

FAQs for Storm Water Inspections

- What is storm water?
 - Storm water is rain water that flows untreated into streams, creeks, rivers, bays, and the ocean. Storm water can convey many pollutants when it comes in contact with urban areas, such as trash, bacteria, dirt, and oils, which have a detrimental effect on downstream water quality. More information can be found here: <http://www.nationalcityca.gov/government/engineering-public-works/engineering-division/storm-water-program>
- How is storm water regulated?
 - Storm water is regulated in the San Diego region by the Municipal Storm Water Permit (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Order No. R9-2013-0001, as amended by Orders R9-2015-0001 and R9-2015-0100). This permit requires cities to develop and implement a program (a Jurisdictional Runoff Management Plan, “JRMP”) with the goal of keeping waterways and communities clean by preventing pollutants from entering the City’s storm drain system. The City of National City’s JRMP is available here: <http://www.nationalcityca.gov/home/showdocument?id=21886>
 - In addition, the City regulates discharges to the storm drain system through the National City Storm Water Management and Discharge Control Ordinance, Municipal Code §14.22 *et sequitur*.
 - Industrial and commercial activities can be a source of pollutants; and so the City has identified minimum Best Management Practices that are necessary to protect storm water quality. More information can be found here: <http://www.nationalcityca.gov/government/engineering-public-works/engineering-division/storm-water-program/business-best-management-practices>
- Why does the City perform storm water inspections?
 - The City of National City (City), together with surrounding municipalities, is required to protect receiving water quality by minimizing pollutants from entering rivers, creeks, and ultimately San Diego Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Because runoff that enters the storm drain system is not treated before discharging to these waters, the City requires businesses to implement Best Management Practices to prevent pollutants from entering the storm drain system. Industrial and commercial facilities have the potential to contribute pollutants to the storm drain system, and are required to undergo storm water inspections by the City to verify compliance with these Best Management Practices. These inspections are mandated by the Municipal Storm Water Permit (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Order No. R9-2013-0001, as amended by Orders R9-2015-0001 and R9-2015-0100).
- What is an inspector looking for?
 - Inspectors are checking outdoor areas for compliance with storm water Best Management Practices. Good housekeeping, proper waste and material storage, and appropriate management of buildings and landscaping prevent storm water from carrying pollutants downstream. Inspectors will also observe and inquire about activities conducted onsite, ensuring that liquids other than clean rain water are not disposed of to the storm drain system (e.g. wash water, air conditioning condensate, irrigation water, etc.). More information about Best Management Practices can be found here: <http://www.nationalcityca.gov/home/showdocument?id=11281>
- What is the frequency of inspections?
 - All inventoried facilities are required to be inspected at least once per every 5 years, in accordance with the Municipal Storm Water Permit (Order No. R9-2013-0001 as

amended by Orders R9-2015-0001 and R9-2015-0100). Additionally, the City annually prioritizes facilities for inspections as having either a “high” or “standard” priority, with high priority facilities generally subject to more frequent inspections. Facilities with a recent history of non-compliance, or those identified as a potential sources of pollutants associated with downstream impairments, will be assigned a high priority and inspected potentially annually.

- What fees are associated with this program?
 - The City Council approved a new User Fee Schedule on October 2, 2018, effective January 1, 2019. Fees apply for storm water inspections, which allow the City to recover costs expended from running this program. The city has designed these fees to reduce the burden on proactive and compliant businesses, as fees increase for any actions necessary to resolve non-compliance issues. The full list of fees can be found here: <http://www.nationalcityca.gov/home/showdocument?id=21456>