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FACT SHEET

Handling of Discharges from Street Wash Water, Including Wash Water from Sidewalks, Plazas, and Driveways, but Excluding Parking Lots

Background

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) Permit issued by the State Department of Health (“DOH”) to the City and County of Honolulu for its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (“MS4”) provides in pertinent part as follows:

B. DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS

2. The following non-storm water discharges may be discharged into the Permittee's separate storm sewer system without an NPDES permit, provided that the Permittee determines that such discharges will not contain pollutants in amounts that will cause or contribute to a violation of an applicable water quality standards and the Storm Water Management Program (“SWMP”) shall “identify and ensure the implementation of appropriate pollution prevention measures for the nonstorm water component(s) of the discharge.
 - r. Residual street wash water (water only), including wash water from sidewalks, plazas, and driveways, but excluding parking lots.

Handling Procedure

The following handling procedures are listed for guidance purposes only where they are deemed applicable. However, before it enters municipal separate storm sewer systems, the discharger should use appropriate Best Management Practices (“BMPs”) to reduce pollution associated with non-storm water discharges, to the "Maximum Extent Practicable" (“MEP”). The discharger shall be responsible for complying with City, State and Federal rules and regulations.

Recovery of Visible Pollutants:

- Sweep and/or clean the surface of any visible pollutants and dispose of the collected material in trash containers.
- Clean surface oil with rags of absorbents.
- If using granular absorbent material (cat litter), sweep and dispose of before washing.

Sidewalk, Plaza, and Driveway Washing:

- After visible pollutants are removed, use water (i.e. no chemicals) only to clean the area.
- Direct wash water to landscape or permeable areas within the property.
- If the discharge enters the City drainage system, it should be filtered through geotextile filter at the drain inlet. Filter fabric should be changed periodically in order to avoid flooding. Filtered residue and fabric should be disposed off through acceptable means. If the treatment system does not work then the discharge shall be terminated until appropriate treatment system is in place.

Discharge from Sidewalk Cleaning:

- If any visible pollutants remain in the residual wash water, collect all water and pump to Sanitary Sewer. Approval of the Regulatory Control (“RC”) Branch of Environmental Services (“ENV”) is required. Accordingly, Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit (“IWDP”) applications are available at Kapolei Hale, 1000 Uluohia Street, Suite 303, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707. For more information, please call RC Branch of ENV @ 768-3262.
- If there is no storm drain system nearby and discharge on lot and street will create a nuisance or hazardous condition, the effluent may be discharged into the sanitary sewer system with the approval of the RC Branch of ENV. Accordingly, an IWDP from the Regulatory Branch of ENV is required.
- If you have any questions about regulations or discharges to the City’s MS4, please contact the Storm Water Quality Branch at 768-3246 or 768-3247 or visit our web site at: www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com