

- i) Reducing mowing of grass to allow for greater pollutant removal, but not jeopardizing public safety.
 - 3) Collect and properly dispose of unused pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.
 - 4) Minimize irrigation run-off by using an evapotranspiration-based irrigation schedule and rain sensors.
- (c) Record the types and amounts of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers used in the permit area.
- (iii) **Reporting** - The Permittee shall use State Water Board SMARTS to submit a summary of the past year activities and certify compliance with all requirements of this program element. The summary shall also address the relationship between the program element activities and the Permittee's Program Effectiveness Assessment and Improvement Plan that tracks annual and long-term effectiveness of the storm water program. If a Permittee is unable to certify compliance with a requirement in this program element see Section E.16.a.for compliance directions.

E.12. POST CONSTRUCTION STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

E.12.a. Post-Construction Measures

Permittees shall regulate development to comply with the following Sections:

- E.12.b Site Design Measures
- E.12.c. Regulated Projects
- E.12.d. Source Control Measures
- E.12.e. Low Impact Development (LID) Design Standards
- E.12.f. Hydromodification Measures
- E.12.g. Enforceable Mechanisms
- E.12.h. Operation and Maintenance of Storm Water Control Measures
- E.12.i. Post-Construction Best Management Practice Condition Assessment
- E.12.j. Planning and Development Review Process
- E.12.k. Post-Construction Storm Water Management Requirements Based on Assessment and Maintenance of Watershed Processes
- E.12.l. Alternative Post-Construction Storm Water Management Program

E.12.b. Site Design Measures

- (i) **Task Description** – Within the second year of the effective date of the permit, the Permittee shall require implementation of site design measures for all projects that create and/or replace (including projects with no net increase in impervious footprint) between 2,500 square feet and 5,000 square feet of impervious surface, including detached single family homes that create and/or replace 2,500 square feet or more of impervious surface and are not part of a larger plan of development. Site design measures as specified in this section are not applicable to linear underground/overhead projects (LUPs).
- (ii) **Implementation Level** - Projects shall implement one or more of the following site design measures to reduce project site runoff:

- (a) Stream Setbacks and Buffers - a vegetated area including trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation, that exists or is established to protect a stream system, lake reservoir, or coastal estuarine area;
- (b) Soil Quality Improvement and Maintenance - improvement and maintenance soil through soil amendments and creation of microbial community;
- (c) Tree Planting and Preservation - planting and preservation of healthy, established trees that include both evergreens and deciduous, as applicable;
- (d) Rooftop and Impervious Area Disconnection - rerouting of rooftop drainage pipes to drain rainwater to rain barrels, cisterns, or permeable areas instead of the storm sewer;
- (e) Porous Pavement - pavement that allows runoff to pass through it, thereby reducing the runoff from a site and surrounding areas and filtering pollutants;
- (f) Green Roofs - a vegetative layer grown on a roof (rooftop garden);
- (g) Vegetated Swales - a vegetated, open-channel management practice designed specifically to treat and attenuate storm water runoff;
- (h) Rain Barrels and Cisterns - system that collects and stores storm water runoff from a roof or other impervious surface.

Project proponents shall use the State Water Board SMARTS Post-Construction Calculator²¹, or equivalent to quantify the runoff reduction resulting from implementation of site design measures.

- (iii) **Reporting** - The Permittee shall use State Water Board SMARTS to submit a summary of the past year activities and certify compliance with all requirements of this program element. The summary shall also address the relationship between the program element activities and the Permittee's Program Effectiveness Assessment and Improvement Plan that tracks annual and long-term effectiveness of the storm water program. If a Permittee is unable to certify compliance with a requirement in this program element see Section E.16.a. for compliance directions.

E.12.c. Regulated Projects

- (i) **Task Description** – Within the second year of the effective date of the permit, the Permittee shall implement standards to effectively reduce runoff and pollutants associated with runoff from Regulated Projects as defined below.
- (ii) **Implementation Level** - The Permittee shall regulate all projects that create and/or replace 5,000 square feet or more of impervious surface (Regulated Projects). The Permittee shall require these Regulated Projects to implement measures for site design, source control, runoff reduction, storm water treatment and baseline hydromodification management as defined in this Order.

Regulated Projects do not include:

- Detached single family home projects that are not part of a larger plan of development;
- Interior remodels;

²¹ The State Water Board SMARTS Post-Construction Calculator can be found at: <https://smarts.waterboards.ca.gov/smarts/faces/SwSmartsLogin.jsp>

- Routine maintenance or repair such as: exterior wall surface replacement, pavement resurfacing within the existing footprint.
- LUPs - Unless the LUP has a discrete location that has 5,000 square feet or more of newly constructed contiguous impervious surface. When the LUP has a discrete location that has 5,000 sq-ft or more of new contiguous impervious surface, only that specific discrete location is subject to Section E.12.c.

Regulated Projects include development projects. Development includes new and redevelopment projects on public or private land that fall under the planning and permitting authority of a Permittee. Redevelopment is any land-disturbing activity that results in the creation, addition, or replacement of exterior impervious surface area on a site on which some past development has occurred. Redevelopment does not include trenching, excavation and resurfacing associated with LUPs; pavement grinding and resurfacing of existing roadways; construction of new sidewalks, pedestrian ramps, or bike lanes on existing roadways; or routine replacement of damaged pavement such as pothole repair or replacement of short, non-contiguous sections of roadway. The following (a-c) describe specific Regulated Project requirements for redevelopment, road projects and LUPs:

- (a) Where a redevelopment project results in an increase of more than 50 percent of the impervious surface of a previously existing development, runoff from the entire project, consisting of all existing, new, and/or replaced impervious surfaces, must be included to the extent feasible.
- (b) Where a redevelopment project results in an increase of less than 50 percent of the impervious surface of a previously existing development, only runoff from the new and/or replaced impervious surface of the project must be included.
- (c) Road Projects and LUPs - Any of the following types of road projects and LUPs that create 5,000 square feet or more of newly constructed contiguous impervious surface and that are public road projects and/or fall under the building and planning authority of a Permittee shall comply with Section E.12.e. Low Impact Development Standards except that treatment of runoff of the 85th percentile that cannot be infiltrated onsite shall follow U.S. EPA guidance regarding green infrastructure to the extent feasible. Types of projects include:
 - 1) Construction of new streets or roads, including sidewalks and bicycle lanes built as part of the new streets or roads.
 - 2) Widening of existing streets or roads with additional traffic lanes.
 - a) Where the addition of traffic lanes results in an alteration of more than 50 percent of the impervious surface of an existing street or road, runoff from the entire project, consisting of all existing, new, and/or replaced impervious surfaces, must be included in the treatment system design.
 - b) Where the addition of traffic lanes results in an alteration of less than 50 percent (but 5,000 square feet or more) of the impervious surface

of an existing street or road, only the runoff from new and/or replaced impervious surface of the project must be included in the treatment system design.

- 3) Construction of linear underground/overhead projects (LUPs)
- 4) Specific exclusions are:
 - a) Sidewalks built as part of new streets or roads and built to direct storm water runoff to adjacent vegetated areas.
 - b) Bicycle lanes that are built as part of new streets or roads that direct storm water runoff to adjacent vegetated areas.
 - c) Impervious trails built to direct storm water runoff to adjacent vegetated areas, or other non-erodible permeable areas, preferably away from creeks or towards the outboard side of levees.
 - d) Sidewalks, bicycle lanes, or trails constructed with permeable surfaces.
 - e) Trenching, excavation and resurfacing associated with LUPs; pavement grinding and resurfacing of existing roadways and parking lots; construction of new sidewalks, pedestrian ramps, or bike lanes on existing roadways; or routine replacement of damaged pavement such as pothole repair or replacement of short, non-contiguous sections of roadway.

Effective Date for Applicability of Low Impact Development Runoff Standards to Regulated Projects: By the second year of the effective date of the permit, the Permittee shall require these Post-Construction Standards be applied on applicable new and redevelopment Regulated Projects, both private development requiring municipal permits and public projects, to the extent allowable by applicable law. These include discretionary permit projects that have not been deemed complete for processing and discretionary permit projects without vesting tentative maps that have not requested and received an extension of previously granted approvals. Discretionary projects that have been deemed complete prior to the second year of the effective date of this Order are not subject to the Post-Construction Standards herein. For the Permittee's Regulated Projects, the effective date shall be the date their governing body or designee approves initiation of the project design.

Permittee's Development Projects - The Permittee shall develop and implement an equivalent approach, to the approach used for private development projects, to apply the most current version of the low impact development runoff standards to applicable public development projects, to the extent allowable by applicable law.

E.12.d. Source Control Measures

- (i) **Task Description** – Regulated Projects with pollutant-generating activities and sources shall be required to implement standard permanent and/or operation source control measures as applicable.
- (ii) **Implementation Level** - Measures for the following pollutant generating activities and sources shall be designed consistent with recommendations from the CASQA

Stormwater BMP Handbook for New Development and Redevelopment or equivalent manual, and include:

- (a) Accidental spills or leaks
- (b) Interior floor drains
- (c) Parking/storage areas and maintenance
- (d) Indoor and structural pest control
- (e) Landscape/outdoor pesticide use
- (f) Pools, spas, ponds, decorative fountains, and other water features
- (g) Restaurants, grocery stores, and other food service operations
- (h) Refuse areas
- (i) Industrial processes
- (j) Outdoor storage of equipment or materials
- (k) Vehicle and equipment cleaning
- (l) Vehicle and equipment repair and maintenance
- (m) Fuel dispensing areas
- (n) Loading docks
- (o) Fire sprinkler test water
- (p) Drain or wash water from boiler drain lines, condensate drain lines, rooftop equipment, drainage sumps, and other sources
- (q) Unauthorized non-storm water discharges
- (r) Building and grounds maintenance

E.12.e. Low Impact Development (LID) Design Standards

- (i) **Task Description** – The Permittee shall require all Regulated Projects to implement low impact development (LID) standards designed to reduce runoff, treat storm water, and provide baseline hydromodification management to the extent feasible, to meet the Numeric Sizing Criteria for Storm Water Retention and Treatment under Section E.12.e(ii)(c).
- (ii) **Implementation Level** – The Permittee shall adopt and implement requirements and standards to ensure design and construction of development projects achieve the following LID Design Standards.
 - (a) **Site Assessment**

At the earliest planning stages, the Permittee shall require Regulated Projects to assess and evaluate how site conditions, such as soils, vegetation, and flow paths, will influence the placement of buildings and paved surfaces. The evaluation will be used to meet the goals of capturing and treating runoff and assuring these goals are incorporated into the project design. The Permittee may adopt or reference an existing LID site assessment methodology²² Permittees shall require Regulated Projects to consider optimizing the site layout through the following methods:

- 1) Define the development envelope and protected areas, identifying areas that are most suitable for development and areas to be left undisturbed.

²² Low Impact Development Manual for Southern California (Low Impact Development Center – See CASQA's LID website at: <http://www.casqa.org/LID/tabid/240/Default.aspx>).

- 2) Concentrate development on portions of the site with less permeable soils and preserve areas that can promote infiltration.
- 3) Limit overall impervious coverage of the site with paving and roofs.
- 4) Set back development from creeks, wetlands, and riparian habitats.
- 5) Preserve significant trees.
- 6) Conform the site layout along natural landforms.
- 7) Avoid excessive grading and disturbance of vegetation and soils.
- 8) Replicate the site's natural drainage patterns.
- 9) Detain and retain runoff throughout the site.

(b) Drainage Management Areas

The Permittee shall require each Regulated Project to provide a map or diagram dividing the developed portions of the project site into discrete Drainage Management Areas (DMAs), and to manage runoff from each DMA using Site Design Measures, Source Controls and/or Storm Water Treatment and Baseline Hydromodification Measures.

(c) Numeric Sizing Criteria for Storm Water Retention and Treatment

The Permittees shall require facilities designed to evapotranspire, infiltrate, harvest/use, and biotreat storm water to meet at least one of the following hydraulic sizing design criteria:

1) Volumetric Criteria:

- a) The maximized capture storm water volume for the tributary area, on the basis of historical rainfall records, determined using the formula and volume capture coefficients in Urban Runoff Quality Management, WEF Manual of Practice No. 23/ASCE Manual of Practice No. 87 (1998) pages 175-178 (that is, approximately the 85th percentile 24-hour storm runoff event); or
- b) The volume of annual runoff required to achieve 80 percent or more capture, determined in accordance with the methodology in Section 5 of the CASQA's Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook, New Development and Redevelopment (2003), using local rainfall data.

2) Flow-based Criteria:

- a) The flow of runoff produced from a rain event equal to at least 0.2 inches per hour intensity; or
- b) The flow of runoff produced from a rain event equal to at least 2 times the 85th percentile hourly rainfall intensity as determined from local rainfall records.

(d) **Site Design Measures**

The Permittee shall implement Site Design Measures (as defined in Section E.12.b. Site Design Measures and Section E.12.e(ii)(a) Site Assessment), site layout and design measures, based on the objective of achieving infiltration, evapotranspiration and/or harvesting/reuse of the 85th percentile 24-hour storm runoff event. Site design measures shall be used to reduce the amount of runoff, to the extent technically feasible, for which retention and runoff is required. Any remaining runoff from impervious DMAs may then be directed to one or more bioretention facilities as specified in Section E.12.e.(ii)(f), below.

(e) **Source Controls**

The Permittee shall implement Source Controls as defined in Section E.12.d. Source Control Measures.

(f) **Storm Water Treatment Measures and Baseline Hydromodification Management Measures**

After implementation of Site Design Measures, remaining runoff from impervious DMAs must be directed to one or more facilities designed to infiltrate, evapotranspire, and/or bioretain the amount of runoff specified in Section E.12.e(ii)(c) Numeric Sizing Criteria for Storm Water Retention and Treatment. The facilities must be demonstrated to be at least as effective as a bioretention system with the following design parameters:

- 1) Maximum surface loading rate of 5 inches per hour, based on the flow rates calculated. A sizing factor of 4% of tributary impervious area may be used.
- 2) Minimum surface reservoir volume equal to surface area times a depth of 6 inches.
- 3) Minimum planting medium depth of 18 inches. The planting medium must sustain a minimum infiltration rate of 5 inches per hour throughout the life of the project and must maximize runoff retention and pollutant removal. A mixture of sand (60%-70%) meeting the specifications of American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) C33 and compost (30%-40%) may be used.
- 4) Subsurface drainage/storage (gravel) layer with an area equal to the surface area and having a minimum depth of 12 inches.
- 5) Underdrain with discharge elevation at top of gravel layer.
- 6) No compaction of soils beneath the facility, or ripping/loosening of soils if compacted.
- 7) No liners or other barriers interfering with infiltration.
- 8) Appropriate plant palette for the specified soil mix and maximum available water use.

(g) **Alternative Designs** — Facilities, or a combination of facilities, of a different design than in Section E.12.e.(ii)(f) may be permitted if all of the following

measures of equivalent effectiveness are demonstrated:

- 1) Equal or greater amount of runoff infiltrated or evapotranspired;
- 2) Equal or lower pollutant concentrations in runoff that is discharged after biotreatment;
- 3) Equal or greater protection against shock loadings and spills;
- 4) Equal or greater accessibility and ease of inspection and maintenance.

(h) **Allowed Variations for Special Site Conditions** - The bioretention system design parameters in Section E.12.e.(ii)(f) may be adjusted for the following special site conditions:

- 1) Facilities located within 10 feet of structures or other potential geotechnical hazards established by the geotechnical expert for the project may incorporate an impervious cutoff wall between the bioretention facility and the structure or other geotechnical hazard.
- 2) Facilities with documented high concentrations of pollutants in underlying soil or groundwater, facilities located where infiltration could contribute to a geotechnical hazard, and facilities located on elevated plazas or other structures may incorporate an impervious liner and may locate the underdrain discharge at the bottom of the subsurface drainage/storage layer (this configuration is commonly known as a "flow-through planter").
- 3) Facilities located in areas of high groundwater, highly infiltrative soils or where connection of underdrain to a surface drain or to a subsurface storm drain are infeasible, may omit the underdrain.
- 4) Facilities serving high-risk areas such as fueling stations, truck stops, auto repairs, and heavy industrial sites may be required to provide additional treatment to address pollutants of concern unless these high-risk areas are isolated from storm water runoff or bioretention areas with little chance of spill migration.

(i) **Exceptions to Requirements for Bioretention Facilities** - Contingent on a demonstration that use of bioretention or a facility of equivalent effectiveness is infeasible, other types of biotreatment or media filters (such as tree-box-type biofilters or in-vault media filters) may be used for the following categories of Regulated Projects:

- 1) Projects creating or replacing an acre or less of impervious area, and located in a designated pedestrian-oriented commercial district (i.e., smart growth projects), and having at least 85% of the entire project site covered by permanent structures;
- 2) Facilities receiving runoff solely from existing (pre-project) impervious areas;and
- 3) Historic sites, structures or landscapes that cannot alter their original configuration in order to maintain their historic integrity.

By the second year of the effective date of the permit, each Permittee shall adopt or reference appropriate performance criteria for such biotreatment and media filters.

- (iii) **Reporting** – The Permittee shall use State Water Board SMARTS to submit a summary of the past year activities and certify compliance with all requirements of this program element. The summary shall also address the relationship between the program element activities and the Permittee's Program Effectiveness Assessment and Improvement Plan that tracks annual and long-term effectiveness of the storm water program. If a Permittee is unable to certify compliance with a requirement in this program element see Section E.16.a.for compliance directions.

E.12.f. Hydromodification Management

- (i) **Task Description** – Within the third year of the effective date of the permit, the Permittee shall develop and implement Hydromodification Management procedures. Hydromodification management projects are Regulated Projects that create and/or replace one acre or more of impervious surface. A project that does not increase impervious surface area over the pre-project condition is not a hydromodification management project.

- (ii) **Implementation Level** - The Permittee shall implement the following Hydromodification Standard:

- (a) Post-project runoff shall not exceed estimated pre-project flow rate for the 2-year, 24-hour storm in the following geomorphic provinces (Figure 1):

- Coast Ranges
- Klamath Mountains
- Cascade Range
- Modoc Plateau
- Basin and Range
- Sierra Nevada
- Great Valley

- (b) Post-project runoff shall not exceed estimated pre-project flow rate for the 10-year, 24-hour storm in the following geomorphic provinces (Figure 1):

- Transverse Ranges
- Peninsular Ranges
- Mojave Desert
- Colorado Desert



Figure 1. California Geomorphic Provinces

Alternatively, the Permittee may use a geomorphically based hydromodification standard or set of standards and analysis procedures designed to ensure that Regulated Projects do not cause a decrease in lateral (bank) and vertical (channel bed) stability in receiving stream channels. The alternative hydromodification standard or set of standards and analysis procedures must be reviewed and approved by the Regional Board Executive Officer.

- (iii) **Reporting** –The Permittee shall use State Water Board SMARTS to submit a summary of the past year activities and certify compliance with all requirements of this program element. The summary shall also address the relationship between the program element activities and the Permittee’s Program Effectiveness Assessment and Improvement Plan that tracks annual and long-term effectiveness of the storm water program. If a Permittee is unable to certify compliance with a requirement in this program element see Section E.16.a for compliance directions.

E.12.g. Enforceable Mechanisms

- (i) **Task Description** - Within the third year of the effective date of the permit, the Permittee shall develop and/or modify enforceable mechanisms that will effectively implement the requirements in Section E.12.b through f (if necessary).
- (ii) **Implementation Level** - The Permittee shall develop and/or modify enforceable mechanisms that will effectively implement the requirements in Section E.12.b through E.12.f and may include municipal codes, regulations, standards, and specifications. The Permittee shall:
 - (a) Conduct an analysis of all applicable codes, regulations, standards, and/or specifications to identify modifications and/or additions necessary to fill gaps and remove impediments to effective implementation of project-scale development requirements.
 - (b) Approve new and/or modified enforceable mechanisms that effectively resolve regulatory conflicts and implement the requirements in Sections E.12.b through E.12.f (if necessary)
 - (c) Apply new and/or modified enforceable mechanisms to all applicable new and redevelopment projects. Develop and make available specific guidance for LID BMP design
 - (d) Complete a Tracking Report indicating the Permittee's accomplishments in education and outreach supporting implementation of LID requirements for new and redevelopment projects.

E.12.h. Operation and Maintenance of Post-Construction Storm Water Management Measures

- (i) **Task Description** –Within the second year of the effective date of the permit, the Permittee shall implement an O&M Verification Program for storm water treatment and baseline hydromodification management structural control measures defined in Section E.12.e(ii)(f). Storm Water Treatment Measures and Baseline Hydromodification Management Measures on all Regulated Projects.
- (ii) **Implementation Level** – At a minimum, the O&M Verification Program shall include the following elements:
 - (a) All Regulated Projects shall at a minimum, require at least one of the following from all project proponents and their successors in control of the Project or successors in fee title:
 - 1) The project proponent's signed statement accepting responsibility for the O&M of structural control measure(s) until such responsibility is legally transferred to another entity;
 - 2) Written conditions in the sales or lease agreements or deed for the project that requires the buyer or lessee to assume responsibility for the O&M of the installed treatment system(s) and hydromodification control(s) (if any) until such responsibility is legally transferred to another entity;

- 3) Written text in project deeds, or conditions, covenants and restrictions for multi-unit residential projects that require the homeowners association or, if there is no association, each individual owner to assume responsibility for the O&M of the installed treatment system(s) and hydromodification control(s) (if any) until such responsibility is legally transferred to another entity; or
 - 4) Any other legally enforceable agreement or mechanism, such as recordation in the property deed, that assigns the O&M responsibility for the installed treatment system(s) and hydromodification control(s) (if any) to the project owner(s) or the Permittee.
- (b) Coordination with the appropriate mosquito²³ and vector control agency with jurisdiction to establish a protocol for notification of installed treatment systems and hydromodification management controls. On an annual basis, before the wet season, prepare a list of newly installed (installed within the reporting period) storm water treatment systems and hydromodification management controls to the local mosquito and vector control agency and the appropriate Regional Water Board. The Permittee may submit the list of Regulated Projects as described in Section E.12.h.(ii)(e). This list shall include the facility locations and a description of the storm water treatment measures and hydromodification management controls installed.
 - (c) Conditions of approval or other legally enforceable agreements or mechanisms for all Regulated Projects that require the granting of site access to all representatives of the Permittee for the sole purpose of performing O&M inspections of the installed treatment system(s) and hydromodification control(s) (if any).
 - (d) A written implementation plan that describes O&M (including inspection) of all Regional Projects and regional controls that are Permittee-owned and/or operated.
 - (e) A database or equivalent tabular format of all Regulated Projects (public and private) that have installed treatment systems. This database or equivalent tabular format shall include the following information for each Regulated Project:
 - 1) Name and address of the Regulated Project;
 - 2) Specific description of the location (or a map showing the location) of the installed treatment system(s) and hydromodification control(s) (if any);
 - 3) Date(s) that the treatment system(s) and hydromodification controls (if any) is/are installed;
 - 4) Description of the type and size of the treatment system(s) and hydromodification control(s) (if any) installed;
 - 5) Responsible operator(s) of each treatment system and hydromodification control (if any);
 - 6) Dates and findings of inspections (routine and follow-up) of the treatment system(s) and hydromodification control(s) (if any) by the Permittee; and
 - 7) Any problems and corrective or enforcement actions taken.

²³ California Department of Public Health. (2012). Best Management Practices for Mosquito Control in California. Retrieved on July 20, 2012 from <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/resources.php>

- 8) **Maintenance Approvals:** The Permittee shall ensure that systems and hydromodification controls installed at Regulated Projects are properly operated and maintained for the life of the projects. In cases where the responsible party for a treatment system or hydromodification control has worked diligently and in good faith with the appropriate state and federal agencies and the Permittee to obtain approvals necessary to complete maintenance activities for the treatment system or hydromodification management control, but these approvals are not granted, the Permittee shall be deemed to be in compliance with this Provision.
- (iii) **Reporting** – The Permittee shall use State Water Board SMARTS to submit a summary of the past year activities and certify compliance with all requirements of this program element. The summary shall also address the relationship between the program element activities and the Permittee's Program Effectiveness Assessment and Improvement Plan that tracks annual and long-term effectiveness of the storm water program. If a Permittee is unable to certify compliance with a requirement in this program element see Section E.16.a.for compliance directions.

E.12.i. Post-Construction Best Management Practice Condition Assessment

- (i) **Task Description** – Within the third year of the effective date of the permit, the Permittee shall inventory and assess the maintenance condition of structural post-construction BMPs (including BMPs used for flood control) within the Permittee's jurisdiction.
- (ii) **Implementation Level** – The Permittee shall develop and implement a plan to inventory, map, and determine the relative maintenance condition of structural post-construction BMPs. Maintenance condition shall be determined through a self-certification program where Permittees require annual reports from authorized parties demonstrating proper maintenance and operations. The plan shall include:
 - (a) An inventory and map of existing structural post-construction BMPs, in GIS if available.
 - (b) Assessments of the self-certification program annual reports. Assessment shall include a ranking of structural BMPs and verification that BMPs are operating to remove pollutants as designed. Regional BMPs should receive higher priority than lot-scale BMPs, and BMPs designed to remove pollutants for which receiving water is impaired should receive priority attention over other BMPs.
 - (c) Appropriate escalating enforcement based on the Permittee Enforcement Response Plan to ensure proper maintenance of BMPs and submittal of self-certification annual reports.
 - (d) Self-Certification Annual Reports. At a minimum, the self-certification annual reports shall include:
 - 1) Field observations to determine the effectiveness of the structural post construction BMPs in removing pollutants of concern from storm water runoff and/or reducing hydromodification impacts as designed.

- 2) Long-term plan for conducting regular maintenance of BMPs, including the frequency of such maintenance.
- (iii) **Reporting** – The Permittee shall use State Water Board SMARTS to submit a summary of the past year activities and certify compliance with all requirements of this program element. The summary shall also address the relationship between the program element activities and the Permittee's Program Effectiveness Assessment and Improvement Plan that tracks annual and long-term effectiveness of the storm water program. If a Permittee is unable to certify compliance with a requirement in this program element see Section E.16.a. for compliance directions.

E.12.j. Planning and Development Review Process

- (i) **Task Description** – The Permittee shall review their planning and permitting process to assess any gaps or impediments impacting effective implementation of these post-construction requirements specified in Section E.12, and where these are found to exist, seek solutions to promote implementation of these requirements within the context of public safety and community goals for land use. The Permittee shall prioritize review of the landscape code (code detailing landscaping requirements and considerations which should be implemented to protect environmental quality) to correct gaps and impediments impacting effective implementation of post-construction requirements.
- (ii) **Implementation Level** – During years 1 – 3, the Permittee shall conduct the review using an existing guide or template already developed for MS4s (such as the Municipal Regulatory Update Assistance Program (MRUAP)²⁴ conducted by AHBL, Inc. for the Low Impact Development Initiative (LIDI) on the Central Coast). By the fourth year of the effective date of the permit, any changes to the planning and permitting process will be completed to effectively administer these provisions. Priority shall be placed on review of the landscape code, with the following implementation level.
 - (a) Within the first year of the effective date of this permit, the Permittee shall conduct an analysis of the landscape code to correct gaps and impediments impacting effective implementation of post-construction requirements.
 - (b) Within the second year of the effective date of the permit, the Permittee shall complete any changes to the landscape code to effectively administer post-construction requirements.
- (iii) **Reporting** – By the second year Annual Report and annually thereafter, complete and have available a summary of the review process, and any proposed or completed changes to the Permittee's program.

²⁴ <http://www.casqa.org/LIDDemo/LIDTraining/tabid/246/Default.aspx>

E.12.k. Post-Construction Storm Water Management Requirements Based on Assessment and Maintenance of Watershed Processes

Small MS4s subject to Section E of this Order, in place of complying with the requirements set forth in Section E.12, except for Sections E.12.j. Planning and Development Review Process and E.12.e(ii)(e) Source Control Requirements, shall comply with post-construction storm water management requirements based on a watershed-process approach developed by Regional Water Board that include the following:

- Completion of a comprehensive assessment of dominant watershed processes affected by urban storm water
- LID site design and runoff reduction measures, numeric runoff treatment and retention controls, and hydromodification controls that will maintain watershed processes and protect water quality and beneficial uses.
- A process by which Regional Board staff will actively engage Permittees to adaptively manage requirements as determined by the assessment of watershed processes.
- An annual reporting program that involves Regional Board staff and State Board staff to inform statewide watershed process based criteria.

The regional watershed-process based approach must be approved by the Regional Water Board following a public process.

E.12.l. Alternative Post-Construction Storm Water Management Program

A Permittee may propose alternative post-construction measures in lieu of some or all of Section E.12. requirements for multiple benefit projects. Multiple-benefit projects include projects that may address any of the following, in addition to water quality: water supply, flood control, habitat enhancement, open space preservation, recreation, climate change. Multiple-benefit projects may be applied at various scales including project site, municipal or sub-watershed level. Multiple-benefit projects may include, but are not limited to, projects developed under Watershed Improvement Plans (Water Code §16100 et seq.), IRWMP implementation and green infrastructure projects. Multiple benefit projects must be equally or more protective of water quality than Section E.12. requirements.

The Regional Water Board or the Executive Officer, may approve alternative post-construction measures for multiple-benefit projects, as described above, after an opportunity for public comment, if the Regional Water Board or Executive Officer finds that the alternative measures are consistent with the MEP standard.

E.13. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Traditional Small MS4 Permittees that are required to conduct monitoring of discharges to ASBS, TMDL, or 303(d) impaired water bodies, as described in Sections E.13.(a)-(c), are not required to perform additional monitoring as specified in Sections E.13.d.1. and E.13.d.2.

Permittees are encouraged to participate in a regional monitoring program in order to cost-effectively combine resources and water quality information. Regional monitoring is the