



2022 Construction General Permit: FAQ and References

Stanford Water Resources and Civil Infrastructure
suwater.stanford.edu

The following FAQ and reference sheet is meant to be a reference and aid only. The Construction General Permit (CGP) should be reviewed prior to and during any job. An effort has been made to update this FAQ page with any permit revision; however, consult the SWRCB website for up to date permits and details.

I. Permit

A. Who Needs a Permit / Water Discharger Identification (WDID) Number?

Any construction or demolition activity that results in a land disturbance of more than one acre (or that are less than one acre, but part of a larger plan of development) will require coverage under the permit (or potentially an erosivity waiver if less than 5 acres, and short construction duration). Linear underground/overhead projects related to utility work that disturbs more than one acre are also subject to the CGP. See the CGP for more details:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2022/wqo_2022-0057-dwq.pdf

- ★ **Note:** Any project seeking CGP coverage before August 31, 2023 will be covered under the 2009 CGP.
- ★ Any project seeking CGP coverage after September 1, 2023 will be covered under the reissued 2022 CGP. After the 2-year regulatory transition period ends (September 1, 2025), the reissued 2022 CGP will be effective for all construction stormwater permittees.

B. How Does a Project Obtain a Permit (or WDID Number) on Campus?

Obtaining Permit Coverage: Start the process at least a month prior to start of construction and when you need a county permit in hand. All numbered items below must be completed by a part of the construction project team.

Email project information to the Water Planning & Stewardship (WP&S) team at suwater.stanford.edu/wps:

1. Project name
2. Project number
3. Contractor name, address, cell phone, and email

Stanford WP&S stormwater contact starts the permit in the State Water Resources Control Board's ("State Water Board") SMARTS system, then links the project's QSD to the SMARTS database to:

4. Input all site data into the SMARTS system
5. Complete and upload a risk assessment and SWPPP for the site (see resources below)

Stanford WP&S reviews submittal and certifies (through the SMARTS system). The final fee statement is sent to the Stanford project manager for payment.

6. Stanford project manager cuts a check and sends directly to State Water Board. The turnaround from payment submittal to WDID issuance is typically about 1 week.

C. How Do I (as a QSP) Get Started on a Project?

Obtain a log-in for SMARTS and be linked to the project:

1. Site contact person (whomever oversees the SWPPP onsite) must create a log-in account through the SMARTS database (smarts.waterboards.ca.gov) if they do not already have one. This will be a construction site contact person, not a Stanford employee.
2. Provide your log-in name to the appropriate WP&S stormwater contact person at Stanford. They will then link the contact to your construction site through the SMARTS database.



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II. Risk

A. Risk Level Calculation (Risk Level 1, 2, 3)

R Factor Calculator (rainfall erosivity risk):

State Water Board requires that all new Notices of Intent and applications for the Erosivity Waiver must use the online calculator for the R-value available here:

www.epa.gov

The Risk Level Calculator uses the relevant data for each project to determine the R-Factor. The input required includes:

1. Construction start date
2. Construction end date
3. Longitude and latitude or address of construction site

Please follow the format carefully when entering dates.

K Factor Map (soil / sediment runoff risk):

www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/constpermits/guidance/k_factor_map.pdf

LS Factor Map (slope risk):

www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/constpermits/guidance/ls_factor_map.pdf

Sediment risk is determined as follows:

Watershed Erosion Estimate (= R x K x LS) in tons/acre

- Low Sediment Risk: < 15 tons/acre
- Medium Sediment Risk: ≥ 15 and < 75 tons/acre
- High Sediment Risk: ≥ 75 tons/acre

Finally, the Combined Risk Level is determined according to the following matrix.

Combined Risk Level Matrix

	Low Sediment Risk	Medium Sediment Risk	High Sediment Risk
Low Receiving Water Risk*	Level 1	Level 2	Level 2
High Receiving Water Risk*	Level 2	Level 2	Level 3

*In general, on campus, the areas with flow going to San Francisquito Creek or Matadero Creek are High Risk (for Receiving Water). San Francisquito Creek is listed for sediment on the 303(d) list, and Matadero Creek has designated beneficial use for Cold and Spawn and Migratory. See our Construction Compliance webpage (suwater.stanford.edu/construction-compliance-swppp) for a map of Stanford’s watersheds.

Link to CASQA for SWPPP template / BMP handbook (membership required):

www.casqa.org/resources/bmp-handbooks



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III. Requirements in Permit

A. What is Required for All Projects?

Recurring Action Items (Risk Level 1, 2, 3):

- a) NOAA’s National Weather Service for forecasted precipitation:
<https://forecast.weather.gov>
 Daily weather tracking through NOAA:
forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?CityName=Stanford&state=CA&site=MTR&textField1=37.4242&textField2=-122.165&e=0
- b) BMP inspections and observations (at least weekly). Document with forms and photographs.
- c) Pre-, post- and during storm event visual inspections.
- d) Annual reporting for reporting periods from July 1-June 30 (due September 1st of each year).

★★ *New inspection types, roles, and responsibilities have been revised as follows under the reissued 2022 CGP:*

Required Inspection Type	QSD	QSP*	Delegate
Weekly	X	X	X
Pre-precipitation event (72-120 hours [3-5 days] prior)	X	X	
During precipitation event	X	X	X
Post-precipitation event** (within 96 hours [4 days])	X	X	X
Inactive projects (14 days after COI approval)	X		
Inactive projects (monthly inspection; sampling suspended)	X	X	X
Active projects (monthly)	X	X	
Twice annual site inspection	X		
Within 30 days of: 1) construction commencing, and 2) replacing QSD	X		
Within 14 days of Numeric Action Level (NAL) exceedance	X	X	
Prior to NOT and COI (for acreage changes) submissions	X	X	

* A QSD may perform the work of a QSP

** Inspection may be conducted on either day with less than 0.25” rain predicted or after the 48-hr period

★★ *Summary of permit requirements by risk level:*

	Visual Inspections				Sample Collection		
	Weekly	Pre- Qualifying Precipitation Event	During Qualifying Precipitation Event	Post- Qualifying Precipitation Event	Stormwater Discharge (as applicable)	Receiving Water (as applicable)	Non- Visible (as applicable)
1	X	X	X	X	N/A	N/A	X
2	X	X	X	X	X	N/A	X
3	X	X	X	X	X	X (post- exceedance)	X



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★★ B. What is a Qualifying Precipitation Event?

Qualifying Precipitation Events are rain events that are **forecast** to:

- Produce 0.5” of precipitation within a 24-hr period, and
- Are extended for each subsequent 24-hr period of forecast 0.25” or more of precipitation

A Qualifying Precipitation Event ends with 2 consecutive 24-hr periods with less than 0.25” of rain forecast.

★★ C. What do we do if rain is in the forecast (50% or greater chance of producing at least 0.5 inches of precipitation in a 24-hr period per NOAA)?

Risk Levels 1-3: Within 72-hrs prior* to a forecasted Qualifying Precipitation Event, the QSP shall conduct and document a visual site inspection. Check stock of sample bottles in the event that samples are needed. All paperwork must be documented and filed onsite or electronically.

* If extended forecast precipitation data (greater than three days) is available from the National Weather Service, the pre-precipitation event inspection may be completed up to 120 hours in advance.

★★ Note: A REAP is no longer required under the reissued 2022 CGP.

★★ D. What do we do when precipitation is occurring during a forecast Qualifying Precipitation Event? [2022 CGP Att D Section III.D]

Risk Level 1: Conduct visual BMP inspections at least once every 24-hrs during Qualifying Precipitation Events. If triggered, conduct non-visible pollutant sampling.

Risk Level 2: Conduct visual BMP inspections at least once every 24-hrs during Qualifying Precipitation Events. Obtain one (1) sample from each actively discharging location per 24-hr period of a Qualifying Precipitation Event and use a field meter to analyze the sample for pH*, turbidity, and any additional parameter required by the Regional Water Board. Dischargers may sample run-on if there is reason to believe run-on may contribute to exceedances of NALs. If triggered, conduct non-visible pollutant sampling.

Risk Level 3: Conduct visual BMP inspections at least once every 24-hrs during Qualifying Precipitation Events. Obtain one (1) sample from each actively discharging location per 24-hr period of a Qualifying Precipitation Event and use a field meter to analyze the sample for pH*, turbidity, and any additional parameter required by the Regional Water Board. Dischargers may sample run-on if there is reason to believe run-on may contribute to exceedances of NALs. If triggered, conduct non-visible pollutant and receiving water sampling.

★★ E. What do we do after a qualifying rain event?

Risk Level 1-3: Within 96-hrs of the end of a Qualifying Precipitation Event if 0.5 inches or more precipitation is measured during the duration of the Qualifying Precipitation Event using the onsite rain gauge, conduct and document a visual site inspection. All paperwork must be documented and filed onsite or electronically. Implement any modifications to BMPs as required. If the types of BMPs are modified, the SWPPP should be amended to reflect this.

* Risk Levels 2 and 3 dischargers must use a calibrated field instrument using EPA approved procedures to analyze the sample for pH and turbidity; **pH paper is not an allowable sampling approach.** [2022 CGP IV.C.3.d.]



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IV. Reporting and Close Out

A. How do we complete the Annual Reporting requirement?

Annual Stormwater Reports are due **September 1st of each year** (or prior to NOT submittal)

- a) Construction site contact person (likely the QSP) fills out the Annual Report form on the SMARTS system. Sites will need to upload some of their inspection reports and laboratory data and answer questions in the online system. This process takes some time, so do not wait until August 29th to complete this process!
- b) Once all information has been uploaded, use the link on SMARTS to perform a completion check (under the certification tab) and submit for certification to Stanford WP&S representative.
- c) All Annual Reports should be completed by **August 15th** so that there is time to review, revise if needed, and approve.

B. How do we close out the permit?

A Notice of Termination (NOT) must be submitted.

- ★★ Under the reissued 2022 CGP, there is an automatic 30-day approval of the NOT if Regional Water Board staff review has not denied, returned, or accepted the NOT for review by that time.

When construction is complete, and all equipment and materials that could harm stormwater have been removed from the site, and within 90 days of project completion, a NOT must be submitted through SMARTS. Below is the Stanford procedure for submitting this information.

- a) Submit NOT materials in SMARTS
 1. Prove that the site is complete using one of three methods (QSD completes this online in SMARTS)
 - 70% Final Cover Method
 - RUSLE or RUSLE 2 Method
 - Custom Method approved by the Regional Water Board
 2. Provide photos of the site (from all directions) showing that all work is complete (upload into SMARTS).
 - ★★ 3. QSP-prepared NOT visual inspection.
- ★★ b) Final site map (details of map requirements provided in CGP Section III.H.3).
- c) Long-term maintenance plan for post-construction stormwater BMPs or LID features.
- d) Fill out the State Water Board's Annual Report in SMARTS. See Annual Reports above.
- e) Deliver the SWPPP binder that was kept on the construction site to 315 Bonair Siding (Stanford Stormwater Contact). Stanford is required to keep this information for three years post construction.
- f) Stanford WP&S Representative will then review the annual report and NOT online and approve it for submittal to the State Water Board.
- g) All inspections and permit requirements stand until the NOT is approved.



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V. Special Cases

A. What if our project is a linear project for a utility?

Linear Underground / Overhead Projects

These projects are less common on campus. Please refer to the CGP for details. Contact your Stanford WP&S stormwater contact with any questions. In general, an LUP is defined as: Any conveyance, pipe, or pipeline for the transportation of any gaseous, liquid (including water and wastewater for domestic municipal services), liquescent, or slurry substance; and cable line or wire for the transmission of electrical energy; any cable line or wire for communications (e.g., telephone, telegraph, radio, or television messages); and associated ancillary facilities.

B. What if our construction project is less than 5 acres and will only be active in the summer?

You may be able to obtain an Erosivity Waiver in place of a permit. The R-factor must be less than 5. If the project gets extended, a SWPPP must be prepared, and permit coverage would need to begin.

Contact the Water Planning & Stewardship team at suwater.stanford.edu/wps if you have any questions or concerns regarding Construction General Permitting.

Or visit our Construction Compliance webpage for more information:
suwater.stanford.edu/construction-compliance-swppp