



PLANNING DEPARTMENT County Of Hidalgo

Raul E. Sestin, P.E., CFM
PLANNING ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

To: All engineers doing work in Hidalgo County

From: T.J. Arredondo, Planning Supervisor *[Signature]*

Date: March 7, 2011 *3-7-11*

Via: E-Mail

Re: Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

C: Raul E. Sestin, PE, CFM, Planning Administrator
Dr. Lorie Ochoa, Environmental Compliance Coordinator
Hidalgo County Advisory Board

Under the authority of the General Permit to Discharge Wastes under provision Section 402 of the Clean Water Act and Chapter 26 of the Texas Water Code, construction sites that discharge storm water associated with construction activity located in the state of Texas may discharge to surface water in the state only according to effluent limitation, monitoring requirements and other conditions as set forth in the TXR150000 permit, as well as the rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the laws of the State of Texas and other orders of the TCEQ.

On December 15, 2010, Hidalgo County received the Notice of Application for Small Municipal Separate Storm Water Sewer System (MS4) from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

All engineers, developers and operators who will be disturbing more than one (1) acre of soil within Hidalgo County and outside of a municipality must submit a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) to the Hidalgo County Office of Environmental Compliance. Any proposed subdivision must receive approval in the form of a letter from the H.C.O.E.C. as a condition prior to consideration for approval from the Hidalgo County Advisory Board and the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court.

Prior to any soil disturbance, the SWP3 must be reviewed, approved, and signed off by Dr. Lorie Ochoa, Environmental Compliance Coordinator. The SWP3 binder must include the following:

- Notice of Intent (if the project disturbs more than 5 acres of soil)
- TCEQ Letter and Permit Copy (if the project disturbs more than 5 acres of soil)
- TCEQ TXR150000 General Permit (if the project disturbs more than 5 acres of soil)
- Contact Data, Owner and General contractors Certification and Narrative
- Appendix A: Project Maps (Construction Plans)
- Appendix B: Contractor's Site Map

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backed by the full faith and credit of a municipality (based on its ability to generate revenues through taxes and other fees).

- Grants and Loans: Federal, State, or Regional grant or loan funds may be available for some elements of the storm water program, depending on the BMPs selected and the location. Grants and loans are usually applicable to specific projects and not on-going activities, such as operation and maintenance.
- Users/Utility Fees: Utility services charges are rates billed to customers for providing storm water management services. These service charges may be flat rates, or variable rates based on classes of customers (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial). Utility service charges may represent a dedicated source and an ongoing method of funding for some or all storm water management programs.

Storm water management controls, which include Best Management Practices (BMPs), will be developed, implemented and enforced to prevent pollution in storm water discharged from Hidalgo County. Texas State TPDES General Permit TXR 40000 mandates the establishment of six Minimum Control Measures (MCMs).

The six Minimum Control Measures (MCM) addressed by Hidalgo County's MS4 plan include:

- MCM 1. Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Quality Issues**
- MCM 2. Public Involvement/Participation**
- MCM 3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**
- MCM 4. Construction Site Storm water Runoff Control**
- MCM 5. Post-Construction Runoff Control in Areas of New Development and Re-Dev.**
- MCM 6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping**

MCM 1 - Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Quality Issues

Public education is an important element in preventing water quality impacts from storm water pollution. The goal of the Hidalgo County SWMP public outreach and education component is to inform targeted public about storm water pollution and to encourage behavior that reduces negative impacts to the environment. The public outreach and education program consists of a variety of written materials, a project website, workshops, and other strategies, designed to appeal to the general public while providing technical information on the negative impacts of polluted storm water runoff.

The goal of the county's SWMP public outreach and education program is to minimize potential storm water pollution from accidental spills, illicit connections, and illegal discharges and dumping. Hidalgo County aims to reduce potential for storm water pollution by the development and implementation of an Educational Program to Civil Groups and Real Estate Organizations – which highlights strategies to increase awareness of water quality issues, storm water pollution, and pollution prevention concepts and practices.

Hidalgo County SWMP will use a variety of methods to educate the public about the importance of managing storm water. Evaluation of the success of this minimum measure will be through careful analysis of the measurable goals for each BMP included in this minimum measure. Measurable goals for each BMP were selected by formulating attainable goals for the various BMP implementation steps of tasks. The responsibility for the implementation of this minimum measure is described with each BMP procedure.