

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 Program Goal and Objectives

This program component is applicable to all Permittees who own and operate recreational facilities. Maintenance practices at parks and recreation facilities generally include fertilizer and pesticide applications, vegetation maintenance and disposal, swimming pool chemical maintenance and draining, and trash and debris management. All of these maintenance practices have the potential to contribute pollutants to the storm drain system. If improperly managed, potential pollutants can be transported in runoff to the storm drain system and subsequently discharged to receiving waters. The goal of the program for landscape and recreational facilities management is to make storm water quality a concern when conducting operation and maintenance activities.

Each Permittee’s program must meet the requirements of the Los Angeles County municipal storm water permit (Permit), as summarized in Table 4-1.

<i>Table 4-1</i>		
<i>Permit Requirements - Landscape and Recreational Facilities Management</i>		
<i>Report Section</i>	<i>Requirement (Summary)</i>	<i>Permit Section</i>
4.2.1	Implement procedures for application of pesticides, herbicides (including pre-emergents), and fertilizers that will include: a list of approved pesticides and selective and environmentally responsible uses, product and application information, application equipment use and maintenance, and record keeping.	IV.F.4.a
4.2.1	Ensure consistency with the State Board’s guidelines and monitoring requirements for application of aquatic pesticides to surface waters (WQ Order No. 2001-12 DWQ).	IV.F.4.b
4.2.1	Ensure that no banned or unregistered pesticides are stored or applied and that staff applying pesticides are certified by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, or are under the direct supervision of a certified pesticide applicator.	IV.F.4.d-e
4.2.1	Implement procedures to minimize storm water pollution by pesticides and fertilizers used for landscape maintenance, including the utilization of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques to the maximum extent practicable.	Optional
4.2.1	Implement BMPs to reduce exposure of fertilizers and pesticides to storm water during storage, to include as applicable: storage indoors or under cover on paved surfaces, secondary containment, reduction in storage and handling of hazardous materials, and regular inspection of storage areas.	IV.F.4.g-i
4.2.1	Implement guidelines to schedule irrigation and fertilization to	IV.F.4.c

Table 4-1
Permit Requirements - Landscape and Recreational Facilities Management

Report Section	Requirement (Summary)	Permit Section
	minimize chemical application during the wet season; to ensure no application before, during, or immediately after storm events and when water is flowing off the area to be applied; and to minimize overwatering and nutrients/pesticides entrainment.	
4.2.2	Implement procedures to prevent the disposal of landscape waste into the municipal storm drain system.	Optional
4.2.3	Implement procedures to encourage retention and planting of native vegetation to reduce water, fertilizer, and pesticide needs.	IV.F.4.f
4.2.4	Implement procedures to manage discharges of municipal swimming pool water into the municipal storm drain system, including: dechlorination practices, proper disposal of clean-out waters, and piping of filter backwash to the sanitary sewer.	Optional
4.2.5	Implement BMPs to minimize trash, debris, and other pollutants from entering recreational water bodies, including: routine trash collection along, on, and/or in water bodies, where feasible; and public outreach to educate the public about the impacts of illicit disposal.	Optional

The objectives of this program component are to:

- Minimize the discharge of pesticides, herbicides (including pre-emergents) and fertilizers to the storm drain system and receiving waters.
- Implement procedures to encourage retention and planting of native vegetation and to reduce water, fertilizer, and pesticide needs.

4.1.2 Facilities Covered by the Permit

Landscape and recreational facilities include, but are not limited to:

- Parks
- Golf courses
- Swimming pools
- Riding trails
- Recreational water bodies
- Picnic areas
- Sports fields
- Landscaped areas in parking lots

4.2 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENTS

4.2.1 Pesticide, Herbicide and Fertilizer Management

4.2.1.1 Application and Record Keeping

The following procedures will be implemented, where applicable, to ensure that pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers are properly applied and handled to minimize their exposure to storm water. Application and handling procedures will be in compliance with federal, state and county regulations, as follows:

- Apply and handle pesticides and herbicides and keep detailed records in accordance with existing state regulations (California Title 3, Division 6, Pesticides and Pest Control Operations). Ensure that no banned or unregistered pesticides are stored or used and that staff applying pesticides are certified by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, or are under the direct supervision of a certified pesticide applicator. The regulations cover a list of approved chemicals, product and application information, equipment use and maintenance procedures, and record keeping.
- Apply and handle fertilizers in strict accordance with the label directions.

Guidance on applying and handling these materials and a summary of the state regulations are provided in Appendix G.

In addition, ensure consistency with the state guidelines and monitoring requirements for the application of aquatic pesticides to surface water (WQ Order No. 2001-12 DWQ).

4.2.1.2 Minimizing the Use of Pesticides and Fertilizers (Optional)

The following pest control strategies will be implemented, where applicable, to emphasize the use of a hierarchy of controls, with a preference for mechanical controls (e.g., mowing) and biological controls (e.g., beneficial insects, pheromones) before chemical controls (e.g., pesticides, herbicides). This practice is often referred to as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a pest management practice that considers the entire ecosystem when determining potential pest control strategies.

- Use mechanical control of vegetation whenever possible, such as mowing with tractor-type or pushmowers and hand cutting with gas or electric powered weed trimmers.
- Use hand weeding where practical.

- Consider the use of beneficial insects to control pests as part of a Preventive Maintenance Program.
- Incorporate the above requirements into application contracts.

Guidance on minimizing product use is provided in Appendix G.

4.2.1.3 Storage and Inspection

The following procedures will be implemented, where applicable, to handle pesticides and fertilizers in a manner that minimizes their exposure to storm water. Storage and inspection will be in compliance with federal, state and county regulations.

- Store materials in enclosed sheds or buildings or under cover on an impervious surface.
- Provide secondary containment around materials if stored outdoors or if material from a spill could flow outdoors.
- Keep only the minimum amount of hazardous materials on site.
- Periodically check areas for spills, leaks, or unsafe storage methods.

Guidance on storage and a summary of the state regulations are provided in Appendix G.

4.2.1.4 Scheduling

The following procedures will be implemented, where applicable, to schedule irrigation and fertilization application to minimize the discharge of pollutants that enter the storm drain system:

- Do not overwater landscaped areas, especially when irrigating after fertilizer/pesticide applications. Adjust watering locations and amounts to minimize non-storm water runoff.
- Ensure that no chemical applications are performed immediately before, during, or immediately after a rain event or when water is flowing off the area to be applied.

4.2.2 Landscape Waste (Optional)

Landscape waste consists of clippings, cuttings and droppings of leafy and woody materials. The following procedures will be implemented, where applicable, to assure that exposed materials and accumulated sediment, trimmings and litter will be disposed of properly and not to the storm drain system:

- Require all employees and contractors who generate landscape waste to dispose of it at a Permittee-approved composting location or permitted landfill; include such provisions in landscape maintenance contracts.
- Place temporarily stockpiled material away from watercourses, and berm or cover stockpiles to prevent material releases to the storm drain system.

4.2.3 Native Vegetation

The following procedures will be implemented, where applicable, to retain and plant native vegetation when practical to reduce water, fertilizer and pesticide needs.

- Determine existing native vegetation features (location, species, size, function, importance) and consider the feasibility of protecting them.
- Consider elements such as their effect on drainage and erosion, hardiness, maintenance requirements, and possible conflicts between preserving vegetation and the resulting maintenance needs.
- Where feasible, retain and/or plant selected native vegetation whose features are determined to be beneficial.

4.2.4 Municipal Swimming Pools (Optional)

The following procedures will be implemented, where applicable, to manage discharges of municipal swimming pool water:

- Discharge filter backwash water and chemically treated water to the sanitary sewer, unless not possible.
- If discharging to the storm drainage system, dechlorinate the water through mechanical means (such as letting the water sit for several days without adding chlorine) or chemical means (such as by adding sodium bisulfite).
- Neutralize all other chemicals in discharges, such as acid wash residue, before discharging to the storm drain system.
- Incorporate the above requirements into maintenance contracts.

Guidance on dechlorination practices is provided in Appendix G.

4.2.5 Recreational Water Bodies (Optional)

Beaches, picnic areas, lakes, and ponds receive a large number of visitors and may collect a large amount of litter, debris and other pollutants. To minimize the amount of potential pollutants that reach the water body, the following procedures will be implemented, where applicable:

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- Provide and maintain trash receptacles to hold refuse generated by the public.
- Collect trash and debris from bins and along water bodies to minimize the amount of trash and debris that may contact the water.
- Collect trash and debris from within waterbodies where feasible.
- When necessary, increase collection during peak visitation months (generally June, July and August).