



CONSTRUCTION SITE GROUNDWATER DEWATERING GUIDANCE

Three National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits can potentially regulate construction site groundwater discharges in Alameda County. This tip sheet summarizes the conditions triggering each of the permits to guide applicants to the appropriate permits. Project applicants should confirm determinations with the local agency. For projects involving contaminated or potentially contaminated groundwater, project applicants should contact the Regional Water Board. Alternatively, project applicants can work with the local sanitary sewer agency to obtain permission to discharge groundwater to the sanitary sewer system.

1. Order R2-2025-0029 (Groundwater General Permit, GGP)

Effective July 1, 2026, the GGP regulates discharges of contaminated groundwater and large volumes of uncontaminated groundwater.

- **Contaminated groundwater** discharges requiring treatment of any flow rate.
- **Uncontaminated groundwater discharges of 10,000 gallons per day (gpd) or more** that are not covered under a separate NPDES permit.

2. Order 2022-0057-DWQ (Construction Stormwater General Permit, CGP)

The CGP regulates uncontaminated groundwater discharges from construction sites one acre or greater provided there is no regional NPDES permit that takes precedence.

- Discharges of **contaminated groundwater** must obtain coverage under the Groundwater General Permit. These discharges are not eligible for coverage under the CGP.
- Discharges of **uncontaminated groundwater** under the CGP are subject to Attachment J and must develop a Dewatering Plan as well as following any local requirements.

3. Order R2-2022-0018 (Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit, MRP)

The MRP regulates discharges of pumped uncontaminated groundwater that are less than 10,000 gpd and are not covered by a separate permit.

- **Contaminated groundwater** discharges must obtain coverage under the Groundwater General Permit. These discharges are not eligible for coverage under the MRP.
- **Uncontaminated groundwater discharges greater than 10,000 gpd** must obtain coverage under the Groundwater General Permit or if applicable the CGP. These discharges are not eligible for coverage under the MRP.
- **Uncontaminated groundwater discharges <10,000 gpd** may obtain coverage under the CGP, if applicable, See item 2.
- **When the CGP is not applicable, uncontaminated groundwater discharges <10,000 gpd** must follow the requirements in MRP Provision C.15.b.i.(2) and any local requirements including:
 - Implement erosion and sediment control BMPs.
 - Observe discharge to verify the water is clear.
 - Discharge to landscape areas or bioretention areas.
 - The area must be large enough to accommodate and infiltrate the volume of water.
 - Uncontaminated discharges $\geq 2,500$ gpd and $< 10,000$ gpd must additionally:
 - Sample to verify groundwater is uncontaminated per MRP Provision C.15.b.i.(2).
 - Sample and monitor dewatering discharges and the receiving water (e.g., creek) for the constituents listed in MRP Provision C.15.b.i.(2).



Groundwater Dewatering Discharge Permit Decision Tree

