

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is asking for a lot more detail on Final SWLID submittals. They want to see more detail and tabled costs when offering an opinion of probable costs to maintain and fully replace stormwater BMPs, both of which are required in the report. The City of Santa Rosa Engineering and Building divisions will be commenting on this with future SWLID reviews. They want to make sure some thought went into these costs. We are informed the RWQCB will deny projects at the Notice of Termination level if the LID report does not include this information, even if the LID report is older and was approved before this change went into effect. In other words, projects currently under construction must comply with this new requirement.

The City will be retaining a consultant to rework the LID calculator and manual. We don't have a date yet for the new stormwater permit or manual release.

The City will be providing responses to ACEC and ECA's comments on the Stormdrain Standards at the end of February.

Jason Nutt is still signing Improvement Plans. Craig Hammer with Bureau Veritas is currently signing Subdivision Maps. They need to mail out the mylars, so this takes some time.

When hydroseeding, grass must be 70% established to receive a Notice of Termination. Projects without this will be rejected.

The RWQCB wants to see Fiber Rolls removed prior to issuing a Notice of Termination. The City recognizes that it would be beneficial to keep the fiber rolls in place for certain projects such as hillside development. Therefore, they don't agree with the direction the RWQCB is taking with this and will be working with them to allow exceptions to the rule. If fiber rolls are included on the Engineers drawings in an erosion control plan, they are fully biodegradable and the Engineer thinks there would be value to leaving them in place when filing for a Notice of Termination, then include well labeled pictures and a written statement to this effect when closing out the project. Note removing them will cause more damage than leaving them in place.

The RWQCB now wants proof that the maintenance declarations are recorded in order to receive a Notice of Termination.

FEMA started their floodplain mapping for Santa Rosa Creeks and has a consultant working on this. The City set a number of new NAVD88 Benchmarks to facilitate this process. The FEMA Mapping will go before the Waterways advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Council, BPU, and other bodies. The draft will be released in 2025 and there will be an appeal period. This is anticipated to have a significant impact on properties and the ability to develop them. Information may be observed here: [FEMA Flood Risk Mapping Project | Santa Rosa, CA \(srcity.org\)](https://www.srcity.org)

The RWQCB is getting more strict with the material they will allow in bioretention areas. They don't want to see bark and other floatable organic matter. The City will review and comment on samples from our local Quarries. The ECA expressed an interest coordinating with our local quarries to have them deliver half-full 5 gallon buckets of their respective products and corresponding spec sheets to the City's MSC South building at 69 Stony Circle. They will have the labeled buckets and spec sheets dropped off at the front counter and ask for them to be delivered to the stormwater and creeks staff. Staff will discuss the products with their materials lab and then coordinate with their co-permittees.

Contractors are not uploading their Numeric Action Level (NAL) exceedances to SMARTS. The RWQCB is "hammering" those projects. Contractor's need actions plans within 10 days of the exceedance or they will receive a stop order.

A lot of projects are experiencing PH level exceedances. They are seeing this with lime treated subgrade and runoff from newly poured concrete for as long as 30 days after pouring. Once the PH spikes, Contractors must hold water on site.

The RWQCB will be changing change dewatering regulations in April to significantly tighten the regulations. They will prepare a guidance document and publish information on their website. They will also have outreach to the development community to educate them, but the City doesn't anticipate them soliciting feedback or softening these requirements.

Geoff Coleman

Principal/Vice President

BKF ENGINEERS Delivering Inspired Infrastructure®

200 4th Street, Suite 300, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Ph: (707) 583-8520 gcoleman@bkf.com BKF.com