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Program Manager

Date: May 31, 2005  
To: Land Developers and Other Applicants  
for Planning and Zoning Approvals  
From: Contra Costa Clean Water Program  
Subject: Requirement to Submit a Stormwater Control Plan

All Contra Costa municipalities require submittal of a Stormwater Control Plan with applications for development approvals for any project subject to the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Water Board's) "C.3" permit provisions. The requirement took effect February 15, 2005 and applies to projects that create or replace an acre or more of impervious area. (The threshold drops to 10,000 square feet of impervious area effective August 15, 2006). Similar requirements are being imposed throughout the Bay Area.

The purpose of a Stormwater Control Plan is to specify how the built project will incorporate site design characteristics, landscape features, and BMPs that minimize imperviousness, retain or detain stormwater, slow runoff rates, and reduce pollutants in post-development runoff. The Stormwater Control Plan must incorporate measures to treat stormwater runoff before it is discharged from the site; these treatment facilities must be designed to minimum criteria specified by the Water Board. The Stormwater Control Plan must also identify responsibility and a mechanism to ensure maintenance of the treatment facilities in perpetuity.

Development of a Stormwater Control Plan must be coordinated and integrated with preparation of the site layout, landscaping, and drainage. The Stormwater Control Plan is separate from, and in addition to, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, which addresses requirements for erosion and sediment control and for pollution prevention measures during construction.

Contra Costa municipalities developed and adopted a *Stormwater C.3 Guidebook* to assist applicants' engineers and other land development professionals to prepare a Stormwater Control Plan for their project.

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Program Participants: Antioch, Brentwood, Clayton, Concord, Danville, El Cerrito, Hercules, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Oakley, Orinda, Pinole, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Richmond, San Pablo, San Ramon Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County and Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

The *Stormwater C.3 Guidebook* includes step-by-step instructions, standard specifications and details, simplified design methods, and other resources. However, most applicants will require the assistance of a qualified engineer, architect, or landscape architect. In addition, many municipalities require the Stormwater Control Plan be certified by a qualified professional.

The Contra Costa Clean Water Program is working with some developers of current projects to create example Stormwater Control Plans. As more of these example plans become available, it will become easier to gauge the level of effort required to produce a Stormwater Control Plan for a particular project.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to:

- Obtain and review the *Stormwater C.3 Guidebook*, which can be downloaded from the Program's website at [www.cccleanwater.org](http://www.cccleanwater.org).
- Discuss Stormwater Control Plan requirements with planning staff at a pre-application meeting.
- Plan drainage of pervious and impervious areas and the location of stormwater treatment facilities beginning with the earliest stages of project design.