

2. Storm Water Management Program Development and Administration

2.1 Management Area Assessments: Land Use and Water Quality

One of the first steps toward developing the SWMP was to determine the storm water areas to be managed. The following unincorporated areas were designated as subject to the NPDES Phase II Final Rule as described in Section 1: 1) Baywood-Los Osos; 2) San Luis Obispo (urban fringe); 3) Nipomo; 4) Atascadero/Paso Robles (urban fringe, including Templeton, Santa Margarita and Garden Farms); 5) Cambria; and 6) Oceano. EPA mapped "Urbanized Areas" (UAs) for all of these communities except Cambria, Oceano, and Los Osos. The EPA UA maps were derived from the U.S. Census 2000 census blocks. The EPA UA maps are of limited use because they are not drawn at the parcel level and do not follow roads or any other landmarks. In addition, the census blocks do not follow city limits, county urban or village reserve lines, or any other adopted jurisdictional boundaries. Due in part to these limitations, MS4's have been encouraged to propose their own boundaries and maps based, in part, on a municipal assessment that can be more or less detailed depending on the time and resources available to the MS4.

The County prepared an assessment of each community based on current land use maps. The County noted general land use predominance and the location of major waterways for each community. The details of this assessment and management area maps are shown in Appendix A.

The assessment revealed that most of the development in each community occurred within the boundaries of urban and village reserve lines (URLs and VRLs). The County General Plan and Area Plans have established urban or village reserve lines for each of the subject communities. The reserve lines represent the twenty-year planning and growth boundary for each community. In each of the communities, the URL or VRL adequately delineates areas of more concentrated development. The outlying land uses were largely agricultural or otherwise rural in nature. For the reasons described above, the County proposes that the SWMP boundaries be drawn at the URL or VRL of a particular community. Refer to Appendix A for the management boundary map for each community.

The predominant land use in each of the subject areas is single family residential with the exception of the San Luis Obispo urban fringe. All of these communities, with the exception of the San Luis Obispo urban fringe, have a lesser amount of small-scale commercial development. Industrial development is limited overall. Land use in the San Luis Obispo urban fringe is predominantly commercial, industrial, and agricultural in nature, with a lesser amount of single-family residential.

Critical pollutants vary for each subject community, but generally these fall within one of two categories: 1) pollutants associated with soil disturbance and 2) pollutants entering the system from other surface runoff. In the Salinas River area, for example, sediment

is a pollutant of concern. Excessive sedimentation is often a result of soil disturbance at construction sites or agricultural operations. In the San Luis Obispo urban fringe, coliforms and PCBs are pollutants of concern. These pollutants are associated with human and industrial uses and generally enter waterways through runoff from urban surfaces. For more detailed assessment information for each community, refer to Appendix A.

2.2 SWMP Program Development

To further develop the program, the County inventoried existing storm water management practices and evaluated potential alternative best management practices. The inventory of existing storm water management practices is described in Section 3. The process used for evaluating and prioritizing potential best management practices for augmenting the County's existing storm water practices is described below.

The Decision Matrix method for evaluating and prioritizing BMPs was developed to assist the County in identifying the most appropriate BMPs for the SWMP. A prioritization process was used as a tool for selecting BMPs. The steps involved in the BMP prioritization process were as follows:

- 1) Identify decision criteria;
- 2) Determine criteria weighting;
- 3) Score BMPs based on each criterion;
- 4) Rank BMPs based on total score;
- 5) Review BMP scoring results; and
- 6) Decide which BMPs to implement

Decision criteria were used to help identify and prioritize BMPs that would best fit the County's SWMP. The decision criteria selected reflected factors that were most important to the County. Each decision criterion was considered to be exclusive to prevent overlapping criteria. Based on County staff discussions, benefit, ease of implementation, use of existing activities, and cost were selected as criteria for comparing potential BMPs.

Criteria weighting was used to assign more value to criteria that were more important in prioritization of the BMPs. Each criterion was assigned a weighting factor based on its importance relative to the other criteria. The weightings were assigned using a "pair-wise" comparison where each criterion was compared to the others and given a score. The results of the criteria weighting process are shown below.

<u>Criterion</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Benefit	45%
Ease of implementation	30%
Use of existing activities	20%
Cost	5%

After the criteria selection and criteria weighting were complete, a decision matrix was used to rank BMPs for each of the six minimum control measures. A rating scale ranging from 0 to 4 was used to describe how well a BMP met each individual criterion. After the scores were assigned they were multiplied by the weight factor and totaled for each BMP. Upon completion of the BMP scoring, County staff reviewed the BMP rankings and confirmed that they were correct and appropriate. After the BMPs were prioritized, County staff decided which BMPs to implement based on available resources. The BMPs selected for each minimum control measure are described in Section 3.

2.3 SWMP Program Administration: Staff and Budget

Staff

The County Department of Public Works has created a new Environmental Programs Division with the mission of achieving compliance with federal, state and local environmental regulations. A Storm Water Coordinator has been hired to administer the SWMP. The three key County departments involved in the implementation of the SWMP are the Department of Public Works, the Department of Planning and Building, and the Department of General Services. The department responsible for each BMP is shown in Section 4, Table 4.1. The roles for each of the key departments are described below.

The Department of Public Works manages the County's roads and the majority of the drainage facilities in the unincorporated areas. The department also operates several water systems and one sanitary sewer collection system within the SWMP coverage area. In addition, the department manages construction projects on County roads and utility systems countywide. The Department of Public Works conducts plan review for all private development projects that propose grading or drainage changes and inspects all privately constructed facilities intended for dedication to the public such as new subdivision roads. The County's storm water coordinator is located in the department and reports to the Public Works Environmental Programs Manager.

The Department of Planning and Building oversees private development projects in the unincorporated areas of the County. In addition, the Department of Planning and Building develops and manages the County General Plan and Local Coastal Plan. The Department of Planning and Building will participate in the implementation of the County's SWMP by ensuring compliance with construction storm water controls, distributing educational materials to the development community, and by developing and implementing General Plan policies and programs that benefit storm water.

The Department of General Services manages County facilities including buildings and parks. The Department of General Services will participate in the implementation of the County's SWMP by implementing BMPs at County facilities and by distributing

educational materials to users of County parks and buildings.

Budget

The development of the storm water management program is funded by the Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The current year budget contains \$150,000 for this task; the 2003/04 budget estimate for program implementation is approximately \$100,000, which the Department will request be funded by the County and not the District. Ultimately, plan implementation will have a broad impact on the County, the District, the Development Community, and other County Departments such as Parks and Planning, as well as the general public. The total financial impact is not yet determinable, and will be based on the details of how the plan is implemented, or modified, during the five-year schedule.