



## **NPDES Stormwater Permit Fees Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **1. Why did I get an invoice?**

A NPDES Stormwater invoice is sent to every person/organization that files a Notice of Intent (NOI) or applies for a No Exposure Certification (NEC) with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). The invoice covers the 12-month period shown. Under state law, a fee is assessed annually for persons who may discharge stormwater under a general permit.

### **2. How is the fee determined?**

The annual fee is based on the type of permit coverage (municipal, industrial or construction). Municipal permit fees are based on population, NEC permit holders pay a flat fee, industrial dischargers pay a fee based on the total number of acres of industrial activities and materials exposed storm water, construction dischargers pay a base fee plus a per-acre fee for total acreage disturbed during the life of the project, and Small Construction Rainfall Erosivity Waiver applicants pay only a flat application fee.

### **3. What does my fee go towards?**

The annual fee pays for the cost to operate the program, including but not limited to, the issuance, administration, reviewing and enforcement of the NPDES stormwater permits.

### **4. If I don't have any pollutants in my stormwater discharge, am I still subject to an annual fee? Is a fee still required if I am not discharging?**

Yes. The permit coverage is issued to allow you to discharge. As long as the facility/site maintains active permit coverage or coverage under the NPDES stormwater permit remains active, you are subject to this fee regardless of whether or not you are actively discharging. If you no longer require permit coverage, you must file a Notice of Termination (NOT) to cancel the permit. See next Question #5 below.

### **5. How do I terminate my permit (WDID number)?**

You are subject to the annual fee until a NOT is filed and approved by the appropriate Regional Water Board. Termination of a NPDES Stormwater Construction WDID number must be done online by logging into your SMARTS

account at <https://smarts.waterboards.ca.gov>. If you need assistance with your SMARTS account, please email the Stormwater Unit (email address below) or call (866) 792-4977.

**6. How do I report a Change in Information (COI) to the NOI/NEC originally filed?**

For information requiring Water Boards approval (i.e., risk, disturbed acreage, etc.), a COI must be submitted via SMARTS.

NPDES Stormwater permits are **non-transferrable**. The current owner must terminate their permit and the new owner must apply for a new permit. See Question #10 below for additional information. See Question #5 above for instructions on how to terminate your permit coverage.

**7. Am I responsible for an invoice while my NOT is under review by the Regional Water Board?**

Yes, the invoice is due and payable upon receipt. However, if the Regional Water Board approves your NOT and it is determined that you should not be responsible for the invoice, your payment will be refunded. The final status of the invoice is determined by the effective date of termination (Regional Water Board approval).

**8. My construction project will be completed mid-year. Is the fee pro-rated?**

No. NPDES Stormwater annual fees are not pro-rated.

**9. What do I do if the invoice does not belong to me?**

If you are the new owner of the facility, you are required to submit a new NOI and application fee or apply for a NEC. The previous owner is required to submit a Notice of Termination (NOT). If you cannot locate the previous owner and are unsure if the previous owner filed a NOT, please contact the Stormwater Section (contact information below) for instructions on completing a certificate of non-responsibility.

**10. I am the new owner/operator of a facility but the invoice is in the previous owner's name. Can I pay the invoice and assume responsibility?**

No. The previous owner/operator needs to file a NOT with the appropriate Regional Water Board and as the new owner, you will need to submit a new NOI/NEC application and application fee to the State Water Board, as applicable. If you cannot locate the previous owner, contact the Stormwater Unit (contact info below) for assistance in completing a certificate of non-responsibility.

To apply for a new permit (NOI) or NEC, visit the SMARTS website:  
<https://smarts.waterboards.ca.gov>.

**11. I am moving to a new location. Can I transfer my permit to the new location?**

No. Your NOI or NEC was approved based on information specific to that location. Any changes to the location of your site requires you to file a NOT with the appropriate Regional Water Board and then file a NOI or apply for a NEC for the new site location.

Changes to the billing address ONLY can be submitted on the back of your invoice payment coupon, entered through SMARTS or sent to the Fee Branch (contact info below).

**12. Is interest accrued or is there a late penalty fee incurred on late payments?**

The State Water Board does not assess interest or late payment fees. However, outstanding fees will be considered delinquent 30 days after the date of the invoice. Balances that remain outstanding 90 days past the date of the original invoice will be turned over to an outside collection agency.

**13. Can I pay my invoice with a credit card?**

Yes! Go to our website for more information and a link to the online payment system: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/make\\_a\\_payment/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/make_a_payment/).

**14. What is the State Water Resources Control Board's Taxpayer ID number?**

The State Water Board's tax ID # is 68-0281986. A signed W-9 form can be requested by emailing the Fee Branch (email address below).

**State Water Resources Control Board – Contact Information:**

**Fee Branch**

Phone: (916) 341-5247

FAX: (916) 341-5248

Email: [SWFees@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:SWFees@waterboards.ca.gov)

Website: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/>

**Stormwater Help Desk**

Phone: (866) 563-3107

FAX: (916) 341-5543

Email: [stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov)

Website: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/)