Stormwater Compliance Inspections for Vista Businesses

The City of Vista has developed an inventory of existing commercial and industrial businesses. The City regularly conducts inspections at businesses to assess BMP effectiveness and ensure compliance. Facility inspections include a meeting with business representatives, a walk-through of the facility, evaluation of current storm water best management practices, and recommendations for additional measures that may be required to prevent pollutant discharges at your site. The City asks that your facility work with its staff in implementing effective strategies to manage urban runoff at your facility. The City appreciates your efforts.

City of Vista Water Quality Protection Program

The City is regulated by a Municipal Stormwater Permit (Regional Water Quality Control Board, Order No. 2007-0001) to protect water quality in its receiving waters. In the City of Vista, these receiving waters include Buena Vista Creek, Agua Hedionda Creek, Buena Creek, La Mirada Creek, Guajome Creek, and Loma Alta Creek. The City developed the Water Quality Protection Program to ensure compliance with the Permit and to protect our creeks. The Program includes, but is not limited to, educating businesses and residents about the importance of pollution prevention, conducting inspections to evaluate BMP implementation, and using enforcement when necessary to ensure compliance. The City can use your help in maintaining clean water in our creeks and ensuring continual compliance with the Permit.

Stormwater Hotline:
760-726-1340 x1686 or email
waterquality@cityofvista.com

CITY OF VISTA
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City of Vista
200 Civic Center Drive, Vista, CA 92084
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CITY OF VISTA
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Best Management Practices for Businesses

Commercial and Industrial

CITY OF VISTA

Did You Know...

Did you know storm drains are not connected to sanitary sewer systems or treatment plants? The purpose of storm drains is to carry rain water away from developed areas and into receiving waters to prevent flooding. As rainfall flows over the ground it can pick up a variety of pollutants and flow untreated into receiving waters. Pollutants include but are not limited to sediment, metals, trash, oil and grease, green waste, chemicals, and hazardous waste. This urban runoff flow is known to affect water quality and the health and habitats of fish, wildlife, plants, and humans. Hence, pollution prevention is of utmost importance.

12.29.2010

Best Management Practices

Under the City of Vista's Municipal Code (Chapter 13.18 Urban Runoff Management and Discharge Control Program), businesses are required to use best management practices (BMPs) to prevent the discharge of pollutants into storm drains. BMPs are methods and/or practices used to prevent or reduce urban runoff pollution. The following BMPs must be considered when conducting operations at your facility:

Good Housekeeping

- Instead of using a hose or pressure washing system, try a dry cleaning method such as mops, brooms or wire brushes to clean dumpsters, sidewalks, buildings, equipment, pavement, driveways, or other impervious surfaces. Wash water should never be disposed of to storm drains. For disposing to the sanitary sewer system, check with Encina Wastewater Authority for their requirements (www.encinajpa.com).
- Minimize the use of cleaning solutions and agents.
- Keep site free of litter and debris. Place trash cans and recycling receptacles around the site to minimize litter.

Preventative Maintenance

- Keep equipment and vehicles in good working condition. Inspect frequently for leaks and repair as needed.
- Gutters, storm drains, catch basins, and other storm drainage features should be regularly inspected and cleaned so that pollutants do not accumulate.
- Stencil storm drains to remind employees that pollutant discharges to these drains flow directly to receiving waters. Contact Water Quality Protection Program staff to borrow stenciling equipment (760-726-1340 x1686).

Materials Storage and Handling

- Store materials and wastes indoors or under covered areas not exposed to rain. Store materials under permanent cover and use pallets to keep materials off the ground to prevent contact with rain water.
- Store all hazardous materials and chemicals in a designated area with secondary containment and overhead coverage. Keep outdoor storage areas in good condition.

Vehicle Washing and Repair

- Wash company vehicles at a commercial car wash where wash water is recycled.
- Perform maintenance indoors or under covered areas. Use drip pans to contain leaks.

Waste Management and Landscaping

- Sweep around dumpsters, grease bins, loading docks and other outside areas frequently to prevent trash and other wastes from accumulating.
- Place all trash inside dumpsters or covered containers until it can be hauled away.
- Dumpsters and grease bins must be kept closed to prevent contact with rain water. Never place any hazardous waste in the trash. Dispose of hazardous waste (small quantities only) at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility (800-714-1195).
- Collect green waste and other landscape debris and dispose of it properly.
- Repair/replace malfunctioning sprinklers and minimize the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.

Spill Response

- Develop and implement a spill response plan. Ensure that employees are trained on the elements of the plan.
- Use brooms and absorbents such as cat litter to clean up small spills. Report significant spills to the Water Quality Protection Program and/or the appropriate spill response agencies immediately.
- Keep rags, damp mops, and absorbents readily accessible. Dispose of spill cleanup waste properly.

Employee Training

- Discuss and distribute information on stormwater pollution prevention during employee training sessions and at employee meetings.
- Post good housekeeping tips and reminders on employee bulletin boards.
- Inform sub-contractors of the City's requirements.