long-term desirability of structuring monitoring programs to support the Watershed Management Initiative. Therefore, the amended monitoring and reporting provisions provide flexibility for individual facility operators or groups of facility operators to propose and participate in, subject to Regional Water Board approval, watershed monitoring programs in lieu of some or all of the monitoring requirements contained in this General Permit.

Facility Operator Compliance Responsibilities

This General Permit has been written to encourage individual facility operators to develop their own SWPPP and monitoring programs. Many facility operators, however, choose to obtain compliance assistance either by hiring a consultant on an individual basis or by participating in a group monitoring plan. Regardless of how a facility operator chooses to pursue compliance, it is the facility operator that is responsible for compliance with this General Permit.

The State Water Board recognizes that industrial activities and operating conditions at many facilities change over time. In addition, new and more effective BMPs are being developed by various facility operators and by industrial groups. The SWPPP and monitoring program requirements include various inspections, reviews, and observations all of which recognize, encourage, and mandate an iterative self-evaluation process that is necessary to consistently comply with this General Permit. In general, facility operators that develop and implement SWPPPs that comply with this General Permit should not be penalized when discovering minor violations through this iterative self-evaluation process. The General Permit provides facility operators up to 90 days to revise and implement the SWPPP to correct such violations.

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (STATE WATER BOARD)
WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 97-03-DWQ
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)
GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAS000001 (GENERAL PERMIT)**

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRS)
FOR
DISCHARGES OF STORM WATER ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES
EXCLUDING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

The State Water Board finds that:

1. Federal regulations for storm water discharges were issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) on November 16, 1990 (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 122, 123, and 124). The regulations require operators of specific categories of facilities where discharges of storm water associated with industrial activity (storm water) occur to obtain an NPDES permit and to implement Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BAT) and Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology (BCT) to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activity in storm water discharges and authorized non-storm discharges.
2. This General Permit shall regulate storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges from specific categories of industrial facilities identified in Attachment 1, storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges from facilities as designated by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), and storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges from other facilities seeking General Permit coverage. This General Permit may also regulate storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges from facilities as required by U.S. EPA regulations. This General Permit shall regulate storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges previously regulated by San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Order, No.92-11 (as amended by Order No. 92-116). This General Permit excludes storm water discharges and non-storm water discharges that are regulated by other individual or general NPDES permits, storm water discharges and non-storm water discharges from construction activities, and storm water discharges and non-storm water discharges excluded by the Regional Water Boards for coverage by this General Permit. Attachment 2 contains the addresses and telephone numbers of each Regional Water Board office.
3. To obtain coverage for storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges pursuant to this General Permit, operators of facilities (facility operators) must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI), in accordance with the Attachment 3

instructions, and appropriate annual fee to the State Water Board. This includes facility operators that have participated in U.S. EPA's group application process.

4. This General Permit does not preempt or supersede the authority of local agencies to prohibit, restrict, or control storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges to storm drain systems or other water-courses within their jurisdictions as allowed by State and Federal law.
5. If an individual NPDES permit is issued to a facility operator otherwise subject to this General Permit or an alternative NPDES general permit is subsequently adopted which covers storm water discharges and/or authorized non-storm water discharges regulated by this General Permit, the applicability of this General Permit to such discharges is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual NPDES permit or the date of approval for coverage under the subsequent NPDES general permit.
6. Effluent limitations and toxic and effluent standards established in Sections 208(b), 301, 302, 303(d), 304, 306, 307, and 403 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended, are applicable to storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges regulated by this General Permit.
7. This action to adopt an NPDES general permit is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21100, et seq.) in accordance with Section 13389 of the California Water Code.
8. Federal regulations (40 CFR Subchapter N) establish effluent limitations guidelines for storm water discharges from some facilities in ten industrial categories.
9. For facilities which do not have established effluent limitation guidelines for storm water discharges in 40 CFR Subchapter N, it is not feasible at this time to establish numeric effluent limitations. This is due to the large number of discharges and the complex nature of storm water discharges. This is also consistent with the U.S. EPA's August 1, 1996 "Interim Permitting Approach for Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations in Storm Water Permits."
10. Facility operators are required to comply with the terms and conditions of this General Permit. Compliance with the terms and conditions of this General Permit constitutes compliance with BAT/BCT requirements and with requirements to achieve water quality standards. This includes the development and implementation of an effective Storm Water

Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activity in storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges.

11. Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activity in storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges are appropriate where numeric effluent limitations are infeasible, and the implementation of BMPs is adequate to achieve compliance with BAT/BCT and with water quality standards.
12. The State Water Board has adopted a Watershed Management Initiative that encourages watershed management throughout the State. This General Permit recognizes the Watershed Management Initiative by supporting the development of watershed monitoring programs authorized by the Regional Water Boards.
13. Following adoption of this General Permit, the Regional Water Boards shall enforce its provisions.
14. Following public notice in accordance with State and Federal laws and regulations, the State Water Board held a public hearing on November 12, 1996 and heard and considered all comments pertaining to this General Permit. A response to all significant comments has been prepared and is available for public review.
15. This Order is an NPDES General Permit in compliance with Section 402 of the CWA and shall take effect upon adoption by the State Water Board.
16. All terms that are defined in the CWA, U.S. EPA storm water regulations and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act will have the same definition in this General Permit unless otherwise stated.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all facility operators required to be regulated by this General Permit shall comply with the following:

A. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS:

1. Except as allowed in Special Conditions (D.1.) of this General Permit, materials other than storm water (non-storm water discharges) that discharge either directly or indirectly to waters of the United States are prohibited. Prohibited non-storm water discharges must be either eliminated or permitted by a separate NPDES permit.

2. Storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges shall not cause or threaten to cause pollution, contamination, or nuisance.

B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS:

1. Storm water discharges from facilities subject to storm water effluent limitation guidelines in Federal regulations (40 CFR Subchapter N) shall not exceed the specified effluent limitations.
2. Storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges regulated by this General Permit shall not contain a hazardous substance equal to or in excess of a reportable quantity listed in 40 CFR Part 117 and/or 40 CFR Part 302.
3. Facility operators covered by this General Permit must reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activity in storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges through implementation of BAT for toxic and non-conventional pollutants and BCT for conventional pollutants. Development and implementation of an SWPPP that complies with the requirements in Section A of the General Permit and that includes BMPs that achieve BAT/BCT constitutes compliance with this requirement.

C. RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS:

1. Storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges to any surface or ground water shall not adversely impact human health or the environment.
2. Storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges shall not cause or contribute to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards contained in a Statewide Water Quality Control Plan or the applicable Regional Water Board's Basin Plan.
3. A facility operator will not be in violation of Receiving Water Limitation C.2. as long as the facility operator has implemented BMPs that achieve BAT/BCT and the following procedure is followed:
 - a. The facility operator shall submit a report to the appropriate Regional Water Board that describes the BMPs that are currently being implemented and additional BMPs that will be implemented to prevent or reduce any pollutants that are causing or contributing to the exceedance of water quality

standards. The report shall include an implementation schedule. The Regional Water Board may require modifications to the report.

- b. Following approval of the report described above by the Regional Water Board, the facility operator shall revise its SWPPP and monitoring program to incorporate the additional BMPs that have been and will be implemented, the implementation schedule, and any additional monitoring required.
4. A facility operator shall be in violation of this General Permit if he/she fails to do any of the following:
 - a. Submit the report described above within 60 days after either the facility operator or the Regional Water Board determines that discharges are causing or contributing to an exceedance of an applicable water quality standard;
 - b. Submit a report that is approved by the Regional Water Board; or
 - c. Revise its SWPPP and monitoring program as required by the approved report.

D. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. Non-Storm Water Discharges

- a. The following non-storm water discharges are authorized by this General Permit provided that they satisfy the conditions specified in Paragraph b. below: fire hydrant flushing; potable water sources, including potable water related to the operation, maintenance, or testing of potable water systems; drinking fountain water; atmospheric condensates including refrigeration, air conditioning, and compressor condensate; irrigation drainage; landscape watering; springs; ground water; foundation or footing drainage; and sea water infiltration where the sea waters are discharged back into the sea water source.
- b. The non-storm water discharges as provided in Paragraph a. above are authorized by this General Permit if all the following conditions are met:
 - i. The non-storm water discharges are in compliance with Regional Water Board requirements.
 - ii. The non-storm water discharges are in compliance with local agency ordinances and/or requirements.

- iii. BMPs are specifically included in the SWPPP to (1) prevent or reduce the contact of non-storm water discharges with significant materials or equipment and (2) minimize, to the extent practicable, the flow or volume of non-storm water discharges.
 - iv. The non-storm water discharges do not contain significant quantities of pollutants.
 - v. The monitoring program includes quarterly visual observations of each non-storm water discharge and its sources to ensure that BMPs are being implemented and are effective.
 - vi. The non-storm water discharges are reported and described annually as part of the annual report.
- c. The Regional Water Board or its designee may establish additional monitoring programs and reporting requirements for any non-storm water discharge authorized by this General Permit.
 - d. Discharges from firefighting activities are authorized by this General Permit and are not subject to the conditions of Paragraph b. above.

E. PROVISIONS

1. All facility operators seeking coverage by this General Permit must submit an NOI for each of the facilities they operate. Facility operators filing an NOI after the adoption of this General Permit shall use the NOI form and instructions (Attachment 3) attached to this General Permit. Existing facility operators who have filed an NOI pursuant to State Water Board Order No. 91-013-DWQ (as amended by Order No. 92-12-DWQ) or San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Order No. 92-11 (as amended by Order No. 92-116) shall submit an abbreviated NOI form provided by the State Water Board. The abbreviated NOI form shall be submitted within 45 days of receipt.
2. Facility operators who have filed an NOI, pursuant to State Water Board Order No. 91-013-DWQ (as amended by Order No. 92-12-DWQ) or San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Order No. 92-11 (as amended by Order No. 92-116), shall continue to implement their existing SWPPP and shall implement any necessary revisions to their SWPPP in accordance with Section A of this General Permit in a timely manner, but in no case later than August 1, 1997. Facility operators beginning industrial activities after

adoption of this General Permit must develop and implement an SWPPP in accordance with Section A of this General Permit when the industrial activities begin.

3. Facility operators who have filed an NOI, pursuant to State Water Board Order No. 91-013-DWQ (as amended by Order No. 92-12-DWQ) or San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Order No. 92-11 (as amended by Order No. 92-116), shall continue to implement their existing Monitoring Program and shall implement any necessary revisions to their Monitoring Program in accordance with Section B of the General Permit in a timely manner, but in no case later than August 1, 1997. Facility operators beginning industrial activities after adoption of this General Permit must develop and implement a Monitoring Program in accordance with Section B of this General Permit when industrial activities begin.
4. Facility operators of feedlots as defined in 40 CFR Part 412 that are in full compliance with Section 2560 to Section 2565, Title 23, California Code of Regulations (Chapter 15) will be in compliance with all effluent limitations and prohibitions contained in this General Permit. Facility operators of feedlots that comply with Chapter 15, however, must perform monitoring in compliance with the requirements of Section B.4.d. and B.14. of this General Permit. Facility operators of feedlots must also comply with any Regional Water Board WDRs or NPDES general permit regulating their storm water discharges.
5. All facility operators must comply with lawful requirements of municipalities, counties, drainage districts, and other local agencies regarding storm water discharges and non-storm water discharges entering storm drain systems or other watercourses under their jurisdiction, including applicable requirements in municipal storm water management programs developed to comply with NPDES permits issued by the Regional Water Boards to local agencies.
6. All facility operators must comply with the standard provisions and reporting requirements for each facility covered by this General Permit contained in Section C, Standard Provisions.
7. Facility operators that operate facilities with co-located industrial activities (facilities that have industrial activities that meet more than one of the descriptions in Attachment 1) that are contiguous to one another are authorized to file a single NOI to comply with the General Permit. Storm water discharges

and authorized non-storm water discharges from the co-located industrial activities are authorized provided that the SWPPP and Monitoring Program addresses each co-located industrial activity.

8. Upon reissuance of a successor NPDES general permit by the State Water Board, the facility operators subject to this reissued General Permit may be required to file an NOI.
9. Facility operators may request to terminate their coverage under this General Permit by filing a Notice of Termination (NOT) with the Regional Water Board. The NOT shall provide all documentation requested by the Regional Water Board. The facility operator will be notified when the NOT has been approved. Should the NOT be denied, facility operators are responsible for continued compliance with the requirements of this General Permit.
10. Facility operators who have filed an NOI, pursuant to State Water Board Order No. 91-013-DWQ (as amended by Order No. 92-12) or San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Order No. 92-11 (as amended by Order No. 92-116) shall:
 - a. Complete the 1996-97 activities required by those general permits. These include, but are not limited to, conducting any remaining visual observations, sample collection, annual site inspection, annual report submittal, and (for group monitoring leaders) Group Evaluation Reports; and
 - b. Comply with the requirements of this General Permit no later than August 1, 1997.
11. If the Regional Water Board determines that a discharge may be causing or contributing to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standards contained in a Statewide Water Quality Control Plan or the applicable Regional Water Board's Basin Plan, the Regional Water Board may order the facility operator to comply with the requirements described in Receiving Water Limitation C.3. The facility operator shall comply with the requirements within the time schedule established by the Regional Water Board.
12. If the facility operator determines that its storm water discharges or authorized non-storm water discharges are causing or contributing to an exceedance of any

applicable water quality standards, the facility operator shall comply with the requirements described in Receiving Water Limitation C.3.

13. State Water Board Order No. 91-013-DWQ (as amended by Order No. 92-12-DWQ) and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Order No. 91-011 (as amended by Order No. 92-116) are hereby rescinded.

F. REGIONAL WATER BOARD AUTHORITIES

1. Following adoption of this General Permit, Regional Water Boards shall:
 - a. Implement the provisions of this General Permit, including, but not limited to, reviewing SWPPPs, reviewing annual reports, conducting compliance inspections, and taking enforcement actions.
 - b. Issue other NPDES general permits or individual NPDES storm water permits as they deem appropriate to individual facility operators, facility operators of specific categories of industrial activities, or facility operators in a watershed or geographic area. Upon issuance of such NPDES permits by a Regional Water Board, the affected facility operator shall no longer be regulated by this General Permit. Any new NPDES permit issued by the Regional Water Board may contain different requirements than the requirements of this General Permit.
2. Regional Water Boards may provide guidance to facility operators on the SWPPP and the Monitoring Program and reporting implementation.
3. Regional Water Boards may require facility operators to conduct additional SWPPP and Monitoring Program and reporting activities necessary to achieve compliance with this General Permit.
4. Regional Water Boards may approve requests from facility operators whose facilities include co-located industrial activities that are not contiguous within the facilities (e.g., some military bases) to comply with this General Permit under a single NOI. Storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges from the co-located industrial activities and from other sources within the facility that may generate significant quantities of pollutants are authorized provided the SWPPP and

Monitoring Program addresses each co-located industrial activity and other sources that may generate significant quantities of pollutants.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Administrative Assistant to the State Water Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on April 17, 1997.

AYE: John P. Caffrey
John W. Brown
James M. Stubchaer
Marc Del Piero
Mary Jane Forster

NO: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Maureen Marché
Administrative Assistant to the Board