

Storm Water Matters

Have you heard??

The County of Maui recently started a new permit program under the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Kahului-Paia qualified as an Urbanized Area based on the 2010 U.S Census. The CWA requires owners of municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) in an urbanized area to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to discharge storm water from their MS4.

Permit requirements

The permit requires the County to reduce, to the maximum extent practicable, pollutants entering State waters from the County's MS4. The MS4 includes streets, gutters, ditches, storm drains, i.e., anything that collects and conveys stormwater.

The County has developed a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP), which is intended to reduce pollutants from the MS4 by focusing on the following control measures, as prescribed by the permit:

- *Public Education & Outreach*
- *Public Involvement & Participation*
- *Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination*
- *Construction Site Runoff Control*
- *Post-Construction Runoff Control*
- *Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping*



Storm water pollution

Water that does not absorb into the ground can carry pollutants such as sediment, oil, chemicals, pathogens and trash directly into our streams and oceans. Polluted runoff increases the risk of disease for recreational users, destroys aquatic habitats, and can reduce the clarity of the water we enjoy.

How everyone can help

Since the quality of storm water runoff is directly linked to activities on the land, we all have a role reducing pollution going to our waterways.

The County will be emphasizing best management practices (BMPs) to reduce storm water pollution from its own maintenance and construction activities. The County already uses many of these BMPs, but new ones may be introduced. County personnel will be hearing more about these things as the

County further develops their permit program.

As a Maui resident, you likely already make choices that reduce storm water pollution. Here are examples of actions everyone can take to protect storm water in our community:

- *Scoop the poop* – cleaning up after your pet reduces bacteria entering our water.
- *Fix the drip* – maintain your vehicle as oil leaks add to water pollution.
- *Stop the suds* – wash your vehicle on a grassy area or use a car wash. Storm drains do not treat soapy dirty water.
- *Only rain down the drain* – Storm drains are connected to our oceans and are for rain water only.

