

Memorandum

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To: PROJECT DELIVERY STAFF
DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS, DESIGN
DISTRICT DESIGN STORMWATER COORDINATORS Date: July 16, 2010

From: TIMOTHY B. SOBELMAN 
Chief, Office of Storm Water Management
Division of Design

Subject: Revisions to the Project Planning and Design Guide and Storm Water Data Report.

As part of the Department's commitment to assure compliance with regulatory requirements and to continue to maintain a consistent implementation of the Caltrans Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, some revisions have been made to the Caltrans Project Planning and Design Guide (PPDG). These revisions address changes to the Caltrans Stormwater Program including new requirements from the new Statewide Construction General Permit (CGP), an improved process for selecting treatment Best Management Practices (BMPs) and a variety of edits to estimating and documenting stormwater decisions in the Storm Water Data Report (SWDR).

As outlined in the Department's statewide webinar on June 22, 2010, "Transition Steps to the New Statewide Construction General Permit (CGP)," the new CGP went into effect for all projects on July 1, 2010. While most of the requirements of the new CGP will affect construction, there are a few activities that need to be addressed prior to awarding a contract. The main activity that will be required for all projects is the determination of a project Risk Level (RL). The new PPDG describes that a project RL will be determined during each phase of project delivery and will be documented in the Storm Water Data Report (SWDR). Another revision related to the new CGP has to do with estimating. Depending upon the project RL, new stormwater bid items will be required. For all Risk Levels, a new item for Stormwater Annual Report will be required. For RL 2 and 3 projects, new items for Rain Event Action Plans (REAPs) and Stormwater Sampling and Analysis Day will be required.

These new bid items have been included in the new SSP 07-345 Water Pollution Control (SWPPP). Guidance for these new bid items, along with some existing revised stormwater bid items, is included in Appendix F of the new PPDG.

Another revision to the PPDG has to do with selecting treatment BMPs. The Department's goal, as well as the nationwide trend, is to first evaluate Low Impact Development (LID) type BMPs such as biofiltration strips/swales, infiltration devices and other earthen-type BMPs. The Caltrans Target Design Constituent (TDC) approach has been revised to build in this type of evaluation when selecting treatment BMPs. An analysis of the latest BMP performance data was used to statistically evaluate and rank these approved BMPs.

Specific details related to this revision can be found in Figure 2-3 (Section 2) and in checklist T-1, Part 1 (Appendix E) of the PPDG. These revisions will further the effort to allow for appropriate crediting related to infiltration/storage throughout the entire project vs. selecting and sizing the treatment BMPs independently.

Other important PPDG revisions include:

- Streamlining the language in Sections 5, 6 and 7.
- Section 8 (Final Project Development Procedures – Construction). Additional clarity has been provided regarding what information needs to be provided to Construction for more effective stormwater compliance and field implementation.
- Appendix B (Approved Treatment BMPs) has been revised to put more emphasis on the stand-alone design guidance for each individual treatment BMP. This will streamline the process and avoid any potential conflicts between the two documents. In addition, it allows flexibility to modify the stand-alone guidance without revising the entire PPDG.
- Appendix C (Construction Site BMPs) has been revised to add a section on Advanced Treatment Systems (ATS).
- Appendix E (Storm Water Data Report and Checklists) has been revised to provide more clarity to the type of information needed when documenting stormwater decisions throughout project delivery. Additional emphasis has been provided to encourage the use of Short Form – SWDRs on more projects with the concurrence of the District/Regional Design Stormwater Coordinator.
- Appendix F (Cost Estimates) has been revised to provide current estimating guidance for all BMPs including the new stormwater bid line items: Stormwater Annual Report, Rain Event Action Plans (REAPs) and Stormwater Sampling and Analysis Day.

Implementation of the new PPDG and use of the revised SWDR should occur as soon as possible. However, the intent is not to expend resources solely to utilize the new format. SWDRs that have already been developed (at any phase) may only need minor modifications to meet the requirements of these revisions. Some projects may only need to add a small amount of additional information to the old format and replace the SWDR cover sheet. Consult with your District/Regional Design Stormwater Coordinator to determine if any edits would be necessary.

SWDRs being submitted for approval after November 1, 2010, must be in the new format.

The referenced edits to the PPDG and the corresponding SWDR editable files have been posted on the OSWMD website for your use.

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Intranet: <http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/design/stormwater/>

Internet: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/oppd/stormwtr/index.htm>

If you have any questions related to the PPDG or SWDR revisions, please contact your District Design Storm Water Coordinator or the HQ Office of Storm Water Management - Design contact, Sean Penders, at (916) 653-5646.

c: Tim Craggs
Scott McGowen