

Article I. Definitions.

Sec. 48-1. Definitions.

The following words, phrases and terms as used in this chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to them in Part 1.

100,000 square foot commercial or development. Any commercial development that creates at least 100,000 square feet of impervious area, including parking areas. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Act. The Federal Water Pollution Act, also known as the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Adverse impact. A detrimental effect upon water quality or beneficial uses caused by a discharge or loading of a pollutant or pollutants. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Area susceptible to runoff. Any surface exposed to precipitation or in the path of runoff caused by precipitation that leads directly to the street or storm drain. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Automotive repair shop. A facility that is categorized in any one of the following Standard Industrial Classifications (SIC); Codes 5013, 5014, 5541, 8532-7534, or 7536-7539. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Automotive service facility. A facility that is categorized in any one of the following Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes. For inspection purposes, Permittees need not inspect facilities with SIC codes 5013, 5014, 5511, 5541, 7532-7534, and 7536-7539 provided that these facilities have no outside activities or materials that may be exposed to stormwater. (Ord. No. 1041)

Basin plan. The Water Quality Control Plan, Los Angeles Region, Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, adopted by the Regional Water Board on June 13, 1994 and subsequent amendments. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Beneficial uses. Existing or potential uses of receiving waters as defined in a basin plan. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Best Management Practice (BMP). Practices or physical devices or systems designed to prevent or reduce pollutant loading from stormwater or non-stormwater discharges to receiving waters, or designed to reduce the volume of stormwater or non-stormwater discharged to the receiving water. (Ord Nos. 892, 1041)

Biofiltration. A LID BMP that reduces stormwater pollutant discharges by intercepting rainfall on vegetative canopy, and through incidental infiltration and/or evapotranspiration, and filtration. Incidental infiltration is an important factor in achieving the required pollutant load reduction. Therefore, the term "biofiltration" as used in this Ordinance is defined to include only systems designed to facilitate incidental infiltration or achieve the equivalent pollutant reduction as biofiltration BMPs with an underdrain (subject to approval by the Regional Board's Executive Officer). Biofiltration BMPs include bioretention systems with an under drain and bio-swales. (Ord. No. 1041)

Bioretention. A LID BMP that reduces stormwater runoff by intercepting rainfall on vegetative canopy, and through evapotranspiration and infiltration. The bioretention system typically includes a minimum 2-foot top layer of a specified soil and compost mixture underlain by a gravel-filled temporary storage pit dug into the in-situ soil. As defined in this Ordinance, a bioretention BMP may be designed with an overflow drain, but may not include an underdrain. When a bioretention BMP is designed or constructed with an underdrain it is regulated by Order No. R4-2012-0175 as biofiltration. (Ord. No. 1041)

Bio-swale. A LID BMP consisting of a shallow channel lined with grass or other dense, low-growing vegetation. Bioswales are designed to collect stormwater runoff and to achieve a uniform sheet flow through the dense vegetation for a period of several minutes. (Ord. No. 1041)

Board. The City Council of the City of Paramount. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

City. The City of Paramount. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Clean Water Act (CWA). The Federal Water Pollution Control Act enacted in 1972, by Public Law 92-500, and amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987. The Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of pollutants to Waters of the United States unless the discharge is in accordance with an NPDES permit. (Ord. No. 1041)

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government of the United States. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Commercial activity. Any public or private activity not defined as an industrial activity in 40 CFR 122.26(b) (14), involved in the storage, transportation, distribution, exchange or sale of goods and/or commodities or providing professional and/or non-professional services. Commercial activity does not mean a dwelling as defined in Chapter 44 of the code. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Commercial development. Any development on private land that is not heavy industrial or residential. The category includes, but is not limited to: hospitals, laboratories and other medical facilities, educational institutions, recreational facilities, plant nurseries, car wash facilities; mini-malls and other business complexes, shopping malls, hotels, office buildings, public warehouses and other light industrial complexes. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Commercial malls. Any development on private land comprised of one or more buildings forming a complex of stores which sells various merchandise, with interconnecting walkways enabling visitors to easily walk from store to store, along with parking area(s). A commercial mall includes, but is not limited to: mini-malls, strip malls, other retail complexes, and enclosed shopping malls or shopping centers. (Ord. No. 1041)

Construction activity. Any construction or demolition activity, clearing, grading, grubbing, or excavation or any other activity that results in land disturbance. Construction does not include emergency construction activities required to immediately protect public health and safety or routine maintenance activities required to maintain the integrity of structures by performing minor repair and restoration work, maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purposes of the facility. See "Routine Maintenance" definition for further explanation. Where clearing, grading or excavating of underlying soil takes place during a repaving operation, State General Construction Permit coverage by the State of California General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities or for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities is required if more than one acre is disturbed or the activities are part of a larger plan. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Control. To minimize, reduce or eliminate by technological, legal, contractual, or other means, the discharge of pollutants from an activity or activities. (Ord. No. 1041)

County. The Department of Public Works of the County of Los Angeles. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Department. The Department of Public Works of the City of Paramount. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Development. Construction, rehabilitation, redevelopment or reconstruction of any public or private residential project (whether single-family, multi-unit or planned unit development); industrial, commercial, retail, and other non-residential projects, including public agency projects; or mass grading for future construction. It does not include routine maintenance to maintain original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of facility, nor does it include emergency construction activities required to immediately protect public health and safety. (Ord. No. 1041)

Directly adjacent. Situated within 200 feet of the contiguous zone required for the continued maintenance, function, and structural stability of the environmentally sensitive area. (Ord. No. 1041)

Directly connected to impervious areas. The area covered by a structure, impervious pavement, and other impervious surfaces, which drains directly into the storm drain without first flowing across pervious land area (i.e. lawns). (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Director. The Director of Public Works of the City of Paramount, or his/her authorized deputy, agent, representative, or inspector. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Discharge. Any release, spill, leak, pump, flow, escape, dumping, or disposal of any liquid, semi-solid, or solid substance. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Discharge exception. Shall mean the group activities not restricted or prohibited by this ordinance, including only:

Discharges composed entirely of storm water; discharges subject to regulation under current EPA or Regional Water Quality Control Board issued NPDES permits, State General Permits, or other waivers, permits or approvals granted by an appropriate governmental agency; discharges for which mitigation measures for construction activity have been permitted pursuant to Chapter 10 of this Code; discharges to the storm drain system from potable water line flushing, fire fighting activities, landscape irrigation systems, diverted stream flows, rising groundwater, and de minimis groundwater infiltration to the storm water drain system (from leaks in joints or connections or cracks in water drainage pipes or conveyance systems); discharges from potable water sources, passive foundation drains, air conditioning condensate and other building roof runoff; water from crawl space pumps, passive footing drains, lawn watering, non-commercial vehicle washing unless otherwise prohibited by this ordinance; flows from riparian habitats and wetlands; dechlorinated swimming pool discharges; discharges of reclaimed water generated by a lawfully permitted water treatment facility, and street wash waters when related to cleaning and maintenance by, or on behalf of, the City. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Discretionary project. A project that requires the exercise of judgement or deliberation when the public agency or public body decides to approve or disapprove a particular activity, as distinguished from situations where the public agency or body has to determine whether there has been conformity with applicable statutes, ordinances, or regulations. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Disturbed area. An area that is altered as a result of clearing, grading, and/or excavation. (Ord. No. 1041)

Flow-through treatment BMPs. A modular, vault type "high flow biotreatment" device contained within an impervious vault with an underdrain or designed with an impervious liner and an underdrain. (Ord. No. 1041)

Full capture system. Any single device or series of devices, certified by the Executive Officer, that traps all particles retained by a 5 mm mesh screen and has a design treatment capacity of not less than the peak flow rate Q resulting from a one-year, one-hour storm in the sub-drainage area. (Ord. No. 1041)

General Construction Activities Storm Water Permit (GCASP). The general NPDES permit adopted by the State Board which authorizes the discharge of stormwater from construction activities under certain conditions. (Ord. No. 1041)

General Industrial Activities Storm Water Permit (GIASP). The general NPDES permit adopted by the State Board which authorizes the discharge of stormwater from certain industrial activities under certain conditions. (Ord. No. 1041)

Good housekeeping practice. A best management practice related to the transfer, storage, use, or cleanup of materials performed in a regular manner that minimizes the discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system and/or receiving waters. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Green roof. A LID BMP using planter boxes and vegetation to intercept rainfall on the roof surface. Rainfall is intercepted by vegetation leaves and through evapotranspiration. Green roofs may be designed as either a bioretention BMP or as a biofiltration BMP. To receive credit as a bioretention BMP, the green roof system planting medium shall be of sufficient depth to provide capacity within the pore space volume to contain the design storm depth and may not be designed or constructed with an underdrain. (Ord. No. 1041)

Hazardous material(s). Any material(s) defined as hazardous by Division 20, Chapter 6.95 of the California Health and Safety Code. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Hazardous waste. A hazardous material which is to be discharged, discarded, recycled, and/or reprocessed. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Illicit connection. Any human made conveyance that is connected to the storm drain system without a permit, excluding roof drains which convey only storm water. The term illicit connection shall not include a Legal Non-conforming Connection or connections to the storm drain system that are hereinafter authorized by the agency with jurisdiction over the system at the location at which the connection is made. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Illicit discharge. Any discharge to the storm drain system that is prohibited under local, state, federal statutes, ordinances, codes, or regulations. Illicit discharge includes all non-storm water discharges except discharges pursuant to a NPDES permit or discharges that are exempted or conditionally exempted by such permit. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Impervious surface. Any man-made or modified surface that prevents or significantly reduces the entry of water into the underlying soil, resulting in runoff from the surface in greater quantities and/or at an increased rate, when compared to natural conditions prior to development. Examples of places that commonly exhibit impervious surfaces include parking lots, driveways, roadways, storage areas, and rooftops. The imperviousness of these areas commonly results from paving, compacted gravel, compacted earth and oiled earth. (Ord. No. 1041)

Industrial activity. Any public or private activity which is in any of the 11 categories of activities defined in 40 CFR 122.26(b) (14) and which is required to obtain an NPDES permit. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Industrial/commercial facility. Any facility involved and/or used in the production, manufacture, storage, transportation, distribution, exchange or sale of goods and/or commodities, and any facility involved and/or used in providing professional and non-professional services. This category of facilities includes, but is not limited to, any facility defined by either the Standard Industrial Classifications (SIC) or the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Facility ownership (federal, state, municipal, private) and profit motive of the facility are not factors in this definition. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Industrial park. Land development that is set aside for industrial development. Industrial parks are usually located close to transport facilities, especially where more than one transport modalities coincide: highways, railroads, airports, and navigable rivers. It includes office parks, which have offices and light industry. (Ord. No. 1041)

Infiltration. The downward entry of water into the surface of the soil. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Infiltration BMP. A LID BMP that reduces stormwater runoff by capturing and infiltrating the runoff into in-situ soils or amended onsite soils. Examples of infiltration BMPs include infiltration basins, dry wells, and pervious pavement. (Ord. No. 1041)

Legal non-conforming connection. Shall mean connections to the storm drain system existing as of the adoption of this ordinance that were in compliance with all federal, state and local rules, regulations, statutes and administrative requirements in effect at the time the connection was established. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Low Impact Development (LID). Consists of building and landscape features designed to retain or filter stormwater runoff. (Ord. No. 1041)

Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains):

- (a) Owned or operated by a State, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law) having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, stormwater, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the CWA that discharges to waters of the United States;
- (b) Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater;
- (c) Which is not a combined sanitary sewer; and
- (d) Which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR Section 122.2.

(Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The national program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements, under CWA Section 307, 402, 318, and 405. The term includes an "approved program." (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Natural drainage system. A drainage system that has not been improved (e.g., channelized or armored). The clearing or dredging of a natural drainage system does not cause the system to be classified as an improved drainage system. (Ord. No. 1041)

New development. Land disturbing activities; structural development, including construction or installation of a building or structure, creation of impervious surfaces; and land subdivision. (Ord. No. 1041)

Non-stormwater discharge. Any discharge to a municipal storm drain system that is not composed entirely of stormwater. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Outfall. A point source as defined by 40 CFR 122.2 at the point where a municipal separate storm sewer discharges to waters of the United States and does not include open conveyances connecting two municipal separate storm sewers, or pipes, tunnels or other conveyances with connect segments of the same stream or other waters of the United States and are used to convey waters of the United States. [40 CFR Section 122.26(b)(9)] (Ord. No. 1041)

Parking lot. Land area or facility for the parking or storage of motor vehicles used for businesses, commerce, industry, or personal use, with a lot size of 5,000 square feet or more of surface area, or with 25 or more parking spaces. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Planning priority projects. Development projects subject to Permittee conditioning and approval for the design and implementation of post-construction controls to mitigate stormwater pollution, prior to completion of the project(s). (Ord. No. 1041)

Pollutant. Any "pollutant" defined in Section 502(6) of the Federal Clean Water Act or incorporated into the California Water Code Section 13373 . (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Post construction BMP. A structural or non-structural BMP incorporated into the design of a project to control or reduce the discharge of pollutants from the site after construction is complete for the life of the project. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Project. All development, redevelopment, and land disturbing activities. The term is not limited to "Project" as defined under CEQA (Pub. Resources Code Section 21065). (Ord. No. 1041)

Rainfall harvest and use. A LID BMP system designed to capture runoff, typically from a roof but can also include runoff capture from elsewhere within the site, and to provide for temporary storage until the harvested water can be used for irrigation or non-potable uses. The harvested water may also be used for potable water uses if the system includes disinfection treatment and is approved for such use by the local building department. (Ord. No. 1041)

Receiving water. "Water of the United States" into which waste and/or pollutants are or may be discharged. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Redevelopment. Land-disturbing activity that results in the creation, addition, or replacement of 5,000 square feet or more of impervious surface area on an already developed site. Redevelopment includes, but is not limited to: the expansion of a building footprint; addition or replacement of a structure; replacement of impervious surface area that is not part of routine maintenance activity; and land disturbing activity related to structural or impervious surfaces. It does not include routine maintenance to maintain original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of facility, nor does it include emergency construction activities required to immediately protect public health and safety. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Regional board. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Restaurant. A facility that sells prepared foods and drinks for consumption, including stationary lunch counters and refreshment stands selling prepared foods and drinks for immediate consumption (SIC Code 5812). (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Retail gasoline outlet. Any facility engaged in selling gasoline and lubricating oils (Order No. R4-2012-0175). (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Routine maintenance. Includes, but is not limited to projects conducted to:

- (a) Maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of the facility.
- (b) Perform as needed restoration work to preserve the original design grade, integrity and hydraulic capacity of flood control facilities.
- (c) Includes road shoulder work, re-grading dirt or gravel roadways and shoulders and performing ditch cleanouts.
- (d) Update existing lines* and facilities to comply with applicable codes, standards, and regulations regardless if such projects result in increased capacity.
- (e) Repair leaks.

Routine maintenance does not include construction of new** lines or facilities resulting from compliance with applicable codes, standards and regulations.

* Update existing lines includes replacing existing lines with new materials or pipes.

** New lines are those that are not associated with existing facilities and are not part of a project to update or replace existing lines.

(Ord. No. 1041)

Runoff. Any storm water or non-storm water discharge from any surface and/or drainage area that reaches the storm drain system and/or receiving waters. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs). An area that is determined to possess an example of biotic resources that cumulatively represent biological diversity, for the purposes of protecting biotic diversity, as part of the Los Angeles County General Plan. Areas are designated as SEAs, if they possess one or more of the following criteria:

- (a) The habitat of rare, endangered, and threatened plant and animal species.
- (b) Biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant and animal species that are either one of a kind, or are restricted in distribution on a regional basis.
- (c) Biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant and animal species that are either one of a kind or are restricted in distribution in Los Angeles County.
- (d) Habitat that at some point in the life cycle of a species or group of species, serves as a concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, migrating grounds and is limited in availability either regionally or within Los Angeles County.
- (e) Biotic resources that are of scientific interest because they are either an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent an unusual variation in a population or community.
- (f) Areas important as game species habitat or as fisheries.
- (g) Areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of natural biotic communities in Los Angeles County.

(h) Special areas.

(Ord. No. 1041)

Site. Land or water area where any “facility or activity” is physically located or conducted, including adjacent land used in connection with the facility or activity. (Ord. No. 1041)

Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). A numbering system developed by the United States Government, Office of Budget, for the classification of businesses by the type of activity in which they are engaged. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

State Board. The State Water Resources Control Board. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Storm drain system. Any facility or any parts of the facility, including streets, gutters, conduits, natural or artificial drains, channels and watercourse that are used for the purpose of collecting, storing, transporting or disposing of stormwater and are located within the City. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Storm event. A rainfall event that produces more than 0.10 of an inch of precipitation and that is separated from the previous rainfall event by at least 72 hours. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Storm water or stormwater. Runoff and drainage related to precipitation events (pursuant to 40 CFR Section 122.26(b)(13); 55 Fed. Reg. 47990, 47995 (Nov. 16, 1990)). (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). A plan required by and for which the contents are specified in a NPDES permit. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Storm water runoff. Part of precipitation (rainfall or snowmelt) which travels across a surface to the storm drain system or receiving water. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Structural BMP. Any permanent facility constructed to control, treat, store, divert, neutralize, dispose of, and/or monitor runoff in order to reduce or measure pollutants. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Treatment. The application of engineering systems that use physical, chemical, or biological processes to remove pollutants. Such processes include, but are not limited to, filtration, gravity settling, media absorption, biodegradation, biological uptake, chemical oxidation and UV radiation. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Treatment control BMP. Any engineered system designed to remove pollutants by simple gravity settling of particulate pollutants, filtration, biological uptake, media absorption or any physical, biological or chemical process. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

Uncontrolled discharge. Any discharge intentional or accidental, occurring in such a manner that the discharger is unable to determine or regulate the quantity, quality, or effects of the discharge. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

Urban runoff. Surface water flow produced by storm and non-storm events. Non-storm events include flow from residential, commercial or industrial activities involving the use of potable and non-potable water. (Ord. No. 1041)

Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (USWMP). A plan required as part of the previous Municipal NPDES permit Order No. 01-182, NPDES No. CAS004001 and required plans that designate best management practices (BMPs) that must be used in specific categories of development projects. (Ord. Nos. 916, 1041)

U.S. EPA. The United States Environmental Protection Agency. (Ord. Nos. 892, 1041)

(Ord. Nos. 892, 916, 1041)

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