



# Fact Sheet

NPDES Permit Number: IDS028126  
Public Comment Period Issuance Date: September 1, 2020  
Public Comment Period Expiration Date: October 16, 2020  
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**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Proposes to Reissue a  
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit  
for Stormwater Discharges To:**

**City of Nampa**

EPA Region 10 proposes to reissue a NPDES permit authorizing the discharge of stormwater from all municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) outfalls owned and/or operated by the City of Nampa that are located in the Nampa Urbanized Area (UA) in Canyon County, Idaho. The City of Nampa is referred to in this document as “the City” or the “Permittee.” Permit requirements are based on Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p), and EPA regulations for permitting municipal stormwater discharges (40 CFR §§ 122.26, 122.30-35, and 123.35; see also 64 FR 68722 [Dec. 8, 1999] and 81 FR 89320 [Dec. 9, 2016])

The Permit requires the continued implementation of a comprehensive stormwater management program (SWMP) and outlines the control measures to be used by the Permittee to reduce pollutants in their stormwater discharges to the maximum extent practicable (MEP), to protect water quality, and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the CWA. Annual reporting is required to reflect the status of the SWMP implementation.

This Fact Sheet includes:

- information on public comment, public hearing, and appeal procedures;
- descriptions of the regulated MS4 discharges to be covered under the Permit; and
- explanation of the control measures and other Permit terms and conditions.

EPA requests public comment on all aspects of the Permit.

**State CWA Section 401 Certification**

EPA will request that the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) certify the permit for this MS4 under Section 401 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1341. Questions or comments regarding the certification should be directed to:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Boise Regional Office  
ATTN: Kati Carberry, Water Quality Program  
1445 N. Orchard St.  
Boise, ID 83706  
  
(208) 373-0550

**Public Comment and Opportunity for Public Hearing**

Because of the COVID-19 virus, access to the Region 10 EPA building is limited. Therefore, EPA requests that all comments on the draft permit or requests for a public hearing be submitted via email to Misha Vakoc ([vakoc.misha@epa.gov](mailto:vakoc.misha@epa.gov)). If you are unable to submit comments via email, please call 206-553-6650.

Persons wishing to comment on, or request a Public Hearing for, the draft Permit must do so in writing by the expiration date of the Public Comment period. A request for Public Hearing must state the nature of the issues to be raised as well as the requester's name, address and telephone number. All comments and requests for Public Hearings must be in writing and should be submitted to EPA as described in the Public Comments Section of the attached Public Notice.

After the comment period ends, and all comments have been considered, EPA's Regional Director for the Water Division will make a final decision regarding permit issuance. If EPA receives no comments, the tentative conditions in the draft permit will become final. If comments are submitted, EPA will prepare a response to comments document and, if necessary, will make changes to the draft Permit. After making any necessary changes, EPA will issue the Permit with a response to comments document, unless issuance of a new draft Permit is warranted pursuant to 40 CFR § 122.14. The Permit will become effective no earlier than thirty (30) days after the issuance date, unless the permit is appealed to the Environmental Appeals Board within 30 days pursuant to 40 CFR § 124.19.

**Documents Available for Review**

The draft Permit, and other information is available on EPA Region 10 website at: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/stormwater-discharges-municipal-sources-idaho-and-washington> OR <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/idaho-npdes-permits>.

Because of the COVID-19 response, there is no public access to the EPA Region 10 buildings at this time. Therefore, EPA cannot make hard copies available for viewing at EPA offices.

For technical questions regarding the Permit or Fact Sheet, contact Misha Vakoc at the phone number or E-mail listed above. Services for persons with disabilities are available by contacting Audrey Washington at (206) 553-0523

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**Acronyms**

|       |                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACM   | Alternative Control Measure                                                                                                                                |
| BMP   | Best Management Practice                                                                                                                                   |
| CFR   | Code of Federal Regulations                                                                                                                                |
| CGP   | Construction General Permit, i.e., the most current version of the NPDES<br>General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities in Idaho |
| CWA   | Clean Water Act                                                                                                                                            |
| CZARA | Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments                                                                                                                |
| EFH   | Essential Fish Habitat                                                                                                                                     |
| ESA   | Endangered Species Act                                                                                                                                     |
| EPA   | United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10                                                                                                   |
| FR    | Federal Register                                                                                                                                           |
| GI    | Green Infrastructure                                                                                                                                       |
| GSI   | Green Stormwater Infrastructure                                                                                                                            |
| IDAPA | Idaho Administrative Procedures Act                                                                                                                        |
| IDEQ  | Idaho Department of Environmental Quality                                                                                                                  |
| LA    | Load Allocation                                                                                                                                            |
| LID   | Low Impact Development                                                                                                                                     |
| mg/L  | Milligrams per Liter                                                                                                                                       |
| MEP   | Maximum Extent Practicable                                                                                                                                 |
| MS4   | Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System                                                                                                                      |
| NEPA  | National Environmental Policy Act                                                                                                                          |
| NHPA  | National Historic Preservation Act                                                                                                                         |
| NOAA  | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration                                                                                                            |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System                                                                                                            |
| O&M   | Operation and Maintenance                                                                                                                                  |
| SWMP  | Stormwater Management Program                                                                                                                              |
| SWPPP | Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan                                                                                                                       |
| TMDL  | Total Maximum Daily Load                                                                                                                                   |
| UA    | Urbanized Area                                                                                                                                             |
| US    | United States                                                                                                                                              |
| USC   | United States Code                                                                                                                                         |
| USFWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service                                                                                                                             |
| WD    | EPA Region 10 Water Division                                                                                                                               |
| WLA   | Wasteload Allocation                                                                                                                                       |
| WQS   | Water Quality Standards                                                                                                                                    |

## 1. Introduction

Stormwater is the surface runoff that results from rain and snow melt. Urban development alters the land’s natural infiltration, and human activity generates a host of pollutants that can accumulate on paved surfaces. Uncontrolled stormwater discharges from urban areas can negatively impact water quality. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations establish permit requirements for discharges from regulated municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) located in U.S. Census-defined Urbanized Area (UA). Appendix 1 of this Fact Sheet details the types of pollutants typically found in urban stormwater and explains the regulatory background for the MS4 permit program.

The terms “municipal separate storm sewer” and “small municipal separate storm sewer system” are defined at 40 CFR §122.26(b)(8) and (b)(16), respectively. MS4s include any publicly owned conveyance or system of conveyances used for collecting and conveying stormwater that discharge to waters of the United States. MS4s are designed for conveying stormwater only, and are not part of a combined sewer system, nor part of a publicly owned treatment works. Such a system may include roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains.<sup>1</sup> In Idaho, various public entities own and/or operate MS4s, including, but not limited to: cities and counties; local highway districts; Idaho Transportation Department; and colleges and universities.

EPA is reissuing a Permit authorizing stormwater discharges from the regulated small MS4 located in the Nampa UA owned and/or operated by the City of Nampa (City). This Fact Sheet explains the rationale for the proposed Permit terms and conditions for these MS4 discharges.

Other entities have responsibilities to manage MS4 discharges in the Nampa UA; this Fact Sheet addresses requirements and responsibilities for the City only. The Cities of Caldwell and Middleton, Idaho Transportation Department-District #3, and the Canyon County Highway District also own and/or operate regulated small MS4s in this area; EPA is addressing those discharges through separate NPDES permits. If any other Idaho entities own and/or operate a MS4 in this UA, they must seek NPDES permit coverage for those MS4 discharges by submitting a MS4 permit application.

### 1.1. PERMITTEE AND PERMIT HISTORY

In accordance with Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 402(p), 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p), and federal regulations at 40 CFR §122.32, EPA is reissuing the NPDES Permit for the MS4 owned and/or operated by the City and located in the Nampa UA as defined by the Year 2000 and Year 2010 Decennial Census. See Appendix 3 for maps of the Nampa UA.

| Permittee                                                                   | Physical Address                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| City of Nampa Public Works Department,<br>Environmental Compliance Division | 500 12th Avenue South<br>Nampa, ID 83651 |

EPA previously issued Permit #IDS028126 for the City’s MS4 discharges in August 2009. The Permit expired in October 2014.

<sup>1</sup> See: 40 CFR §122.26(b); 40 CFR §122.32(a); and EPA 1990.

The City submitted a timely and complete application for the reissuance of Permit #IDS028126 in July 2014. Pursuant to 40 CFR § 122.6, the permit was administratively continued upon the expiration date of the permit. Therefore, the permit remains in effect until a new permit is reissued. The City continues to implement their stormwater management program (SWMP) activities and submit Annual Reports in compliance with the administratively continued Permit.

In 2016 and 2017, EPA was working on a general permit that would cover all small regulated MS4 discharges in Idaho. During this period of time, EPA received comments from the Permittee and other stakeholders on two versions of the draft general permit. EPA subsequently decided to issue individual permits instead of a general permit. However, the information received, in conjunction with the permit renewal application and Annual Reports, has been used to inform the current draft Permit. All of these materials are available as part of the Administrative Record.

## **1.2. IDAHO NPDES PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION**

On June 5, 2018, EPA approved Idaho's application to administer and enforce the Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) program. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) is taking the IPDES program in phases over a four-year period in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between IDEQ and EPA, and subject to EPA oversight and enforcement. IDEQ will obtain permitting authority for the stormwater phase on July 1, 2021. At that time, all documentation required by the permit will be sent to IDEQ rather than to EPA and any decision under the permit stated to be made by EPA or jointly between EPA and IDEQ will be made solely by IDEQ. Permittees will be notified by IDEQ when this transition occurs.

## **1.3. DESCRIPTION OF THE MS4 AND DISCHARGE LOCATIONS**

The City's MS4 consists of municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches and storm drains used for collecting or conveying storm water. Nampa's MS4 map is available online as indicated in Appendix 2 of this document. As of October 31, 2019, the City's efforts to inventory all infrastructure assets has identified the following MS4 features in the City limits:

- Approximately 1,646 outfalls that discharge to Indian Creek, Mason Creek, Wilson Drain (aka Wilson Creek), and other tributary conveyances such as Elijah and Purdham Gulch Drains;
- 17,672 miles of storm drainpipe;
- 1,763 drain fields (i.e., underground facilities including absorption beds, dry wells, infiltration windows and seepage beds);
- 1,192 above ground structural facilities including detention ponds, retention ponds, drainage ponds, and swales;
- 6,382 catch basins; 3,988 manholes; and 2,363 sand and grease traps.

The City continues to field verify the ownership and type of discharge from each outfall in an ongoing effort to maintain accurate and up-to-date information in the City's geographic information system (GIS) program. The current Nampa MS4 map, and outfall

inventory is available as Appendix G in submitted Annual Reports.<sup>2</sup> See also Appendix 2 herein.

#### **1.4. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Since 2009, the City has successfully implemented SWMP control measures as required by the prior MS4 permit; the following are a few examples of their SWMP accomplishments:

- Adoption of the City of Nampa storm water management ordinances, City Code Title 9 Chapter 6 *Erosion and Sediment Control/Grading*; Nampa City Code Title 8, Chapter 4 *Storm Drainage System*; Title 10, Chapter 27, Section 6 *Subdivisions* available at:  
[https://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book\\_id=597](https://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=597) .
- Erosion and sediment control, drainage, and stormwater design guidance to complement the City Code, including the *Standard Construction Specification Manual* and *Engineering Development Process and Policy Manual - Stormwater Design Standards*
- Documentation of the City's SWMP control measure implementation, including but not limited to:
  - *Stormwater Management Program*, Revised December 4, 2019
  - *NPDES MS4 Monitoring Plan, Revision 2.0*; dated December 31, 2019
  - *Stormwater Outreach Program Plan*, dated February 2018;
  - Annual Stormwater Discharge Monitoring Reports for Water Years 2012 through 2019
  - *Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Plan*, dated August 2012; and
  - *Post-Construction Stormwater Management Plan*, dated November 17, 2016
- An impressive public education and engagement program, including ongoing collaboration with the Nampa School District to teach K-12 students about stormwater pollution and water quality year-round, as well as regular community outreach and educational events. See, for example: :  
<https://www.cityofnampa.us/819/Nampa-School-District-Partnership>;
- Coordination through the Nampa Stormwater Advisory Group to gather input from community members regarding ongoing SWMP activities; see:  
<https://www.cityofnampa.us/633/Stormwater-Advisory-Group>;
- Maintenance of a detailed MS4 map and outfall inventory, including an inventory of industrial facilities that discharge into the MS4;
- A dedicated bilingual website providing stormwater management information and education about water quality, as well as all SWMP documentation; see:  
<https://www.cityofnampa.us/1206/Program-Documents-Documentos-del-Program>
- Policies/protocols for conducting MS4 outfall screening inspections including dry weather discharge investigation and response to illicit discharges into the MS4;

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<sup>2</sup> See, for example, Nampa 2020; and Nampa 2013.



- Construction site runoff control program requirements that includes site plan review procedures for project sites that disturb one or more acres and/or 2 cubic yards of soil;
- Regular staff training on all aspects of the SWMP; and
- MS4 discharge monitoring, beginning in June 2011.

After review of the Annual Reports and other information provided by Nampa, EPA concludes that the City has effectively implemented the stormwater control measures in compliance with the prior NPDES permit in a manner that sufficiently prevents pollutants discharged through the MS4. See also Part 2.1 of this Fact Sheet.

### **1.5. PERMIT DEVELOPMENT**

The NPDES permitting authority must include terms and conditions in each successive MS4 permit that meet all of the requirements of 40 CFR § 122.34(a)(2) “*based on its evaluation of the current permit requirements, record of permittee compliance and program implementation progress, current water quality conditions, and other relevant information.*” The permitting authority must consider adjustments in the form of modified permit requirements, where necessary, to reflect current water quality conditions, best management practices (BMP) effectiveness, and other current relevant information. The permitting authority cannot reissue the same permit conditions for subsequent five-year permit term(s) without considering whether more progress can or should be made in meeting water quality objectives (especially in areas where the receiving waters are not attaining the applicable water quality standards).<sup>3</sup>

For the City of Nampa MS4 Permit, EPA considered a variety of information in order to develop the Permit terms and conditions, including but not limited to:

- NPDES Permit #IDS028126 as issued in 2009 and subsequent EPA-issued MS4 permits in Idaho;
- Permit renewal application materials submitted by the City in 2014;
- IDEQ’s 2016 *Integrated Report*, describing IDEQ’s assessment of waters in the Lower Boise River and its tributaries;
- Annual Reports submitted by the Permittee as required by the prior Permit;
- Updated Urbanized Area maps and boundaries based on the Year 2010 Census;
- Input from stakeholders and the Permittee on EPA’s preliminary draft MS4 general permit(s), which were not issued;
- EPA guidance and national summary information regarding MS4 permits,<sup>4</sup> including:
  - *Compendium Part 1: Six Minimum Control Measure Provisions, November 2016;*
  - *Compendium Part 2: Post Construction Performance Standards, November 2016;*
  - *Compendium Part 3: Water Quality-Based Requirements, April 2017;*
  - *Summary of State Post Construction Stormwater Standards, July 2016;*

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<sup>3</sup> See 40 CFR §122.34(a), EPA 2016a and EPA 2016b.

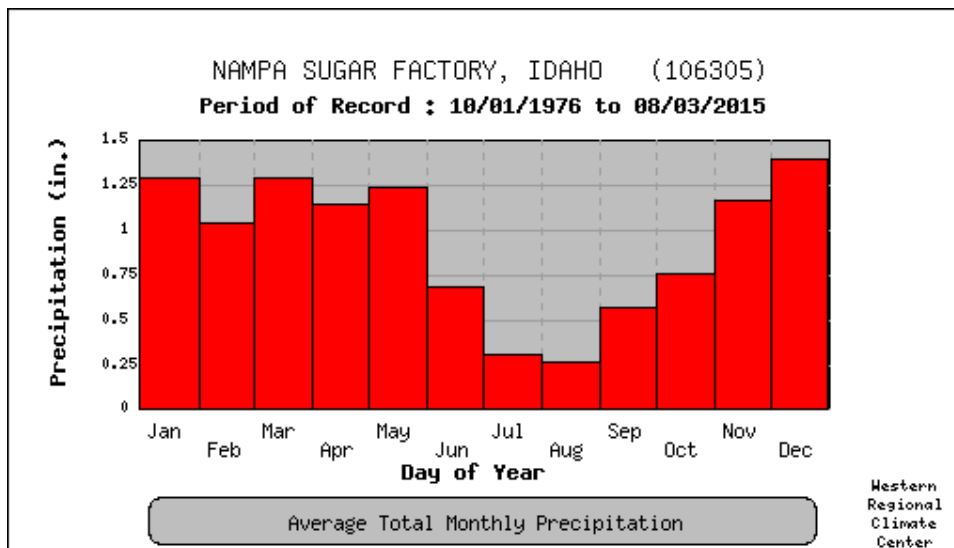
<sup>4</sup> EPA documents listed here are available at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-municipal-sources>

- EPA’s November 2014 Memo entitled *Revisions to the November 22, 2002 Memorandum "Establishing TMDL Wasteload Allocations (WLAs) for Stormwater Sources and NPDES Permit Requirements Based on Those WLAs;"* and the
- *MS4 Permit Improvement Guide, April 2010.*
- Conclusions and recommendations from the National Research Council Report entitled *Urban Stormwater Management in the United States*, dated October 2008;
- Technical developments in the field of stormwater management, including recent research and information on effective and feasible methods for the on-site management and treatment of stormwater using practices commonly referred to as “low impact development” (LID), “green infrastructure” (GI) and/or “green stormwater infrastructure” (GSI) techniques.
- Other MS4 permits issued by EPA for regulated MS4s in Washington, Puerto Rico, Massachusetts, and New Mexico, as well as MS4 permits issued by other state NPDES permitting authorities.

A partial list of references supporting the development of the Permit is provided in Section 6 of this Fact Sheet. All references are available in the Administrative Record for this action.

**1.6. AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION IN THE NAMPA URBANIZED AREA**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA’s) Western Regional Climate Center maintains historical climate information for various weather stations throughout the western United States. Annual average precipitation in the area near Nampa is approximately 11.1 inches, and the annual average snowfall is approximately 10.3 inches.



**Figure 1. Average Total Monthly Precipitation in the Nampa Urbanized Area.**

**1.7. RECEIVING WATERS**

EPA intends to reissue the Permit authorizing discharges from the MS4 owned and/or operated by the City to waters of the United States (U.S.) that includes but is not limited to Indian Creek, Mason Creek, and the Boise River. All discharges to waters of the U.S.

located in the Permit Area must also comply with any limitations that may be imposed by the State as part of its water quality certification pursuant to CWA Section 401, 33 U.S.C. § 1341. See also Section 3.7 of this Fact Sheet.

IDEQ has classified Indian Creek, Mason Creek and segments of the Boise River that indirectly receive MS4 discharges through tributary conveyances as fresh water with designated beneficial uses as listed in Table 1 below.

| <b>Table 1. Designated Beneficial Uses for Waters Receiving Regulated MS4 Discharges</b> |                            |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Receiving Water</b>                                                                   | <b>Citation from IDAPA</b> | <b>Designated Beneficial Uses</b><br><i>Note: All waters in Idaho must also be protected for industrial and agricultural water supply, wildlife habitats, and aesthetics</i> |
| Indian Creek                                                                             | 58.01.02.101.01            | Cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation                                                                                                                        |
| Mason Creek                                                                              |                            | 58.01.02.110.12                                                                                                                                                              |
| Boise River                                                                              |                            | Cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, primary contact recreation                                                                                                       |

**1.7.1. ANTI-DEGRADATION**

EPA is required under Section 301(b)(1)(C) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(b)(1)(C) and implementing regulations (40 CFR §§ 122.4(d) and 122.44(d)) to establish conditions in NPDES permits that ensure compliance with State water quality standards, including antidegradation requirements. The State of Idaho has an EPA-approved antidegradation policy as well as antidegradation implementation procedures (IDAPA 58.01.02.051). EPA expects that IDEQ will provide an antidegradation analysis in the CWA §401 certification. Once EPA has received a final §401 certification, EPA will review the antidegradation analysis to ensure that it is consistent with CWA Section 301(b)(1)(C).

**1.7.2. WATER QUALITY AND TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLS)**

Any water body that does not, and/or is not, expected to meet the applicable State water quality standards is described as “impaired” or as a “water quality-limited segment.” Section 303(d) of the CWA requires States to identify impaired water bodies in the State and develop TMDL management plans for those impaired water bodies. TMDLs define both wasteload allocations (WLAs) for point sources and load allocations (LAs) for non-point sources that specify how much of a particular pollutant can be discharged from both regulated and unregulated sources, respectively, such that the waterbody will again meet State water quality standards. IDEQ’s 2016 *Integrated Section 303(d)/Section 305(b) Report* (2016 Integrated Report) contains the list of impaired water bodies in Idaho required by CWA Section 303(d).<sup>5</sup> Table 2 below provides the status of the receiving waters for the MS4 discharges.

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<sup>5</sup> IDEQ’s 2016 Integrated Report is available online at: <https://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/monitoring-assessment/integrated-report.aspx>.

**Fact Sheet Supporting the City of Nampa MS4 Permit, NPDES #IDS028126  
August 2020**

| <b>Table 2. Status of Waters Receiving Regulated MS4 Discharges</b> |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Receiving Water</b>                                              | <b>Waterbody Assessment Unit</b>                                                                                                         | <b>Impairment Pollutants</b>                                                                                                       | <b>TMDL Status</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Indian Creek                                                        | ID17050114SW002_04<br><i>Indian Creek - Sugar Avenue to Boise River</i>                                                                  | Cause Unknown, Nutrients suspected<br>Temperature;<br><i>E. coli</i> ;<br>Sedimentation/ Siltation                                 | Temperature:<br>No TMDL completed.<br>Fecal Coliform & Sediment:<br><i>Lower Boise River TMDL - 2015 Sediment and Bacteria Addendum. June 2015. Approved September 2015</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                     | ID17050114SW003a_04<br><i>Indian Creek - New York Canal to Sugar Avenue</i>                                                              | Cause Unknown (Nutrients suspected)<br>Temperature                                                                                 | Temperature:<br>No TMDL completed.<br>Cause Unknown (Nutrients suspected):<br>No TMDL completed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Mason Creek                                                         | ID17050114SW006_02<br><i>Mason Creek – entire watershed</i>                                                                              | Cause Unknown (Nutrients suspected)<br>Temperature;<br><i>E. coli</i> ;<br>Sedimentation/ Siltation;<br>Malathion;<br>Chlorpyrifos | Cause Unknown (Nutrients suspected)<br><br>Lower Boise River TMDL - 2015 Total Phosphorus Addendum. August 2015. Approved December 2015.<br><br>Temperature:<br>No TMDL completed.<br><i>E. coli</i> & Sediment:<br><i>Lower Boise River TMDL - 2015 Sediment and Bacteria Addendum. June 2015. Approved September 2015.</i><br><br>Malathion and Chlorpyrifos:<br>No TMDL completed. |
| Boise River                                                         | ID17050114SW005_06b<br><i>Boise R.-Middleton to Indian Creek</i><br><br>ID17050114SW001_06<br><i>Boise River - Indian Creek to mouth</i> | Temperature;<br>Fecal Coliform;<br>Sedimentation/ Siltation;<br>Total Phosphorus                                                   | Temperature:<br>No TMDL for completed.<br>Fecal Coliform & Sediment:<br><i>Lower Boise River TMDL Subbasin Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Loads, September 1999. Approved January 2000.</i><br><br>Total Phosphorus:<br><i>Lower Boise River TMDL - 2015 Total Phosphorus Addendum. August 2015. Approved December 2015.</i>                                                         |

NPDES permit terms and conditions for regulated stormwater discharges must be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of applicable WLAs or LAs in the TMDLs.<sup>6</sup> In general, EPA's guidance recommends that the NPDES permitting authority use best management practices (BMPs) to implement WLAs and load reduction targets for MS4 discharges in a NPDES permit. When using BMPs as narrative permit limitations to implement a WLA or load reduction target, the NPDES permit must include a monitoring mechanism to assess compliance.<sup>7</sup>

To continue to address the pollutants of concern consistent with the Lower Boise River TMDLs listed in Table 2 above, the Permit requires the City to continue conducting monitoring/assessment activities and begin implementation at least two (2) pollutant reduction activities during the permit term. The City must develop and submit descriptions of their pollutant reduction and monitoring/assessment activities within two years of the Permit effective date. Upon review, the permitting authority will revise the Permit to incorporate explicit reference to the specific activities. Additional discussion of EPA's rationale for these provisions is provided in Section 2.5 and Appendix 5 of this Fact Sheet.

In the event that EPA approves other TMDLs for the receiving waters listed above, and those TMDL(s) contain WLA(s) for one or more regulated MS4s, EPA may, after consultation with IDEQ, choose to modify the Permit to incorporate additional provisions if needed. Permit Part 8.1 addresses such a permit modification with the NPDES regulations at 40 CFR §§ 122.62, 122.64 and 124.5.

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<sup>6</sup> See: 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.34(c)(1) and 122.44(d)(1)(vii)(B).

<sup>7</sup> See: EPA 1996; EPA 2002; EPA 2014a; EPA 2014b; and EPA 2016b.

## 2. BASIS FOR PERMIT CONDITIONS

### 2.1. GENERAL INFORMATION

NPDES permits for regulated small MS4s must include terms and conditions to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the MEP, to protect water quality, and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements under the CWA. At a minimum, MS4 permit terms and conditions must satisfy the requirements set forth in 40 CFR § 122.34(a) through (e).

MEP is the statutory standard that describes the level of pollutant reduction that MS4 operators must achieve. What constitutes MEP “should continually adapt to current (*water quality*) conditions and BMP effectiveness and should strive to attain water quality standards.”<sup>8</sup> Neither the CWA nor the stormwater regulations provide a precise definition of MEP, which provides for maximum flexibility in MS4 permitting.

EPA has described the iterative process of imposing the MS4 standard, including what is necessary to reduce pollutants to the MEP, over consecutive permit terms as: (1) the NPDES permitting authority defining clear, specific, and measurable NPDES permit requirements; (2) the MS4 Permittee implementing the required actions as part of a comprehensive program; and (3) the NPDES permitting authority and MS4 Permittee evaluating the effectiveness of BMPs used to date, current water quality conditions, and other relevant information.<sup>9</sup>

All MS4 permits must include terms and conditions that are “clear, specific, and measurable,” and consist of narrative, numeric, and/or other types of requirements. Examples include implementation of specific tasks or practices; BMP design requirements; performance requirements; adaptive management requirements; schedules for implementation, maintenance, and/or frequency of actions.<sup>10</sup>

Such stormwater control measures are managerial, physical, and/or structural BMPs that, when used singly or in combination, reduce the downstream quality and quantity impacts of storm water runoff. A variety of studies demonstrate that such stormwater control measures effectively reduce runoff volume and peak flows and remove pollutants. When designed, implemented, constructed, and maintained correctly as part of a comprehensive stormwater management program (or SWMP), the control measures - in combination with the prohibitions and other conditions of the Permit as described in this Fact Sheet below - have a positive effect on water quality and other biological indices.<sup>11</sup>

In order for the Permittee to comply with the MS4 standard during the Permit term, EPA has defined the stormwater management control measures and evaluation requirements that the Permittee must implement. The Permit describes these requirements in more detail than was previously required under the administratively extended Permit to ensure that the terms and conditions are “clear, specific, and measurable.” To reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the MEP, the Permittee must implement and enforce the stormwater management control measures outlined in Permit Part 3 (*SWMP*

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<sup>8</sup> EPA 1999, pages 68753-68734/

<sup>9</sup> EPA 2016 pages 89338.-89339; 40 CFR 122.34(a)(2)

<sup>10</sup> See 40 CFR 122.34(a).

<sup>11</sup> EPA 1999a; EPA 1999b; EPA 2006; NRC 2008; EPA 2016b; WERF 2017.

*Control Measures*). To protect water quality, the Permittee must conduct monitoring and/or assessment activities targeted at reducing the impairment pollutants in Permit Part 4 (*Special Conditions for Discharges to Impaired Waters*). Where the Permittee's MS4 discharge(s) may be contributing to an ongoing excursion above an applicable water quality standard, and a long-term solution is needed to address the MS4 contribution, the Permit establishes an adaptive management process in Permit Part 5 (*Required Response to Excursions of Idaho Water Quality Standards*). Evaluation and reporting requirements are outlined in Permit Part 6 (*Monitoring, Recordkeeping and Reporting*).

## **2.2. DISCHARGES AUTHORIZED BY THE PERMIT**

Permit Part 1.2 conditionally authorizes municipal stormwater discharges, and certain types of non-stormwater discharges, from the Permittee's MS4 within the Permit Area, provided that the Permittee complies with the Permit's terms and conditions. Where monitoring or other information shows that a pollutant in a Permittee's MS4 discharge is causing or contributing to an ongoing excursion above the applicable Idaho water quality standard, the Permittee must comply with the notification and other adaptive management requirements in Permit Part 5 (*Required Response to Excursions of Idaho Water Quality Standards*). See also Section 2.6 of this Fact Sheet.

The Permit outlines conditions and prohibitions related to snow disposal (Permit Part 2.2); stormwater discharges associated with industrial and construction activities (Permit Part 2.3); and discharges unrelated to precipitation events (i.e., "non-stormwater discharges;" Permit Part 2.4) that are similar to requirements in the administratively continued Permit.

EPA acknowledges that, in some urban Idaho watersheds, non-stormwater sources (in the form of landscape irrigation, springs, rising ground waters, and/or groundwater infiltration) are routinely present during dry weather discharges from the MS4(s). The Permit requires the Permittee to determine whether a detected dry weather MS4 discharge is an "allowable" discharge. Section 2.4.2 of this Fact Sheet discusses the related dry weather outfall screening requirements included as Permit Parts 3.2.5 and 3.2.6.

## **2.3. PERMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Permit Part 2.5 outlines Permittee responsibilities. In general, the Permittee is responsible for Permit compliance related to its MS4 and associated discharges.

Permit Part 2.5.1 allows the Permittee to implement one or more of the control measures by sharing responsibility with an entity other than another MS4 Permittee. The Permittee must enter into a written agreement with the outside party, in order to minimize any uncertainty about the other entity's responsibilities to the Permittee. The Permittee remains responsible for compliance with the Permit obligations in the event the other entity fails to implement the control measure (or any component thereof).<sup>12</sup>

Permit Part 2.5.2 requires the Permittee to maintain adequate legal authority to implement and enforce the required SWMP control measures as allowed and authorized pursuant to applicable Idaho law.<sup>13</sup> Without adequate legal authority or other

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<sup>12</sup> See 40 CFR §122.35.

<sup>13</sup> See EPA 2010.

mechanisms that allow control over what enters or discharges from the MS4, the Permittee cannot perform vital stormwater management functions, such as conducting inspections, requiring installation and proper operation of pollutant control measures within its jurisdiction, and/or enforcing such requirements. The City of Nampa's existing ordinances are referenced in Section 1.4 of this document.

The Permittee is expected to summarize its legal authorities to impose and enforce the required control measure components in the SWMP Document required by Permit Part 2.5.3. An updated SWMP Document must be submitted as part of the Permit Renewal Application required by Permit Part 8.2, no later than 180 days before the Permit expiration date.

EPA has reviewed the Annual Reports and other information submitted by the Permittee and finds that Nampa maintains sufficient legal authority to impose and enforce the required control measure components in their jurisdiction.

Permit Part 2.5.3 requires the Permittee to develop, and update as necessary, a written SWMP Document.<sup>14</sup> The SWMP Document summarizes the physical characteristics of the MS4 and describes how the Permittee conducts the required SWMP control measures in its jurisdiction. EPA has provided a suggested format for the SWMP Document as an appendix to the Permit, and notes that other MS4 Permittees have already developed such documents that can be used as examples.<sup>15</sup> The SWMP Document addresses three audiences and purposes:

1. General Public – The SWMP Document serves to inform and involve the public in implementation of the local stormwater management program;
2. EPA and IDEQ - The SWMP Document provides the permitting authority a single document to review to understand how the MS4 Permittee will implement its stormwater management program and comply with Permit requirements and; and
3. Elected officials and local staff - The SWMP Document can potentially be used by the Permittee as an internal planning or briefing document.

The SWMP Document should also describe the Permittee's unique implementation issues such as cooperative or shared responsibilities with other entities.

Nampa's existing SWMP Document is available online at:

<https://www.cityofnampa.us/DocumentCenter/View/2072/SWMP-2010-Rev-12-12---SLB-2CJ?bidId=>

The requirement for the Permittee to develop a SWMP Document is an enforceable condition of the Permit. However, the contents of the SWMP Document are not directly enforceable as requirements of the Permit. As a result, the Permittee may create and subsequently revise the SWMP Document, as necessary, to describe how the

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<sup>14</sup> See 40 CFR §122.34(b) and discussion of the relationship between the SWMP and required permit terms and conditions in *EPA 2016b* at pages 89339-89341. In contrast, the purpose of the Annual Report is to summarize the Permittee's activities during the previous reporting period, and to provide an assessment or review of the Permittee's compliance with the Permit.

<sup>15</sup> See, for example, SWMP plan documents authored by the City of Coeur d'Alene ([http://www.cdaid.org/files/Engineering/Storm\\_waterManagementPlan.pdf](http://www.cdaid.org/files/Engineering/Storm_waterManagementPlan.pdf)) and Boise State University ([http://www.partnersforcleanwater.org/media/182277/2014\\_boise\\_state\\_university\\_swmp.pdf](http://www.partnersforcleanwater.org/media/182277/2014_boise_state_university_swmp.pdf)). Other examples are available through the Permit's Administrative Record.



stormwater management activities are implemented in compliance with the Permit. Therefore, updates to the SWMP Document may occur without EPA or IDEQ review and approval.

The first iteration of the Permittee's SWMP Document must be available to EPA, IDEQ, and the public on a publicly available website (required by Permit Part 3.1.8) no later than the due date of the 1st Year Annual Report. Any existing SWMP document must be updated to include any waterbody specific requirements pursuant to Permit Part 4, no later than the due date of the 2nd Year Annual Report. At a minimum, the SWMP Document must be updated to reflect the Permittee's current implementation of their control measures and submitted with the Permit Renewal Application, as required by Permit Part 8.2, no later than 180 days prior to the expiration date of the Permit.

Permit Part 2.5.4 requires the Permittee to track indicator statistics and information to document and report on SWMP implementation progress.

Permit Part 2.5.5 requires the Permittee to provide adequate financial support, staffing, equipment, and other support capabilities to implement the SWMP control measures and other Permit requirements. The Permittee demonstrates compliance with this provision by fully implementing the requirements of the Permit. The Permittee is not required to keep track of, or report, their implementation costs, though it might be appropriate and helpful for the Permittees to track their program investment in some manner. The Permit does not require specific staffing or funding levels, thus providing flexibility and incentive for Permittees to adopt the most efficient methods to comply with Permit requirements. EPA encourages the Permittee to establish stable funding sources for ongoing SWMP implementation and enter cooperative working relationships with other regulated small MS4s. Technical resources, such as the *Water Finance Clearinghouse* developed by EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center,<sup>16</sup> are available to help Permittees identify sustainable funding solutions. EPA supports comprehensive long-term planning to identify investments in stormwater infrastructure and system management that complement other community development initiatives and promote economic vitality.

Permit Part 2.5.6 requires the Permittee to extend its stormwater control measures to all areas under their direct control when new areas served by the MS4 are annexed, or when areas previously served by the MS4 are transferred to another entity. The Permittee must report changes in ownership or operational authority to EPA and IDEQ through the SWMP Document and Annual Reports. The Permittee is reminded to make associated revisions to MS4 system maps or other records as soon as possible. EPA notes that the City's 2019 Annual Report, Appendix G, contains such a map of Nampa's recently annexed areas.

### **2.3.1. ALTERNATIVE CONTROL MEASURE REQUESTS**

The Permit requires the implementation of stormwater management (or SWMP) control measures, or control measure components. Where a Permittee must revise or update SWMP control measures, or control measure components, full implementation must be accomplished no later than 180 days prior to the Permit expiration date. To provide implementation flexibility, the Permit allows the Permittee the discretion to submit requests to implement one or more Alternative Control Measures (ACM).

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<sup>16</sup> See: <https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter>

As outlined in Permit Part 2.6.1, the Permittee may submit supplemental or individualized documents, plans, or programs that are deemed equivalent to a comparable SWMP control measure, or control measure component, in Permit Part 3, along with supporting rationale and information. Requests for ACM(s) must be submitted no later than two years after the Permit effective date.<sup>17</sup> Upon determining that the ACM request(s) is equivalent to a comparable Permit SWMP control measure, or control measure component, and results in a modification of the Permit terms and conditions, EPA will provide opportunity for public comment and, if requested, a public hearing. EPA will consider all comments received on the ACM and resulting change in permit terms and conditions before issuing a final agency decision.<sup>18</sup>

The opportunity for ACM(s) relative to any SWMP control measure, or control measure component, in Permit Part 3 offers the Permittee maximum flexibility for SWMP implementation. For example, the Permittee may request EPA and IDEQ to consider an alternative means of implementing a SWMP control measure as a whole (such as the Construction Site Runoff control measure specified by Part 3.3); or, the Permittee may request EPA consider an alternative SWMP control measure component, such as the specific requirement in Part 3.3.3 (*Construction Site Runoff Control Specifications*).

Pursuant to Permit Part 2.6.2, an ACM also includes the Permittee's individual or collective plans or programs to address discharges to impaired waters, as specified by Permit Part 4 (*Special Conditions for Discharges to Impaired Waters*). The opportunity to modify the Permit to incorporate specific monitoring/assessment and pollutant reduction activities offers flexibility for the Permittee to specify how they intend to make continued progress toward applicable water quality improvement targets for their watershed. A Permittee may work independently, or with others, to conduct reasonable, meaningful, and necessary actions that reduce pollutants from the MS4 and protect water quality.

## **2.4. SWMP REQUIREMENTS**

Permit Part 3 contains clear, specific, and measurable requirements to address the minimum control measures in 40 CFR § 122.34(a) and (b) that serve to reduce pollutants in MS4 discharges to the MEP. For each control measure, EPA has outlined specific tasks, BMPs, design requirements, performance requirements, adaptive management requirements, schedules for implementation and maintenance, and/or frequency of actions. Each minimum control measure is comprised of actions and activities that EPA refers to as SWMP control measure components.

EPA considered the existing control measures implemented by the City, and the renewal application, during development of the Permit terms and conditions. EPA has incrementally refined each SWMP control measure component to iteratively clarify the MS4 permit standard for the Permittee and establish expectations for the level of effort necessary to reduce pollutants in MS4 discharges.

EPA recognizes that each regulated MS4 is unique, and that each operator has different circumstances that guides their approach to stormwater management and pollutant control. To address these unique circumstances, the Permit allows implementation

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<sup>17</sup> Pursuant to Permit Part 8.1, no provision is stayed until the modification process to recognize the ACM is complete.

<sup>18</sup> EPA 2016b.

flexibility, while setting consistent expectations through clear, specific, and measurable permit requirements.

#### **2.4.1. PUBLIC EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND INVOLVEMENT**

Permit Part 3.1 addresses the required SWMP control measures for public education, outreach, and involvement requirements consistent with 40 CFR §§ 122.34(b)(1) and (b)(2). Public education, outreach, and involvement are essential parts of any plan to reduce stormwater pollutants, because the daily activities of people contribute significantly to the types and sources of pollutants in urban settings. As citizens learn about the impacts of their actions on local water resources, they are more likely to change their behaviors.

The prior MS4 permit contained public education and involvement requirements. The City has a successful partnership with the Nampa School District, educating K-12 students about stormwater and water quality. The City implements an extensive public education program through active sponsorship and participation in a myriad of community events. Examples of their monthly events include hosting watershed Clean Up Days and storm drain marking events with volunteers, distributing relevant outreach materials at community events; sponsoring summer Water Quality Camps for youth and parents; and working with the Nampa Stormwater Advisory Group to obtain input into its ongoing activities. In addition to such hands-on, in person activities, the City's Environmental Compliance Division offers bilingual information in a variety of formats through its website and social media presence. Examples of these materials, created since 2010, are available through the MS4 Annual Reports and the City's website. The City regularly engages with teachers and Hispanic professionals in the Nampa community, the Lower Boise Watershed Council, IDEQ and the Stormwater Advisory Group to inform their SWMP implementation actions.<sup>19</sup> EPA encourages the City to continue working with its partners and the other regulated MS4 entities in the Nampa and Boise UAs, and with others throughout the State, to continue meaningful and relevant stormwater education and public involvement activities. Nampa's continued public education program is an example of successful engagement with the local community, as EPA recommends in the document, *Promising Practices for Permit Applicants Seeking EPA-Issued Permits: Ways to Engage Neighboring Communities*. See also Section 3.1 of this Fact Sheet.

The Permit contains the following Public Education, Outreach, and Involvement SWMP control measure components:

- Permit Part 3.1.1 establishes a compliance deadline of one year from the Permit effective date for the Permittee to begin, or update and continue, their public education, outreach, and involvement activities in the Permit Area. This provision also establishes a deadline of 180 days after the effective date of the permit for the submission of any ACM Request under this provision.
- Permit Part 3.1.2 specifies requirements for the Public Education, Outreach and Involvement Program. To the extent allowable pursuant to the authority granted the Permittee under Idaho law, the Permittee must work to educate and engage interested stakeholders in the development and implementation of the SWMP control measures.

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<sup>19</sup> City of Nampa 2020.

- Permit Part 3.1.3 requires the Permittee to distribute and/or offer a minimum of eight educational messages to at least one of the four audiences listed in Part 3.1.4 during the Permit term.
- Permit Part 3.1.4 identifies target audiences (i.e., General Public; Business/Industrial/Commercial/Institutions; Construction/Development Professionals; and Elected Officials, Land Use Policy and Planning Staff). For each audience, the Permit includes a non-exclusive list of suggested topics for the Permittee to consider as its focus during the Permit term.
- Permit Part 3.1.5 requires the Permittee to assess, or to participate in an effort to assess, the understanding and adoption of behaviors by the target audience(s). A vital, yet challenging, component of a successful education program is the assessment of whether the Permittee's efforts are achieving the goals of increasing public awareness and behavior change to improve water quality. EPA recognizes and encourages the long-term nature of such assessment activities, and notes that there may be opportunities for the Permittee to work together within the State, or with other watershed organizations, on specific MS4 topics if they choose to do so.
- Permit Part 3.1.6 requires the Permittee to maintain records of its education, outreach, and public involvement activities.
- Permit Part 3.1.7 requires the Permittee to provide educational opportunities related to certain SWMP control measures at least twice during the Permit term. The Permittee may plan opportunities in a manner such that the relative success of their educational efforts can be articulated as required by Permit Part 3.1.5.
- Permit Part 3.1.8 requires the Permittee to maintain and promote at least one publicly accessible website to provide relevant SWMP information to the public. Relevant SWMP information includes the Permittee's SWMP Document, links to relevant public education material, and easily identifiable (and up to date) Permittee contact information such that members of the public may easily call or email to report spills or illicit discharges, and/or ask questions, etc.

The City currently maintains its bilingual stormwater program website that includes all communication materials, the SWMP Document, annual reports, and media event documentation. In 2019, approximately 1,438 people visited the website; see: <http://www.cityofnampa.us/stormwater/>.<sup>20</sup>

#### **2.4.2. ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION**

Permit Part 3.2 contains requirements for the Permittee to address illicit discharges and spill response within their jurisdiction. At a minimum, EPA requires the Permittee to maintain the ability to prohibit, detect, and eliminate illicit discharges from their MS4s.

The purpose of this SWMP control measure is to require the Permittee to provide ongoing surveillance and deterrence to prevent pollutant loadings caused by illicit discharges into the Permittee's MS4. Illicit discharges can enter the MS4 through direct connections (e.g., wastewater piping mistakenly or deliberately connected to the storm drains), or through indirect connections (e.g., infiltration into the MS4 from cracked sanitary systems, spills collected by drain inlets, or discarded paint or used oil dumped directly into a drain). Both types of illicit discharge can contribute excessive pollutants

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<sup>20</sup> City of Nampa 2020.

into the MS4, and as a result, can negatively affect water quality. Investigating for and eliminating such illicit discharges from entering the MS4 improves water quality.

The Permittee is responsible for the quality of the discharges from their MS4 and, therefore, has an interest in locating and discontinuing any uncontrolled non-stormwater discharges into and from their MS4.

The Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) SWMP control measure required by 40 CFR § 122.34(b)(3) directs the Permittee to manage illicit discharges to the MS4 by:

- Maintaining a map of the MS4 showing the location of all outfalls and names of the receiving waters;
- Effectively prohibiting discharges of non-stormwater to the MS4 through the use of an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism, and provide for enforcement of that prohibition as needed;
- Implementing a program to detect and address non-stormwater discharges, including procedures to identify problem areas in the community, determine sources of the problem(s), remove the source if one is identified, and document the actions taken; and
- Informing public employees, businesses, and the general public of the hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste and publicize appropriate public reporting of illicit discharges when they occur.

The City has a well-established program to prohibit, detect, and respond to illicit discharges, as documented in their Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Plan. Nampa City Code Title 8, Chapter 4 *Storm Drainage System* prohibits illicit connections and discharges into the City's MS4 and establishes legal authority to carry out all inspection and associated procedures to ensure compliance. The City has integrated it public education and outreach efforts with the IDDE program to provide consistent and effective messaging using fact sheets and posters to target audiences and conducted or participated in multiple community outreach events. EPA encourages the Permittee to continue working with neighboring jurisdictions and partners to share expertise and knowledge and to continue implementing this SWMP control measure through the components described below:

- Permit Part 3.2.1 establishes a compliance deadline of 180 days before the Permit expiration date for the Permittee to update their existing IDDE program activities, and/or to fully impose any new SWMP control measure components outlined in this Part. EPA believes this timeframe is justified to allow the Permittee adequate opportunity to adjust its existing programs, as necessary, to ensure all the SWMP control measure components are sufficiently addressed in the Permit Area. This provision also coincides with the date by which any ACM Request must be submitted.
- Permit Part 3.2.2 continues to require the Permittee to maintain a current MS4 map and an accompanying inventory of the features that comprise the MS4 system. EPA has refined the content of the MS4 Map and Outfall Inventory and requires updated materials to be submitted as part of the Permit Renewal Application, pursuant to Permit Part 8.2. The purpose of the MS4 Map and Outfall Inventory is to record and verify MS4 outfall locations, including by location using IDEQ's Waterbody Assessment Unit identification and relevant descriptive system characteristics. EPA

expects the Permittee to know the locations and characteristics of all outfalls that it owns and/or operates through mapping their infrastructure and associated assets. The Permittee is encouraged to couple the outfall inventory with other SWMP control measures, such as the operation and maintenance requirements in Permit Part 3.5, to help inform their inspection and/or maintenance prioritization.

The City maintains an outfall inventory and continues to update its comprehensive storm sewer system map to include all storm sewers, catch basins, seepage beds and other conveyances, outfalls (including diameter, latitude and longitude) connection points with other systems, and maintenance and storage facilities. The City also maintains an inventory of over 100 industrial or other facilities that discharge into the MS4. An updated map was submitted as part of the 2019 Annual Report, available for review as indicated in Appendix A.2 of this document. In addition, the City's Engineering Department maintains an online interactive map of catch basin locations at <https://www.cityofnampa.us/185/Mapping> .

Permit Part 3.2.2 also requires the Permittee to identify and characterize any MS4 outfall(s) with ongoing dry weather flows as a result of irrigation return flows and/or groundwater seepage. Knowing both the location and characteristics of such outfall(s) is an important data point in areas where the MS4 discharges to phosphorus- and/or nitrogen- impaired waters. The MS4 Map and Outfall Inventory can be collectively reassessed by EPA, IDEQ, and the Permittee at the time of the Permit renewal to tailor future control measures in the next permit term in efforts to address potential non-stormwater discharges that may be contributing to the impairment.

The City notes that it regularly tracks the number of outfalls discharging irrigation/agricultural flows on its field forms; see additional discussion below.<sup>21</sup>

- Permit Part 3.2.3 requires the Permittee to prohibit non-stormwater discharges into the MS4 through enforcement of an ordinance or other legal mechanism to the extent allowable under Idaho state law. Part 3.2.3 identifies minimum prohibitions that EPA expects the Permittee to enforce within its jurisdiction.

The City's existing ordinance (NCC Title 8, Chapter 4, *Storm Drainage System* [https://sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book\\_id=597&chapter\\_id=39128#s352655](https://sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=597&chapter_id=39128#s352655)) can fully prohibit the flows listed in Part 3.2.3. EPA clarifies that the ordinance is not required to cite all the individual prohibitions listed within the Permit provided that the Permittee's legal mechanism can be used to address such discharges if they are found discharging to the MS4. This provision provides a minimum expectation for the local ordinance/legal mechanism to prohibit the breadth of possible non-stormwater discharges that negatively impact water quality.

- Permit Part 3.2.4 describes EPA's expectations for the Permittee's Illicit Discharge Complaint Reporting and Response Program. The Permittee must maintain and advertise a publicly accessible and available means to report illicit discharges. The Permittee must respond to reports within two (2) days and maintain records regarding actions taken. These programs can be promoted to the public in concert with the public education requirements in Permit Part 3.1. Staff assigned to handle calls should be trained in stormwater issues and emergency response in order to gather and transfer the right information to responders. Conducting an investigation

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<sup>21</sup> Nampa, 2020

as soon as possible after the initial complaint report is crucial to the success of this program.

- Permit Part 3.2.5 requires the Permittee to conduct a dry weather analytical and field screening monitoring program to identify non-stormwater flows from MS4 outfalls during dry weather. Additionally, this program must emphasize screening activities to detect and identify illicit discharges and illegal connections, and to reinvestigate potentially problematic MS4 outfalls throughout the Permit Area. EPA has added prescriptive requirements to (1) prioritize visual screening of at least 50 outfalls per year throughout the Permittee's jurisdiction (Permit Part 3.2.5.2); (2) use appropriate screening and monitoring protocols when flows are identified during dry weather (Permit Part 3.2.5.3); and (3) ensure proper recordkeeping/documentation (Permit Part 3.2.5.4).

The City's Environmental Compliance Division regularly tracks the number of outfalls monitored for dry weather flows; during the last reporting period, City staff screened 164 City-owned outfalls, and continues working toward a goal of screening 20% of outfalls each year. Any observed discharges are sampled and tracked in an effort to examine trends. The City regularly tracks the number of outfalls that appear to be discharging irrigation/agricultural flows.

Permit Part 3.2.2.6 requires the Permittee to locate and map the occurrences of illicit discharges in order to target appropriate response actions over time. EPA recommends that samples taken during dry weather screening be analyzed for pH, total chlorine, detergents, total copper, total phenols, fecal coliform bacteria, and/or turbidity to assist in source identification.

Appropriate threshold limits for dry weather monitoring results are important to distinguish pollutant spikes from normal background conditions at a particular outfall. The City uses the Ada County Highway District guidance for established threshold levels in their dry weather screening program that, when exceeded, result in retesting to determine whether the sample was an isolated event or an ongoing water quality issue<sup>22</sup> The Permittee should consider establishing a visual baseline for each outfall type to aid in determining what constitutes "normal" dry weather flows, and to distinguish between background conditions (uncontaminated ground water infiltration, for example) versus abnormal, non-stormwater flows that are prohibited by the Permit.

- Permit Part 3.2.6 requires mandatory follow-up actions for recurring illicit discharges (identified through complaint reports and/or Permittee screening activities). Response activities must begin within 30 days of identifying elevated concentrations of screening parameters and action must be taken to eliminate problem discharges within 60 days. Specific timelines are included to direct timely initiation of actions to reduce or fully eliminate a known or newly identified problem.

Due to the diverse nature and sources of water quality impacts in urban settings in Idaho, both EPA and IDEQ are concerned about inputs of irrigation return flows and/or groundwater seepage through MS4s. Permit Part 3.2.6 requires the Permittee to list identified MS4 outfall locations where irrigation return flows and/or groundwater seepage are present during dry weather (see also Permit Part 3.2.2.6.). This is a first, interim step towards an assessment of water quality impacts resulting from these specific non-stormwater discharges. For any MS4 outfall where ongoing dry

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<sup>22</sup> ACHD 2019.

weather discharges are identified by the Permittee as associated with irrigation return flows and/or groundwater seepage, the term “appropriate action” in Permit Part 3.2.6 means, at a minimum, documentation in the Annual Report of the MS4 outfall location, and the Permittee’s determination of the source as either irrigation return flows or groundwater seepage. EPA encourages the Permittee to take action to eliminate such flows if it is identified as a source of pollutants pursuant to Permit Part 2.4.5.2. At a minimum, a summary list of all such outfall locations must be submitted with the Permit Renewal Application. This information will be collectively reassessed by EPA, IDEQ, and the Permittee at the time of the permit renewal to tailor future control measures to appropriately address non-stormwater discharges that may be contributing excess nutrient loads to receiving waters.

The City reports that it has identified many MS4 outfalls that appear to be discharging irrigation or ground water related non-stormwater flows as part of their field inspection procedures. This list of outfalls provides the starting point for continuing assessment activity during this permit term to confirm source(s) and status of such flows and comply with this permit provision.

- Permit Part 3.2.7 requires the Permittee to respond to spills and maintain appropriate spill prevention and response capabilities as appropriate within their jurisdiction. Through coordination with state and/or local agencies (under this provision, “agencies” refers to the organizations responsible for spill response), the goal is to provide maximum water quality protection at all times. EPA has included an explicit requirement directing the Permittee to notify the appropriate IDEQ regional office, Idaho State Communications Center, and/or the National Response Center, as specified by IDEQ in its CWA Section 401 certifications for prior MS4 permits issued by EPA.<sup>23</sup>
- Permit Part 3.2.8 requires coordination with appropriate agencies to ensure the proper disposal of used oil and toxic materials by employees and the public. The Permittee may comply with this requirement by continuing their outreach and public education efforts on proper recycling and disposal of used oil and household hazardous waste in their jurisdiction.
- Permit Part 3.2.9 requires the Permittee to continue to appropriately train staff to respond to spills, complaints, and illicit discharges/connections to the MS4. Permittee staff can be the “eyes and ears” of the stormwater program if they are trained to identify illicit discharges and spills or evidence of illegal dumping.

#### **2.4.3. CONSTRUCTION SITE STORMWATER RUNOFF CONTROL**

This SWMP control measure requires the Permittee to control construction site runoff discharges into their MS4s. 40 CFR § 122.34(b)(4) requires the Permittee to use an ordinance or regulatory mechanism to require proper construction site controls for sediment, erosion, and waste management at sites with land disturbance of one (1) or more acres. Additionally, construction activities disturbing less than one (1) acre are subject to this regulation if that activity is part of a common plan of development or sale that exceeds one (1) acre. Other mandatory control measure components are procedures for site plan review that considers potential water quality impacts; procedures for site inspection and enforcement; and procedures for the receipt and consideration of information submitted by the public.

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<sup>23</sup> IDEQ 2017, IDEQ 2019; IDEQ 2020.



Construction activities (such as clearing vegetation and excavating, moving, and compacting earth and rock) significantly change the land surface. The consequences of construction activities during rainfall events includes reduced stormwater infiltration, increased runoff volume and intensity, and higher soil erosion rates. While sediment and other pollutants are readily mobilized by precipitation during land disturbance activity, such discharges can be effectively prevented through the use of reasonable and effective erosion and sedimentation controls. Examples include the use of construction sequencing, and vegetative- or non-vegetative stabilization techniques.<sup>24</sup>

Local ordinances and requirements are key to ensuring that construction site operators use appropriate techniques to prevent pollutant discharges to the MS4s. Although discharges from all construction sites disturbing one or more acres in Idaho are independently subject to the *NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activity, #IDR120000* (Construction General Permit or CGP), it is appropriate for the MS4 operators to directly impose local construction site management requirements to prevent construction-related pollutants from entering the MS4s.

The City Code Title 9 Chapter 6 *Erosion and Sediment Control/Grading* regulates land disturbing activities from land disturbance greater than 1 acre or for more than 2 cubic yards of soils. See: [https://sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book\\_id=597&chapter\\_id=39128#s352655](https://sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=597&chapter_id=39128#s352655). The City actively educates contractors about these local requirements to obtain Erosion & Sediment Control (ESC) permits for projects disturbing 1 or more acres, and to have a certified Responsible Person assigned to ensure erosion and sediment controls are appropriately used. The City reviews and approves project plans and maintains an enforcement program that includes on-site inspection and consequences for non-compliance.

Individual components of the Permit's Construction Site Runoff Control Measure are described below:

- Permit Part 3.3.1 establishes a compliance deadline of 180 days before the Permit expiration date for the Permittee to update its existing programs, if needed, or to impose any new or revised control components in the Permit Area. This provision also defines the date by which any ACM Request must be submitted.
- Permit Part 3.3.2 outlines the expected scope of the Permittee's legal mechanism to reduce and prevent runoff from construction sites in its jurisdiction that disturb one (1) or more acres.
- Permit Part 3.3.3 requires written specifications to define appropriate site level controls for construction activities within the Permittee's jurisdiction. EPA clarifies that the type and extent of site-level erosion, sediment, and waste management controls will likely be different depending on site size and location. Therefore, the Permittee has the discretion to determine how best to control sediment and other pollutants in runoff from different sized construction sites.
- Permit Part 3.3.4 requires a preconstruction site plan review process to address construction site activity that will result in land disturbance of one (1) or more acres and includes consideration of public input. This review can be conducted using a

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<sup>24</sup> EPA 1999, pages 68758-68759; EPA 2009a, pages 7-3 through 7-26.

checklist or similar process to consider and address potential water quality impacts from the site activities.

- Permit Part 3.3.5 requires that the Permittee conduct prioritized construction site inspections and to enforce the applicable local requirements as needed. At a minimum, the Permittee must inspect and enforce their requirements at construction sites occurring in their jurisdictions that disturb one (1) or more acres.

In its latest Annual Report, the City reported that it had more than 1,400 construction projects occurring within City limits and conducted at least 1,300 inspections throughout the year. The City took formal enforcement action against at least two large projects disturbing more than five acres.

- Permit Part 3.3.6 requires the Permittee to have a written enforcement response policy or plan to guide and prioritize their oversight, inspection, and enforcement efforts.
- Permit Part 3.3.7 requires the Permittee to provide proper training for construction staff conducting plan review and inspections.

Ensuring that construction sites use appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls through BMP specifications, site plan review, in field inspection and enforcement has been shown to significantly reduce sediment loadings to nearby water bodies. By reducing sediment discharges, the City also commensurately reduces nutrients and other pollutants that bind to the sediment particles. Such control measures, when properly implemented, are consistent with the pollutant reduction expectations in the applicable TMDLs for the Lower Boise River.

#### **2.4.4. POST-CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FROM NEW DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT**

Permit Part 3.4 requires the Permittee to implement and enforce a program to control runoff from new development and redevelopment project sites, including projects involving streets and roads.

Pursuant to 40 CFR § 122.34(b)(5), the City must impose these controls at sites disturbing one (1) or more acres and at sites less than one (1) acre, which are part of a common plan of development or sale that exceeds one (1) acre. The Permittee must address runoff from new development and redevelopment project sites using a locally appropriate combination of structural and/or non-structural BMP requirements,<sup>25</sup> Further, the Permittee must enforce the requirements using an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism and ensure the adequate long-term operation and maintenance of the BMPs.<sup>26</sup>

The reissued Permit uses the term “permanent stormwater controls” instead of “post-construction stormwater management controls” to mean those controls that will treat or control pollutants in stormwater runoff from the development site on a permanent basis

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<sup>25</sup> “Non-structural requirements” include, but are not limited to, planning, zoning, and other local requirements such as buffer zones. “Structural controls” include, but are not limited to, the use of storage, infiltration basins, or vegetative practices such as rain gardens or artificial wetlands. See: 40 CFR§122.34(b)(5)(iii).

<sup>26</sup> See EPA 2012; EPA 2009; and 40 CFR §122.34(b)(5).

after construction is complete. This terminology is consistent with other MS4 permits issued by EPA Region 10 since 2012.

Through its ordinance, and other oversight activities described below the City has sufficient requirements in place to comply with the following control measures:

- Permit Part 3.4.1 establishes a compliance deadline of 180 days before the Permit expiration date for the Permittee to update their existing Post-Construction Stormwater Management control program and, if needed, to impose any new SWMP control measure components in the Permit Area. This timeframe is justified to allow the Permittee the flexibility to adjust their existing programs as necessary. This provision also defines the date by which any ACM Request(s) must be submitted.
- Permit Part 3.4.2 requires the Permittee to update their legal regulatory mechanism if needed to incorporate an onsite stormwater retention standard or require a treatment equivalent to the onsite retention standard, for new development and redevelopment sites. The purpose of this requirement is to prevent the creation of excess stormwater discharges and pollutant loading- from the impervious surfaces associated with urban development. Use of onsite stormwater management controls will reduce pollutants in regulated MS4 discharges to the MEP and proactively protect Idaho receiving waters by ensuring that water quality protections continue over the long term. Additional rationale for including this provision is provided in Appendix 3 of this Fact Sheet.

The City's Code, Title 10, Chapter 27, Section 6 *Subdivisions* is available at: [https://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book\\_id=597](https://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=597)

- Permit Part 3.4.3 requires the Permittee to maintain written specifications for the permanent stormwater controls allowed by the Permittee at development sites within their jurisdiction. These specifications must be utilized at sites disturbing at least one (1) or more acres.

The *Nampa Stormwater Design Standards* establishes specifications for drainage management at new and redeveloped sites. These standards can be reviewed online at <https://www.cityofnampa.us/DocumentCenter/View/7851/Nampa-Stormwater-Design-Standards-2017?bidId=>. Since 2005, all new development is required to retain stormwater runoff on-site, with provisions for treating the runoff with approved BMPs, and then discharging it to an infiltration basin or bioretention facility.<sup>27</sup>

- Permit Part 3.4.4 requires the Permittee to review and approve site plans for permanent stormwater controls at sites resulting from land disturbance of one (1) or more acres. Specific standards are a critical component of the program, but even the best local requirements must be supported by a review component to ensure that the locally established performance standards are met. To comply with this requirement, the Permittee must have the authority to withhold approvals when it determines that the controls at a specific site are not designed to meet established standards for permanent stormwater control.
- Permit Part 3.4.5 outlines the requirement for the Permittee to inspect and enforce their requirements for permanent stormwater controls at sites resulting from land disturbance of one or more acres. Inspection of permanent control measures is key

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<sup>27</sup> Nampa 2020.

to ensuring water quality protection over the long term. Without periodic inspection or maintenance, the permanent controls can instead become pollutant sources, rather than a means of prevention. An effective local inspection process, combined with appropriate enforcement if necessary, ensures that onsite controls are built according to approved plans and specifications, and use proper materials and installation techniques. EPA expects the Permittee to prioritize their inspection and enforcement to include any new permanent stormwater controls installed after the Permit effective date.

- Permit Part 3.4.6 requires the Permittee to ensure the long-term operation and maintenance (O&M) of permanent stormwater controls through the use of a database inventory to track and manage the operational condition of permanent stormwater controls within its jurisdiction. This database inventory can take the form of a computerized maintenance management system or asset management system that allows for the electronic logging of O&M tasks. Ongoing O&M is necessary to ensure that the BMPs will perform as designed over time. Inadequate maintenance of existing stormwater management controls is a primary shortcoming for most local SWMPs across the country. As with any infrastructure, deferred maintenance can increase costs and negatively affect receiving waters. Unmaintained BMPs will ultimately fail to perform their design functions and can become a nuisance and/or pose safety problems.<sup>28</sup> The Permittee must track those permanent controls which are known to them, or for which they accept ownership, beginning no later than the Permit effective date.

The City maintains an Asset Management System to prioritize its actions throughout its seven asset management zones, one zone per year. The 2019 Annual Report contains the City's summary of actions taken to maintain its drains/basins/sand and grease traps, conduct street sweeping, and alley/shoulder maintenance, and provide for snow removal. The City reports a variety of metrics including: The City TV-inspected and hydro-cleaned approximately 27,051.60 linear feet of various sizes of pipeline and removed approximately 243,900 gallons of water/debris removed during its maintenance activities during the latest reporting period.<sup>29</sup>

- Permit Part 3.4.7 requires the Permittee to ensure that their staff are sufficiently trained and/or qualified to review site plans for permanent stormwater controls, and/or for inspecting the installation and operation of permanent stormwater controls.

#### **2.4.5. POLLUTION PREVENTION AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING FOR MS4 OPERATIONS**

As noted above, O&M is an integral part of any SWMP, and, when coupled with good housekeeping and pollution prevention principles, reduces the risk of water quality problems from MS4 discharges. The minimum requirements for this control measure are set forth in 40 CFR § 122.34(b)(6), The administratively extended MS4 permit for City of Nampa required the implementation of an O&M program "intended to prevent or reduce pollutant runoff from municipal operations;" to develop an employee training program; and to prepare site-specific stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWPPPs) at the Permittees' own maintenance buildings and similar facilities. In compliance with the prior permit, the City summarized its Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping efforts to date in each Annual Report.

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<sup>28</sup> NRC 2008; Shaver, et al 2007.

<sup>29</sup> Nampa 2020.

Permit Part 3.5 requires the Permittee to properly operate and maintain their MS4s, actively manage runoff from Permittee owned and/or operated facilities and conduct their municipal activities to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4.

The Permittee must continue to focus on maintenance of their MS4s to protect water quality. Due to the diverse nature of MS4 facilities, ensuring appropriate inspection and maintenance schedules are in place for all types of infrastructure/facility is both relevant and necessary. Where needed, O&M procedures should include some manner or protocol for testing and safely disposing of waste materials and any associated decant water collected from catch basins or other MS4 infrastructure. Individual SWMP control measure components under the Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping control measure in Part 3.5 are reasonable, practicable, and consistent with other MS4 permits issued by EPA Region 10 since 2012.

Specific permit requirements are summarized below:

- Permit Part 3.5.1 establishes a compliance deadline of 180 days before the Permit expiration date for the Permittee to update its existing program(s), and/or to impose any new program components, in the Permit Area. EPA believes this timeframe is justified to allow the Permittee adequate opportunity to adjust its existing programs, as necessary, and ensure the required actions are sufficiently addressed in the Permit Area. This provision also defines the date by which any ACM Request(s) must be submitted.
- Permit Part 3.5.2 outlines requirements for the inspection of all Permittee catch basins and inlets within the MS4 service area at least once every five years and requires appropriate cleaning and/or maintenance activities based on the findings of those inspections.

Because roads and streets function as an integral part of the drainage conveyance systems within the Permit Area, and other Urbanized Areas of Idaho, EPA has included the following provisions for appropriate stormwater management through O&M activities for roads, streets, highways and parking lots.

- Permit Part 3.5.3 requires the Permittee to review and update their O&M procedures for streets, roads, highways, and parking lots that are owned, operated, and/or maintained by the Permittee to ensure procedures are protective of water quality and reduce the discharge of pollutants through the MS4.

Permit Part 3.5.3.3 also requires the Permittee to consider using water conservation measures for all landscaped areas associated with streets, roads, highways, and parking lots to prevent landscape irrigation water from discharging through the MS4. Excessive landscape watering can contain fertilizers and other compounds that, when discharged through the MS4, can increase nitrogen and phosphorus loading to impaired waters. Landscape irrigation can be considered an allowable non-stormwater discharge only when it is not a source of pollution under the Idaho WQS. See Permit Part 2.4.

- Part 3.5.4 requires the Permittee with street maintenance responsibilities to ensure that road material stockpiles (such as sand, salt, or sand with salt stockpiles) are managed in a manner that prevents pollutants from discharging to the MS4 or into any receiving water. An inventory of all such street materials must be maintained. No later than 180 days prior to the Permit expiration date, as part of the Permit Renewal

Application required by Permit Part 8.2, the Permittee must assess their Material Storage Locations for water quality impacts and must describe any structural or non-structural improvements made by the Permittee to prevent runoff from discharging to the MS4 or directly to a receiving water.

The City has stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWPPPs), imposed standard operating procedures and regularly inspects the facilities associated with the Fleet and Vehicle Maintenance and Street Divisions.<sup>30</sup>

- Permit Part 3.5.5 requires a Permittee with street, road, highway and parking lot responsibilities to document the adequacy of their sweeping activities through a sweeping management plan. A Permittee without street maintenance responsibilities does not have an obligation to comply with this provision.
- Permit Part 3.5.6 requires the Permittee to review and update their O&M procedures for a variety of other typical municipal activities to ensure procedures protect water quality and reduce the discharge of pollutants through the MS4.
- Permit Part 3.5.7 requires the Permittee to ensure that their staff, and others operating in public areas owned and/or operated by the Permittee, are appropriately handling and/or using pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers used within the Permit Area. This provision is consistent with the *NPDES General Permit for Discharges from The Application of Pesticides, for the State of Idaho*, NPDES Permit No. IDG870000.
- Permit Part 3.5.8 requires the Permittee to manage onsite materials at their maintenance yards and other City-operated locations that discharge into the MS4, and to prevent pollutants in runoff through use of SWPPPs. Plans developed for such locations can use the basic SWPPP framework identified in various EPA guidance materials and may follow a “template plan” to establish basic requirements that can be tailored to the location/responsible staff.

As noted above, the City maintains SWPPPs for its Fleet and Vehicle Maintenance and Street Divisions.<sup>31</sup>

- Permit Part 3.5.9 requires the Permittee to work cooperatively to reduce litter in their jurisdiction to prevent the conveyance of trash and other material through the MS4.
- Permit Part 3.5.10 requires the Permittee to ensure appropriate training for responsible staff such that O&M activities are conducted properly and with attention to prevent potential water quality impacts.

## **2.5. REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO WATER QUALITY-IMPAIRED RECEIVING WATERS**

Consistent with 40 CFR § 122.34(c), Permit Part 4 requires the City to continue pollutant reduction activities, and to quantitatively monitor/assess the effectiveness of those activities, to address impairment pollutants in MS4 discharges to the water quality impaired segments of Indian Creek, Mason Creek and the Boise River. For the purposes of the Permit, the phrase “impairment pollutants” means any pollutant identified by IDEQ or EPA as a cause of impairment of any waterbody that receives MS4 discharges authorized under the Permit.

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<sup>30</sup> Nampa 2020.

<sup>31</sup> Nampa 2020.

In compliance with the prior Permit, in 2011 the City began monitoring MS4 discharges from at least one stormwater outfall discharging to each of the following water bodies: Indian Creek, Mason Creek, and Wilson Drain. (Wilson Drain, also known as Wilson Creek, is a primary tributary to Indian Creek that flows through Nampa). The City was required to analyze discharges for the impairment pollutants (total suspended solids, total phosphorus, total nitrogen, *E. coli*) and flow at least four times per year; the City has collected such samples during water years 2012 through 2019. The City selected its three monitoring sites to represent varying land use types. The Indian Creek Outfall #IC 80 location represents mixed use composed of commercial, industrial, residential, and transportation uses; the Mason Creek Outfall #MC 47 location represents predominately residential land use; the Wilson Drain Outfall #WC 42 is predominately commercial land use. See map in Appendix 2, Figure A.2.2 of this document. Lab reports of sampling results are provided in appendices to the City's Annual Report(s). In general, the MS4 sample data collected to date indicates that pollutant concentrations are variable and often elevated. The City identifies that mean values for total phosphorus and total nitrogen in stormwater discharges appear to be slightly elevated in the summer months when compared to monitoring periods in other seasons.<sup>32</sup>

EPA concludes that it is appropriate for the City to continue actions that monitor/assess and reduce the impairment pollutants from their MS4 into Indian Creek and Mason Creek. Additional discussion of the water quality impairments for these receiving waters, and EPA's rationale for continuing to include such requirements, is described in Appendix 5 of this Fact Sheet.

EPA clarifies that the City is free to choose new activities, or to continue existing actions, designed to measure, quantify, and reduce the discharge of the impairment pollutants from the MS4. These actions/activities must be linked and coordinated to the water quality goals and available water quality management plan(s); in addition, the City must continue to measure the relative success or failure of such actions over time.

Permit Part 4 requires the Permittee to submit, within two years of the Permit effective date, an updated written description of at least two pollutant reduction activities, and an updated monitoring/assessment plan, to be conducted during the remainder of the Permit term. EPA and IDEQ will review the submitted materials, and the NPDES permitting authority will modify the Permit to incorporate the pollutant reduction activity and monitoring/assessment plan.

The Permit allows the City to work collaboratively with other entities and provides the City with flexibility to define what/how they will continue reducing impairment pollutants consistent with the available Lower Boise River water quality assessments and watershed advisory group directives. Through the Permit modification process, the approach specified in Part 4 (namely, requiring a current written description of the continued or new actions to be submitted for inclusion in the Permit) also provides transparency to interested members of the public about the Permittee's actions.

## **2.6. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXCURSIONS ABOVE THE IDAHO WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

Permit Part 5 sets forth requirements for the Permittee to report and address excursions above the Idaho WQS as directed by Permit Part 2.1. EPA has outlined an adaptive management approach for use when there are ongoing discharges from the MS4 that

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<sup>32</sup> Nampa 2020, specifically Appendix I.

cause or contribute to excursions above the applicable Idaho WQS and are not being addressed by other SWMP control measure requirements.

Permit Part 5 provides the Permittee with the opportunity to use adaptive management principles to scope corrective action steps to address ongoing, prolific pollutant source(s). Where such solutions may involve structural controls, require capital expenditures, and/or that necessitate long-range planning and implementation schedules, Permit Part 5 provides opportunity for the Permittee to define and articulate such long-range investment plans.

EPA supports robust long-term planning for stormwater management by MS4 communities and recognizes that the most successful stormwater planning uses multi-benefit approaches to solve stormwater pollution control challenges. It also recognizes that for a plan to be more affordable, communities need to make financial investments over a time horizon of sufficient length to allow for cost efficiencies through working with other municipal programs.<sup>33</sup>

Any Permittee that submits information pursuant to Permit Part 5 will be prompted to report on their incremental progress towards their identified milestones in both their Annual Report, and as part of a complete Permit Renewal Application.

## **2.7. MONITORING, RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Consistent with 40 CFR § 122.34(d), Permit Part 6 requires that the Permittee evaluate program compliance, keep records, and submit Annual Reports. Furthermore, Section 308 of the CWA, federal regulation 40 CFR § 122.44(i), and subsequent EPA guidance requires monitoring to determine compliance with terms and conditions of a NPDES permit.

### **2.7.1. COMPLIANCE EVALUATION**

Permit Part 6.1 requires the Permittee to assess their compliance with the Permit requirements annually and to document the evaluation through the submittal of an Annual Report. Although the regulations allow less-than-annual reporting in a second term MS4 permit, EPA has instead provided a concise "fillable PDF" Annual Report format for use during the Permit term. The five-year permit term will coincide with EPA's national transition to online reporting for MS4 permits; this transition is expected to be accomplished no later than December 2021. To maintain reporting continuity during this transition, EPA believes it appropriate to retain annual reporting in the Permit. In efforts to simplify this reporting process, EPA has developed streamlined fillable report format to replace the previously used narrative-style report. Once primacy for the NPDES stormwater permit program is transferred to IDEQ, the Permittee may negotiate different reporting frequencies in the subsequent MS4 permit, pursuant to 40 CFR § 122.34(d)(3).<sup>34</sup>

### **2.7.2. MONITORING AND/OR ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES**

Permit Part 6.2 provides supplemental detail to the requirements in Permit Part 4 and requires the Permittee to evaluate the effectiveness of their SWMP at protecting water quality by quantifying stormwater pollutant reductions. Conducting monitoring and/or assessment activities provides a means for the Permittee to measure the effectiveness

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<sup>33</sup> EPA 2016g.

<sup>34</sup> EPA 2015c.



of specific management actions, aides in determining whether pollutant reduction goals in applicable watershed plans are met and helps to justify budgets that support stormwater programs. While many MS4 program goals are output-based (e.g. number of stormwater treatment practices installed, number of educational brochures distributed) and can be useful from a program accounting standpoint, such measurements often cannot be used to quantify changes in water quality resulting from MS4 program activities.<sup>35</sup>

The Permittee must submit a monitoring/assessment plan as directed by Permit Part 4 that meets the quality assurance objectives at Permit Part 6.2.7 no later than two years after the Permit effective date. This deadline is consistent with other MS4 permits issued by EPA in Idaho since 2019. Standard NPDES permit conditions are included in Part 6.2 related to representative sampling, additional monitoring, and use of sufficiently sensitive testing methods. If the Permittee elects to continue monitoring MS4 discharges, Part 6.2.5 summarizes the basic components of any wet weather stormwater discharge monitoring.

As previously noted, the administratively continued Permit requires the City to conduct stormwater discharge sampling four times per year from MS4 outfalls discharging to Indian Creek, Mason Creek and the Wilson Drain. The resulting data collected during calendar years 2011 – 2019 is useful for identifying drainage areas and/or land use types where it may be appropriate to receive additional focus in the future.<sup>36</sup>

While developing this and other similar MS4 permits for regulated MS4 discharges in Idaho, EPA considered several options for how the City and other Permittees might continue monitoring and/or assessing compliance with Permit requirements, given the general difficulty and overall expense associated with MS4 discharge monitoring. EPA envisions that there are many possible options a Permittee may consider to monitor/assess reductions in pollutant loading from their MS4(s) as a result of implementing their SWMP control measures. For example, Permittees may choose to continue to monitor stormwater discharges from the existing selected MS4 outfall monitoring locations. Alternatively, Permittees may revise their monitoring/assessment activities to better match their current goals and objectives in efforts to increase reductions in pollutant loadings from their MS4 and to improve their overall stormwater management.

EPA recognizes that the MS4 permits in Idaho should not impose a “one size fits all” monitoring and assessment approach. The guidelines at Permit Part 6.2. provide the Permittee the flexibility to develop and implement monitoring/assessment activities that are appropriate for their MS4. The NPDES permitting authority will modify the Permit to incorporate the Permittee’s intended plan. MS4 stakeholders around the country have found that relevant watershed-level questions must drive a Permittee’s monitoring and assessment choices. Because water quality benefits will only be realized over the long-term, it is important for MS4 Permittees to invest their time and energy into long-term implementation mechanisms that are linked to appropriate monitoring and assessment

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<sup>35</sup> CWP 2009.

<sup>36</sup> See Nampa Monitoring Plan Revision 2.0 dated December 31, 2019. Annual monitoring data can be found in the City’s Annual Reports available on its website, <https://www.cityofnampa.us/1206/Program-Documents-Documentos-del-Program>

actions. Monitoring and assessment data contribute to new knowledge and resulting data should then be made broadly available.<sup>37</sup>

Examples of monitoring/assessment activities that the Permittee may consider include:

- Conducting biological or macroinvertebrate sampling, instream monitoring, or other means to assess certain parameters or watershed outcomes.
- Focused efforts to influence human behavior through outreach and educational efforts.
- Working collaboratively with other entities within a watershed or across the state to accomplish the SWMP goals.

Permit Part 6.2.6 requires Permittee to create, or revise any existing, Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) to guide the intended monitoring/assessment activities.

### **2.7.3. RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING**

Permit Part 6.3 requires the Permittee to keep all records associated with the Permit for a period of at least five years and submit such records only when requested by EPA. The Permittee must ensure that SWMP materials are available to the public, and they may charge a reasonable fee for copies and/or require a member of the public to provide advance notice of their request. As previously noted, Permit Part 3.1 requires the Permittee to provide their SWMP Document to the public electronically via one or more dedicated websites.

Permit Part 6.4 describes the overall reporting requirements, including the schedule and required content for the Annual Report, the final monitoring/assessment report, and the pollutant reduction activity report. At a minimum, Permittee must submit Annual Reports of progress to both EPA and IDEQ using the recommended Annual Report format provided in the Permit Appendix no later than 61 days after the close of relevant reporting period. The Annual Report format will prompt the Permittee for appropriate information according to compliance dates specified in the final Permit.

In the future, all NPDES reports submitted in compliance with an applicable permit must be submitted electronically through EPA's national electronic reporting system. However, the MS4 Permit program is one of the last types of NPDES permits to be accommodated by this new system.<sup>38</sup> Until the electronic system is available, the Permittee must submit signed versions of their Annual Reports to EPA and IDEQ addresses provided in the Permit.

### **2.8. STANDARD PERMIT CONDITIONS**

Permit Parts 7 and 8 contain standard regulatory language that must be included in all NPDES permits. The standard regulatory language addresses compliance responsibilities, and other general requirements. Although certain provisions may not strictly apply to MS4 facilities (for example, the upset or bypass provisions), it is mandatory that each of the standard provisions be included in a NPDES permit. Such provisions have been included in other Idaho MS4 NPDES permits issued by EPA since 2012. EPA notes that if a particular provision in Permit Parts 7 or 8 does not apply to the

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<sup>37</sup> Stein 2013; EPA 2016g; NRC 2008.

<sup>38</sup> EPA 2015c.

Permittee's MS4 discharges or facilities, the Permittee does not need to comply with that provision.

### **2.8.1. DUTY TO REAPPLY**

In accordance with 40 CFR § 122.46(a), NPDES permits are in effect for a fixed term not to exceed five (5) years. Permit Part 8.2 requires the Permittee to submit an NPDES permit renewal application no later than 180 days before the Permit expiration date if it intends to continue operational control and management of MS4 discharges after the Permit expiration date.

Because there are no NPDES application forms for the MS4 permit program, Permit Part 8.2.1 describes the expected content of a complete Permit Renewal Application. The deadline for the Permit Renewal Application (180 days before the permit expiration date) corresponds to the Permit's implementation/compliance dates; therefore, as part of any request for continued permit coverage, the Permittee must submit the attachments listed in Permit Part 8.2.1 to demonstrate how they have complied with the current Permit requirements.

The Permittee must submit a 5th Year Annual Report, by the Permit expiration date, using the format provided in the Permit. In the event that a new permit is not issued on or before the Permit expiration date, any Permittee that has submitted a Permit Renewal Application in accordance with Part 8.2, may be authorized to continue discharging under an administrative extension of the Permit. If the Permittee is granted an administrative extension, they must continue to adhere to the terms and conditions of the Permit, which includes submitting the Annual Report(s) by the anniversary of the Permit expiration date, until coverage under a reissued or replacement Permit is available.

## **3. Other Legal Requirements**

### **3.1. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, directs each federal agency to "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high, and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities." EPA strives to enhance the ability of overburdened communities to participate fully and meaningfully in the permitting process for EPA-issued permits, including NPDES permits. "Overburdened" communities can include minority, low-income, tribal, and indigenous populations, or communities that potentially experience disproportionate environmental harms and risks. As part of an agency-wide effort, EPA Region 10 will prioritize enhanced public involvement opportunities for EPA-issued permits that may involve activities with significant public health or environmental impacts on already overburdened communities. For more information, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice>

As part of the permit development process, EPA Region 10 conducted a screening analysis to determine whether the Permit action could affect overburdened communities. EPA uses a nationally consistent geospatial tool that contains demographic and environmental data for the United States at the Census block group level. This tool is used to identify permits for which enhanced outreach may be warranted.

Based on this screening, the Nampa Urbanized Area is identified as an area where potentially overburdened communities reside. In order to ensure that individuals in this area are able to participate meaningfully in the NPDES permit process, EPA will work with the City to promote community engagement regarding the renewal of the City's MS4 permit, and ensure that interested stakeholders continue to be informed of the opportunity to provide their input on appropriate local stormwater management activities.

EPA encourages all MS4 Permittees to review (and to consider adopting, where appropriate) *Promising Practices for Permit Applicants Seeking EPA-Issued Permits: Ways To Engage Neighboring Communities* as described in EPA document available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/05/09/2013-10945/epa-activities-to-promote-environmental-justice-in-the-permit-application-process#p-104>.

### **3.2. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7(a)(2) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding potential effects an action may have on listed endangered species.

EPA reviewed available information from the NOAA Fisheries website and the USFWS' Information for Planning and Consultation website, and has determined that reissuance of the Permit for discharges from the City of Nampa MS4 will have no effect on any listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, and as a result, consultation is not required on this Permit action.<sup>39</sup>

### **3.3. ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT**

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is the waters and substrate (sediments, etc.) necessary for fish spawning, breeding, feeding, or growing to maturity. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires EPA to consult with the NOAA-Fisheries if a proposed action has the potential to adversely affect (by reducing the quality and/or quantity of) EFH. EPA reviewed the current NOAA-Fisheries maps reflecting EFH for freshwater species, and there is no EFH located in the Nampa Urbanized Area.<sup>40</sup> Therefore, EPA determines that the issuance of the Permit will not affect any EFH species, and consultation is not required for this action.

### **3.4. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of federal undertakings on historic properties listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places. The term federal "undertaking" in NHPA regulations to include a project, activity, or program of a federal agency that can result on changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any historic properties are located in the area of potential effects for that project, activity or program. See 36 CFR § 802(o). Historic Properties include prehistoric or historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects that are included in, or are eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. See 36 CFR § 802(e). Federal undertakings include EPA's issuance of a NPDES permit.

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<sup>39</sup> USFWS 2020b, NOAA 2020a; EPA 2020.

<sup>40</sup> NOAA 2020b.

EPA has determined that the reduction of pollutants in runoff through compliance with a MS4 discharge permit will not result in the disturbance of any site listed or eligible for listing in the National Historic Register. Therefore, EPA believes that the actions associated with the Permit are also in compliance with the terms and conditions of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Pursuant to Permit Part 8.10, the Permittee is reminded that they must comply with applicable state, Tribal and local laws, including those concerning protection of historic properties. If any permitted entity engages in any activity which meets all of the following criteria, then they must consult with and obtain approval from the State Historic Preservation Office prior to initiating the activity:

- The permitted entity is conducting the activity in order to facilitate compliance with the MS4 Permit;
- The activity includes excavation and/or construction; and
- The activity disturbs previously undisturbed land.

Examples of actions that may meet the above criteria include but are not limited to: retention/detention basin construction; storm drain line construction; infiltration basin construction; dredging; and stabilization projects (e.g., retaining walls, gabions). The requirement to submit information on plans for future earth disturbing is not intended for activities such as maintenance and private development construction projects.

### **3.5. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT AND OTHER FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS**

40 CFR § 122.49 lists the federal laws that may apply to the issuance of permits i.e., ESA, NHPA, the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA), NEPA, and Executive Orders, among others. The NEPA compliance program requires analysis of information regarding potential impacts, development, and analysis of options to avoid or minimize impacts; and development and analysis of measures to mitigate adverse impacts.

EPA has not promulgated effluent limitation guidelines or new source performance standards specific to MS4 discharges. Therefore, MS4 permits are not subject the NEPA.

Idaho is not located in the U.S. coastal zone, so CZARA does not apply to the issuance of the Permit. In addition, the Permit will not authorize the construction of any water resources facility or the impoundment of any water body. No regulated small MS4s are located in areas with Wild and Scenic River designations. Therefore, EPA determines that the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 USC § 661 et seq., and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 USC § 470 et seq., does not apply to the issuance of the Permit.

### **3.6. PERMIT DATES**

The Permit will expire five years from the effective date. As proposed, the Permit assumes an effective date of November 1, 2020. Compliance dates for SWMP control measure implementation, Annual Report submittals, etc., are tentatively identified in the Permit (in the upfront Schedule and in pertinent text) based on the final Permit's effective date.

During discussions Idaho stakeholders in late 2016 and early 2017 regarding preliminary draft MS4 documents, EPA was reminded to remain cognizant of local government

budget planning cycles (based on a fiscal year calendar October – September) when establishing implementation deadlines in the Permit. In response, EPA has previously considered calculating MS4 Permit compliance dates assuming an effective date of October 1.

**3.7. STATE CERTIFICATION OF THE DRAFT PERMIT**

Section 401 of the CWA requires EPA to seek State certification before issuing a final permit. As a result of the certification, the State may require more stringent permit conditions or additional monitoring requirements to ensure that the permit complies with water quality standards, or treatment standards established pursuant to any State law or regulation.

As previously noted, EPA will request that IDEQ certify the permit for the City's MS4 discharges. Questions or comments regarding the IDEQ's CWA §401 certification should be directed to the IDEQ's Boise Regional Office at (208) 373-0550.

#### **4. REFERENCES USED IN THIS PERMITTING DECISION**

The following is a partial list of references supporting the development of the Permit; additional references are available in the Administrative Record for the permit action.

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## Appendix 1 - Statutory and Regulatory Overview

### Pollutants Typically Found in Urban Runoff

Stormwater is the surface runoff that results from rain and snow melt. Urban development alters the landscape's natural infiltration, and human activity generates pollutants that accumulate on paved or impervious surfaces. Uncontrolled pollutants and flow associated with stormwater discharges from urban areas can negatively affect water quality. Contaminants enter stormwater from a variety of sources in the urban landscape. Urban stormwater is often a contributing factor where there is a water quality standard impairment in a particular water body. Stormwater or urban runoff typically contains a mixture of pollutants, including the following major constituents:

- Sediment;
- Nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus);
- Chlorides;
- Trace metals;
- Petroleum hydrocarbons;
- Microbial pollution;
- Organic chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, and industrial); and
- Temperature.<sup>41</sup>

An increase in impervious surface cover will increase the amount of runoff. Effects of runoff generally take one of two forms. First, an increase in the type and quantity of pollutants in stormwater runoff, where these pollutants become suspended in runoff and are carried to receiving waters and can impair the aquatic life uses of these waters. The second kind of runoff effect occurs by increasing the quantity of water delivered to the water body as a result of storms. Increased impervious surface area (such as, parking lots, driveways, and rooftops) interrupts the natural process of gradual percolation of water through vegetation and soil, and the water that would percolate under natural conditions may instead be discharged through the MS4. The effects of this alteration include streambank scouring and downstream flooding, which can affect aquatic life and damage property.<sup>42</sup>

### Statutory and Regulatory Background for the MS4 Permit Program

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 402(p), 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater regulations establish permit requirements for regulated MS4 discharges. Section 402(p)(3)(B) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §1342(p)(3)(B) requires any NPDES permit for MS4 discharges to effectively prohibit non-precipitation related flows from entering the MS4, and require controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable (MEP), including management practices, control techniques, and system design and engineering methods, and such other provisions determined to be appropriate by the NPDES permitting authority.

Definitions of relevant terms, such as “*municipal separate storm sewer*,” and “*small MS4*,” are found at 40 CFR §122.26(b). In general, a *municipal separate storm sewer* includes any publicly-owned conveyance or system of conveyances that discharges to waters of the United States, is designed or used for collecting and conveying stormwater, is not a combined sewer, and is not

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<sup>41</sup> Shaver, Horner, et al. 2007; EPA 1990; EPA 1999a, and EPA 1999b.

<sup>42</sup> USGS and EPA, 2015, page 61.

part of a publicly owned treatment works. A *municipal separate storm sewer system*, or MS4, includes roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and/or storm drains.<sup>43</sup>

In 1990, EPA developed the first phase of federal stormwater regulations as directed by the CWA. The “Phase I” regulations established NPDES permit application and related requirements for discharges from large MS4s and medium MS4s. The Phase I regulation identified the large- and medium MS4s nationally based on the 1990 Census population. Based on the 1990 Census in Idaho, the Phase I stormwater regulations automatically designated MS4 operators discharging within the boundaries of Garden City and Boise as medium MS4s.<sup>44</sup>

In 1999, EPA developed the “Phase II” stormwater regulations, and designated additional small MS4s as needing NPDES permits. Regulated small MS4s include any MS4 discharge not already covered by Phase I that is located (partially or wholly) within an Urbanized Area (UA) as defined by the latest decennial Census. Regulated small MS4s in Idaho are located in Census-defined UAs of Coeur d’Alene; Lewiston; Nampa; Boise; Pocatello; and Idaho Falls. The Phase II regulation also defines regulated small MS4s as those systems with a UA that serve military bases or other properties owned by the United States; colleges and universities; large hospital or prison complexes; and highway systems.<sup>45</sup> In Idaho, various public entities own and/or operate regulated small MS4s within UAs, including, but not limited to: cities and counties; local highway districts; Idaho Transportation Department;; and state or community colleges and universities.

The Phase II regulation includes authority for EPA (or states that administer the NPDES program as the permitting authority) to require NPDES permits for other unregulated stormwater discharges by a designation process.<sup>46</sup>

Permits for small MS4 discharges must include terms and conditions to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the MEP, to protect water quality, and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act.<sup>47</sup> The MS4 permittee must control pollutants in their MS4 discharges to the MEP by addressing the six “minimum control measures,” i.e., public education and outreach, public participation and involvement, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site runoff control, post construction runoff control, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping. A regulated small MS4 operator may seek NPDES permit coverage under an available general permit, or the operator may apply for an individual permit.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> See: 40 CFR §122.26(b); 122.32(a); and EPA 1990.

<sup>44</sup> In 2000, EPA issued a single individual NPDES permit (#IDS027561) for the Phase I MS4 discharges owned/operated by six co-permittees operating in Garden City and Boise, ID; reissued Permit #IDS027561 effective January 2013 -January 2018.

<sup>45</sup> See: 40 CFR §§ 122.26(b)(16) and 122.30 through 37; and EPA 1999. U.S. Census maps for the Coeur d’Alene, Lewiston (ID)-Clarkston (WA), Nampa, Boise, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls UAs available at [http://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc10map/UAUC\\_RefMap/ua/](http://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc10map/UAUC_RefMap/ua/).

<sup>46</sup> See: 40 CFR § 122.26(a)(9)(i)(C) and (D)

<sup>47</sup> See: CWA Section 402(p)(3); 40 CFR §122.34(a); EPA 2016a and 2016b. EPA now refers to this phrase as the *MS4 permit standard*.

<sup>48</sup> See: 40 CFR § 122.34(b) and additional discussion in Section 2 of this Fact Sheet.

## **Appendix 2 – Map: City of Nampa MS4**

The City submitted an updated MS4 map with its 2019 Annual Report, Appendix G. This report is available on the City of Nampa’s website:

<https://cityofnampa.us/DocumentCenter/View/11504/Amended-Signed-City-of-Nampa-MS4-Annual-Report--Final--2019?bidId=>

**Figure A.2.1** below is an excerpted representation from the City’s MS4 map showing a subset of outfalls that discharge to Indian Creek, Mason Creek, and other conveyances.

**Figure A.2.2** is a representative map of the City’s MS4 monitoring locations, excerpted from *Nampa’s NPDES MS4 Monitoring Plan Revision 2.0* dated December 31, 2019, as submitted to EPA with the 2019 Annual Report as Appendix I.

EPA notes that the Monitoring Plan makes the following observation about the Nampa MS4:

*“Unlike urban areas in other parts of the country, the City has a relatively high number of stormwater outfalls given the City’s relatively small surface area. To date, approximately 1,800 outfalls have been identified and entered into the City-wide stormwater system map. Considering the City’s relatively small overall surface area of approximately 21,260 acres, this equates to an average catchment area per outfall of approximately 12 acres. In addition, past City stormwater drainage ordinances required site drainage such that gutter and conveyance swale flow shall be intercepted by underground conveyance or storage system every 750 ft. This resulted in significant additions to the overall MS4 system and segmenting of large drainage areas into much smaller areas. In addition, the City has required new development to retain the 100-year storm event on site since 2005. This requirement has resulted in a reduction of inflows to the MS4 from large impervious areas. Therefore, considering the number of outfalls and past City ordinance requirements, drainage areas to specific outfall locations will be relatively smaller than typical MS4 outfall monitoring locations.”*

Figure A.2.1:

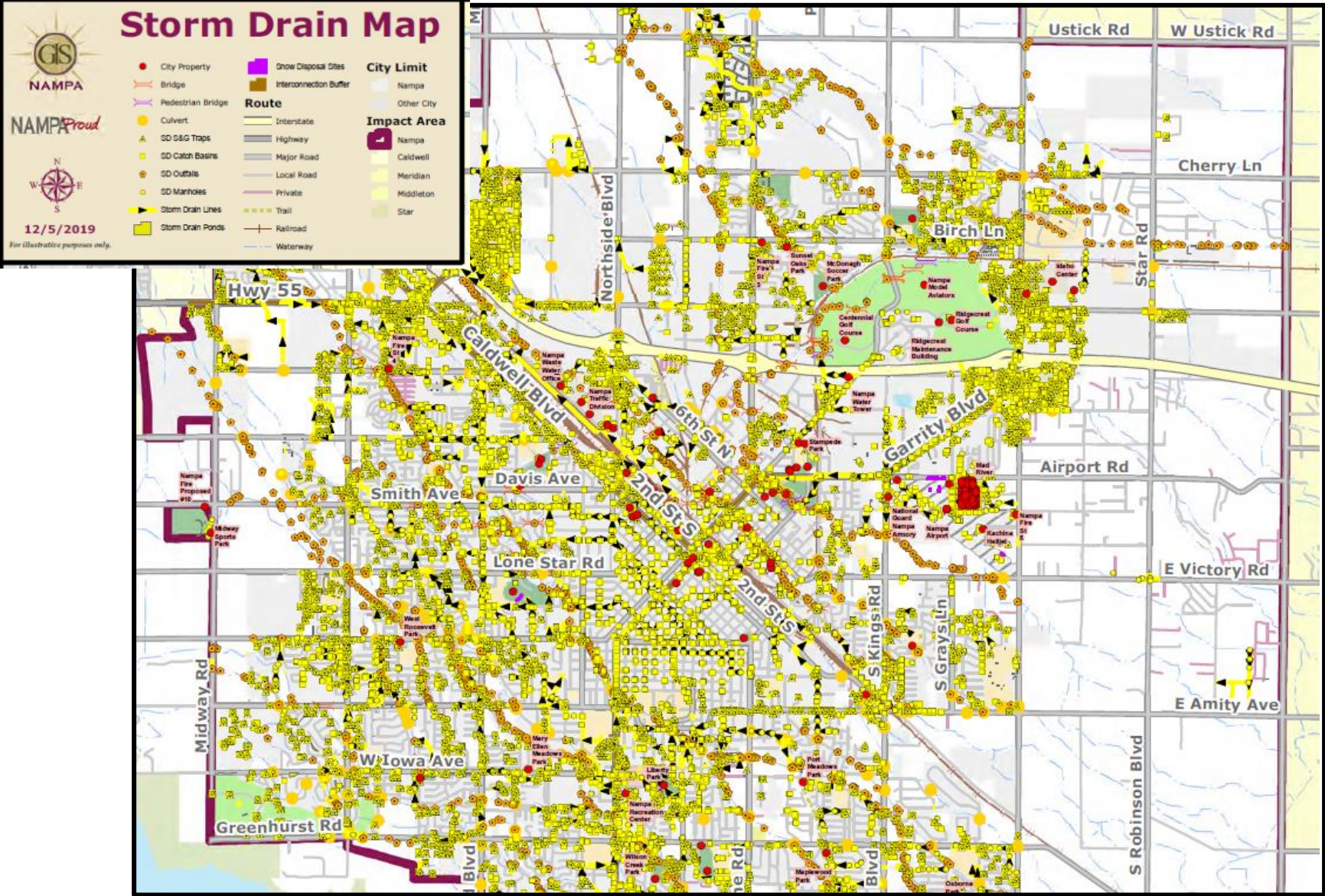
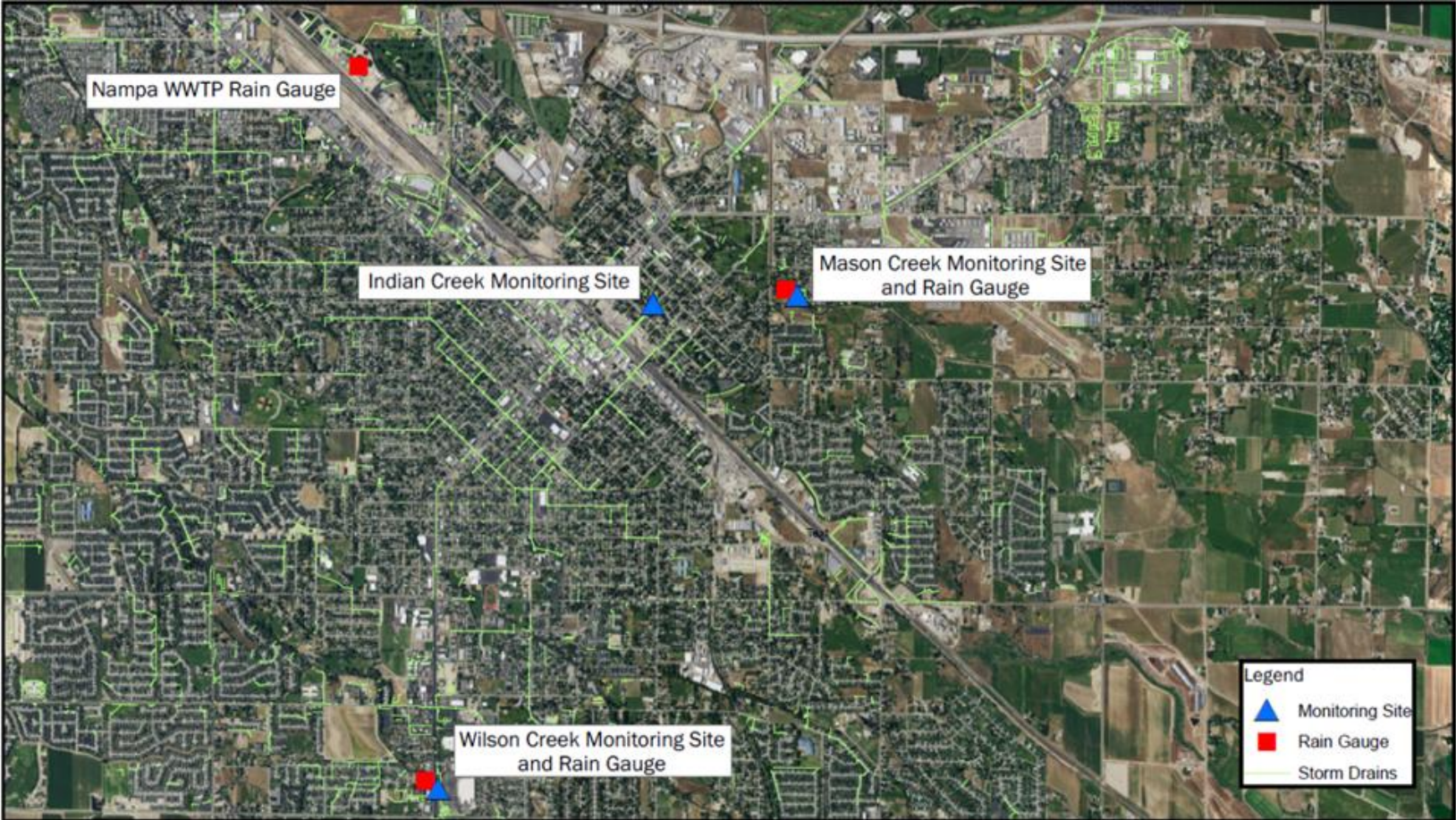




Figure A.2.1

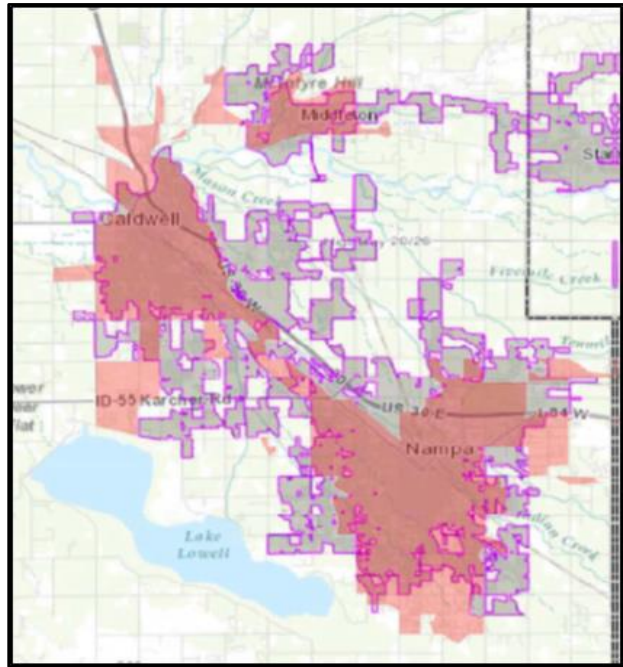


**Brown AND Caldwell** City of Nampa Stormwater Monitoring Overview Map

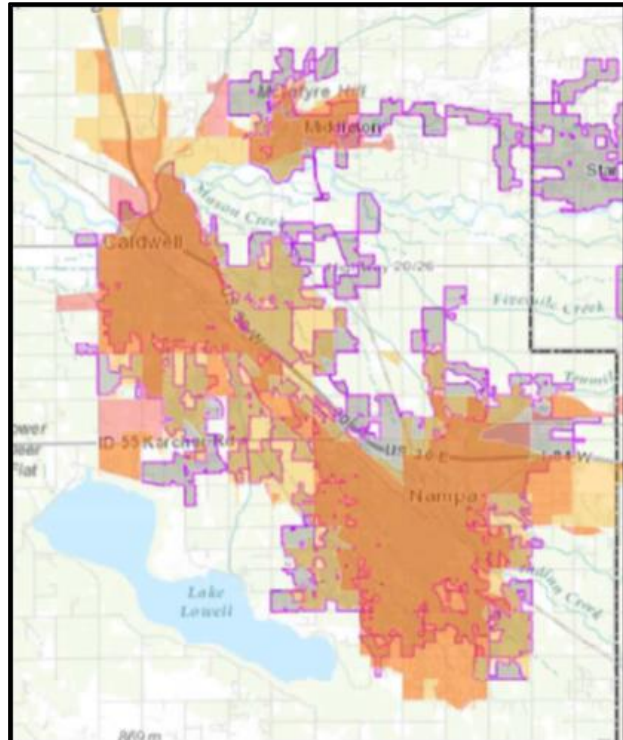


### Appendix 3 – Map: Nampa Urbanized Area

|       |             |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nampa | Census 2000 | <a href="http://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/urbanarea/uaoutline/UA2000/ua60976/">http://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/urbanarea/uaoutline/UA2000/ua60976/</a>           |
|       | Census 2010 | <a href="http://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc10map/UAUC_RefMap/ua/ua60976_nampa_id/">http://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc10map/UAUC_RefMap/ua/ua60976_nampa_id/</a> |



**Figure A.3.1: City and Year 2000 UA Boundaries for the Nampa Urbanized Area**



**Figure A.3.2: Combined Year 2000 UA and Year 2010 UA Boundaries for the Nampa Urbanized Area**

## **Appendix 4 - Rationale for Onsite Retention Standard Or Treatment Equivalent In Permit Part 3.4**

The requirements in Permit Part 3.4 will improve upon the site design specifications, guidelines, and other policy documents that are currently required by MS4 Permittee jurisdictions in Idaho. The purpose of requiring an onsite stormwater design standard in this and other Idaho MS4 permits is to reduce pollutants in regulated MS4 discharges to the MEP and improve upon the protection of water quality in Urbanized Areas of Idaho by helping to maintain or restore stable hydrology in adjacent receiving waters.

The following discussion provides additional background on EPA's rationale for including this requirement being necessary to meet the MS4 permit standard for Idaho.

It is well understood nationally that uncontrolled runoff from new development and redeveloped areas negatively affects receiving water bodies.<sup>49</sup> Pavement and other impervious surfaces in urban settings prevent infiltration of precipitation, and the resulting runoff increases both in volume and velocity, which in turn causes the erosion of stream banks and scouring of streambeds. Fine sediments and pollutants from automobiles, landscape pesticides, and fertilizers enter waterbodies, and can damage fish spawning areas and other aquatic habitat. Where traditional stormwater management practices typically employ engineered, end-of-pipe practices, (that tend to control only peak flow rates and total suspended solids concentrations), such conventional practices typically fail to address widespread and cumulative hydrologic modifications within a watershed that increase runoff volumes and rates, causing excessive erosion and stream channel degradation. Traditional practices also fail to treat runoff for nutrients, pathogens, and metals pollutants typically found in urban settings.<sup>50</sup>

Permanent stormwater control measures that involve prevention- such as product substitution, better site design, downspout disconnection, and conservation of natural areas - as well as watershed and land use planning, can dramatically reduce both the volume of runoff and pollutant loads from new development and redevelopment. In particular, site-level stormwater control measures that harvest, infiltrate, and evapotranspire stormwater runoff are critical to reducing the volume and pollutant loading associated with smaller storms.<sup>51</sup>

"Green Infrastructure" (GI) or "green stormwater infrastructure" (GSI), are terms used to describe the type of permanent stormwater management techniques that are cost-effective, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. Section 502 of the Clean Water Act defines GI as "...the range of measures that use plant or soil systems, permeable pavement or other permeable surfaces or substrates, stormwater harvest and reuse, or landscaping to store, infiltrate, or evapotranspire stormwater and reduce flows to sewer systems or to surface waters." Such techniques, including site level "Low Impact Development" (LID) practices, at new development or redevelopment projects involve both stormwater management and land development strategies emphasizing conservation and integration of natural features with small scale engineered hydrologic controls to more closely mimic predevelopment hydrologic function.

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<sup>49</sup> EPA 1983; EPA 1999.

<sup>50</sup> Shaver, et al., 2007. Holz, 2008; and Horner, 2008.

<sup>51</sup> NRC 2008.

A comprehensive approach to long-term stormwater management using GI/GSI, and LID seeks to:

- Preserve, protect and enhance natural landscape features, such as undisturbed forests, meadows, wetlands, and other undisturbed areas that provide natural stormwater management;
- Reduce overall land consumption, and use land efficiently, to reduce total watershed or regional impervious cover;
- Recycle land by directing new development to already degraded land, e.g., parking lots, vacant buildings, abandoned malls; and
- Direct stormwater into the ground near where it fell through infiltration, prevent rainfall from falling to the ground through interception, return water back to the atmosphere through evapotranspiration, and/or otherwise manage stormwater through reuse techniques.<sup>52</sup>

Since 2008, EPA has encouraged MS4 jurisdictions to employ a volume-based approach to stormwater management at new development and redevelopment sites. This approach includes requirements for the design, construction, and maintenance of permanent stormwater practices that manage rainfall on-site, to generally prevent the off-site discharge of precipitation from all rainfall events below a certain size. EPA considers a volume-based stormwater management approach to be appropriate in this and other MS4 permits in Idaho because such techniques are widely acknowledged as a means of preventing pollutants from entering the receiving water; further, such techniques directly address the need to maintain and, where necessary, restore predevelopment hydrology for duration, rate, and volume of stormwater flows.

Many GSI/LID strategies involve bioretention, or infiltrating runoff through soil. Bioretention practices include use of porous pavements, green roofs, bioswales, and rain gardens. Various studies confirm the effectiveness of GSI/LID practices to reduce contaminants, restore hydrology, and protect the health of aquatic species. Research and on-the-ground experience suggest that all LID practices can perform effectively in a wide variety of geographic areas as long as procedures for proper design, implementation, and maintenance are established and followed.<sup>53</sup>

Many MS4 Permittees in Idaho currently require onsite retention and infiltration practices at development sites in their jurisdictions and integrate aspects of a GSI/LID approach for such new development and redevelopment sites. Based on evidence that such GSI/LID approaches are indeed practicable for use in Idaho communities, EPA is now requiring such site design approaches in this and other MS4 permits in Idaho to better address post-construction stormwater discharges.

The Permit requires the Permittee to use local ordinances or regulatory mechanisms to require the volume of water from storms  $\leq$  95<sup>th</sup> percentile event to be managed entirely onsite, and not discharged to surface waters, in order to fully protect Idaho receiving waters. The *95<sup>th</sup> percentile rainfall event* is the rainfall event that is greater than 95% of all rainfall events over a period of record (typically using a minimum 30-year period of record). In general, this calculation excludes

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<sup>52</sup> See: American Rivers 2013; EPA 2006; EPA 1999, at pages 68725 – 68728 and 68759; EPA 2008; and EPA 2009.

<sup>53</sup> For example, see Ahiablame, et al, 2012; Spromberg, J.A. et al. 2016; and McIntyre, J.K, et al. 2016; and other references in the Administrative Record.

extremely small rain events that are  $\leq 0.1$  of an inch of rainfall or less (because such small rainfall events typically do not result in any measurable runoff due to absorption, interception, and evaporation by permeable, impermeable, and vegetated surfaces).<sup>54</sup>

EPA has previously calculated example target design storm volumes, as illustrated below. Using available 24-hour precipitation data through 2012 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, EPA analyzed the average rainfall depth occurring in the Idaho MS4 Permit Areas. See Table A below. In the Urbanized Areas of Idaho, approximately 95% of all storms result in rainfall volumes of approximately 0.82 inches or less, ranging between 0.57 inches to 0.82 inches.

**Table A.4.A: Analysis of the 95th Percentile Storm Runoff Volumes for Idaho MS4 Permit Areas**

| Urbanized Area/<br>Permit Area | Rainfall<br>Depth (in) | NOAA Station Location; Period of Record                             |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                | 95 <sup>th</sup>       |                                                                     |
| Coeur d' Alene                 | 0.81888                | COEUR D ALENE, ID<br>(GHCND:USC00101956);1895-2012                  |
| Moscow                         | 0.8188                 | MOSCOW U OF I, ID<br>(GHCND:USC00106152);1893-2012                  |
| Caldwell                       | 0.6102                 | BOISE AIR TERMINAL, ID (GHCND:USW00024131); 1940-2012               |
| Nampa                          | 0.5708                 | NAMPA 2 NW, ID<br>US ZIP:83687; 1948-2012                           |
| Boise                          | 0.6102                 | BOISE AIR TERMINAL, ID (GHCND:USW00024131); 1940-2012               |
| Lewiston                       | 0.6299                 | LEWISTON NEZ PERCE CO AIRPORT, ID<br>(GHCND:USW00024149); 1940-2012 |
| Pocatello                      | 0.6495                 | POCATELLO REGIONAL AIRPORT, ID<br>(GHCND:USW00024156); 1939-2012    |
| Idaho Falls                    | 0.688                  | IDAHO FALLS, ID 83402<br>ZIP:83402; 1913-2012                       |

EPA recommends the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile storm volume be calculated for the greater Nampa Urbanized area at the start of the Permit term and revisited at the time of permit renewal so that a consistent standard is applied for the duration of the Permit term.

Including a stormwater design standard for onsite stormwater retention in this and other MS4 Permits, expressed as a calculated runoff volume, serves to acknowledge the predicted, incremental increase in storm event volumes in this and other areas of Idaho. EPA believes such a design standard is preferable to using a single, static statewide rainfall amount (e.g, “0.6

<sup>54</sup> See: Hirschman and Kosco, 2008.

inches total rain”), or a volume calculated from a statistical storm frequency return interval using historic rainfall data.

EPA has evaluated the potential extreme storm event return interval for 24-hour storm events in each of the MS4 Permit Areas in Idaho.<sup>55</sup> The evaluation reflects estimated changes in rainfall patterns over 30-year averages, centered around the years 2035 and 2060, as compared to historical or present-day conditions. Under all evaluated scenarios, the predicted trends in Idaho MS4 Permit Areas show a general increase in ambient temperatures throughout the calendar year, and increased storm magnitude for all return frequencies (i.e., the 5 year, 10 year, ..., and 100 year events). The evaluation also suggests significantly decreased summer precipitation statewide, balanced by increased precipitation during other seasons. Expressing the stormwater design standard for onsite stormwater retention in Permit Part 3.4 as a calculated runoff volume therefore defines a practicable and feasible performance standard for permanent stormwater control at new development and redevelopment that will protect Idaho water quality over the long term.

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<sup>55</sup> EPA Region 10’s analysis of the extreme storm event return interval for the Idaho MS4 Permit Areas is available as part of the Administrative Record. EPA used a risk assessment application designed to help water utilities in adapting to extreme weather events through a better understanding of current and long-term weather conditions; it is available online at <https://www.epa.gov/crwu/build-resilience-your-utility>.

## Appendix 5 - Rationale Supporting Requirements in Permit Part 4 For MS4 Discharges to Impaired Waters

Water quality impairments within and downstream of the City of Nampa MS4 Permit Area require that EPA include permit terms and conditions to address impairment pollutants. See 40 CFR § 122.44 (d)(4) & (d)(5).

### Appendix 5.1 – Indian Creek

**Summary:** Consistent with the WLAs established in the EPA-approved TMDL, the City must continue to monitor/assess, and conduct targeted pollutant reduction activities in order to address impairment pollutants (sediment *E.coli*, temperature and nutrients) in MS4 discharges to Indian Creek.

| Receiving Water | Waterbody Assessment Unit                                                   | Impairment Pollutants and TMDL Status                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Indian Creek    | ID17050114SW003a_04<br><i>Indian Creek – New York Canal to Sugar Avenue</i> | Temperature: No TMDL completed.<br>Cause Unknown (Nutrients suspected): No TMDL completed.                                                                                                  |
|                 | ID17050114SW002_04<br><i>Indian Creek - Sugar Avenue to Boise River</i>     | Temperature: No TMDL completed.<br>Fecal Coliform ( <i>E. coli</i> ) & Sediment:<br><i>Lower Boise River TMDL - 2015 Sediment and Bacteria Addendum. June 2015. Approved September 2015</i> |

The City’s MS4 discharges to Indian Creek through more than 100 MS4 outfalls. The MS4 also discharges to Wilson Drain (aka Wilson Creek), a tributary of Indian Creek. IDEQ’s 2016 Integrated Report lists the segments of Indian Creek that flow through Nampa as impaired for sediment, *E. coli*, temperature, and cause unknown (nutrients suspected).

#### **Regarding sediment and *E. coli*:**

IDEQ established bacteria and sediment targets for the *Sugar Avenue to Boise River* segment of Indian Creek in the *Lower Boise River TMDL 2015 Sediment and Bacteria Addendum* (LBR 2015 TMDL Addendum).

The LBR 2015 TMDL Addendum sets applicable storm water targets, of 20 mg/L, less 2.5 mg/L for natural background for sediment, and 126 cfu/100 mL for *E. coli*. These targets are not end-of pipe limits, but instead are averages (4-month average for sediment and 30 days average for *E. coli*) that only apply to MS4 outfalls discharging over the entire averaging period. The TMDL addresses pollutants in discharges of long - duration (4 months or more); because stormwater discharges are typically only a few hours or days, they do not receive WLAs in this TMDL. The targets only apply to MS4 outfalls that discharge for the entire averaging period (4 months or longer). Where such long-duration discharges from MS4 outfalls occur, the same target

concentrations apply to every storm water outfall. However, because wet weather MS4 discharges typically last only a few hours or days, the TMDL considers such wet weather discharges to be short duration pollutant sources, and DEQ provides the following narrative interpretation of the TMDL WLAs for short-term discharges of bacteria and sediment:

- “1. Storm water entities must continue management practices that reduce sediment and *E. coli*; [and]
2. Storm water entities must continue to identify and characterize inputs to their systems.”<sup>56</sup>

**Conclusion:** The requirements for continued implementation of a comprehensive SWMP as directed in Permit Part 3, and the monitoring/assessment and pollutant reduction activities required by Permit Part 4, are consistent with the allocations identified with the LBR 2015 TMDL Addendum for MS4 discharges into the impaired segment of Indian Creek (*Sugar Avenue to Boise River*) .

***Regarding temperature:***

IDEQ’s 2016 Integrated Report lists the *New York Canal to Sugar Avenue* segment of Indian Creek as impaired for temperature; no TMDLs have been established. EPA requires the City of Nampa to monitor/assess MS4 discharges for temperature and other impairment pollutants as described in this Appendix and Section 2.5 of this document.

**Conclusion:** EPA is not requiring additional SWMP control measures to address temperature impairments at this time. The requirements for continued implementation of a comprehensive SWMP as directed in Permit Part 3, and the monitoring/assessment and pollutant reduction activities required by Permit Part 4, are sufficient to address and assess the contribution of urban storm water to temperature impacts in Indian Creek.

***Regarding Cause Unknown (Nutrients suspected): See discussion in Appendix 5.3.***

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<sup>56</sup> See: *Lower Boise River TMDL: 2015 Sediment and Bacteria Addendum*, pages 51-55.



**Appendix 5.2 – Mason Creek**

**Summary:** Consistent with the WLAs established in the EPA-approved TMDL, the City must continue to monitor/assess, and conduct targeted pollutant reduction activities that address sediment and *E. coli* in MS4 discharges to Mason Creek. Monitoring/assessment of potential temperature impacts from MS4 discharges, combined with targeted pollutant reduction activities, is necessary and appropriate to address waters impaired for temperature in the absence of an applicable TMDL.

| Receiving Water | Waterbody Assessment Unit                | Impairment Pollutants and TMDL Status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mason Creek     | ID17050114SW006_02<br><i>Mason Creek</i> | Cause Unknown (Nutrients suspected):<br><br><i>Lower Boise River TMDL - 2015 Total Phosphorus Addendum.</i> August 2015. Approved December 2015.<br><br>Sediment & <i>E. coli</i> :<br><br><i>Lower Boise River TMDL - 2015 Sediment and Bacteria Addendum.</i> June 2015. Approved September 2015.<br><br>Temperature:<br><br>No TMDL completed.<br><br>Malathion and Chlorpyrifos:<br><br>No TMDLs completed. |

IDEQ’s 2016 Integrated Report lists Mason Creek as impaired for sediment, *E. coli*, temperature, and the agricultural chemicals chlorpyrifos and malathion.

**Regarding sediment and *E. coli*:**

The City’s MS4 discharges to Mason Creek through many MS4 outfalls. IDEQ established bacteria and sediment targets for the impaired segments of Mason Creek in the *Lower Boise River TMDL 2015 Sediment and Bacteria Addendum (LBR 2015 TMDL Addendum)*.

The LBR 2015 TMDL Addendum establishes applicable storm water targets, of 20 mg/L, less 2.5 mg/L for natural background for sediment, and 126 cfu/100 mL for *E. coli*. These targets are not end-of pipe limits, but instead are averages (4-month average for sediment and 30 days average for *E. coli*) that only apply to MS4 outfalls discharging over the entire averaging period. The TMDL addresses pollutants in discharges of long - duration (4 months or more); because stormwater discharges are typically only a few hours or days, they do not receive WLAs in this TMDL. The targets only apply to MS4 outfalls that discharge for the entire averaging period (4 months or longer). Where such long-duration discharges from MS4 outfalls occur, the same target concentrations apply to every storm water outfall. However, because wet weather MS4 discharges typically last only a few hours or days, the TMDL considers such wet weather discharges to be short duration pollutant sources; IDEQ provides the following narrative interpretation of the TMDL WLAs for short-term discharges of bacteria and sediment:

- “1. Storm water entities must continue management practices that reduce sediment and *E. coli*; [and]
2. Storm water entities must continue to identify and characterize inputs to their systems.”<sup>57</sup>

**Conclusion:** The requirements for continued implementation of a comprehensive SWMP as directed in Permit Part 3, and the monitoring/assessment and pollutant reduction activities required by Permit Part 4, are consistent with the allocations identified for MS4 discharges into Mason Creek and will ensure progress towards complying with the LBR 2015 TMDL Addendum.

***Regarding temperature:***

IDEQ’s 2016 Integrated Report lists Mason Creek as impaired for temperature; no TMDLs have been established. EPA requires the City of Nampa to monitor/assess MS4 discharges for temperature and other impairment pollutants as described in this Appendix and Section 2.5 of this document.

**Conclusion:** EPA is not requiring additional SWMP control measures to address temperature impairments at this time. The requirements for continued implementation of a comprehensive SWMP as directed in Permit Part 3, and the monitoring/assessment and pollutant reduction activities required by Permit Part 4, are sufficient to address and assess the contribution of urban storm water to temperature impacts in Mason Creek.

***Regarding malathion and chlorpyrifos:***

IDEQ’s 2016 Integrated Report lists Mason Creek as impaired for the agricultural chemicals malathion and chlorpyrifos, based on available data indicating the presence of toxic substances in concentrations that impair beneficial uses and violate Idaho’s narrative standard for toxic substances.<sup>58</sup> No TMDLs have been established. IDEQ considers the presence of these chemicals to be due to agricultural activities within the watershed.<sup>59</sup>

**Conclusion:** EPA is not requiring additional SWMP control measures to address impairments due to agricultural chemicals at this time. The requirements for continued implementation of a comprehensive SWMP as directed in Permit Part 3, and the monitoring/assessment and pollutant reduction activities required by Permit Part 4, are sufficient to address and assess the contribution of urban storm water to water quality impacts in Mason Creek.

***Regarding Cause Unknown (Nutrients suspected): See discussion in Appendix 5.3.***

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<sup>57</sup> See: *Lower Boise River TMDL: 2015 Sediment and Bacteria Addendum*, pages 51-55.

<sup>58</sup> See IDEQ 2018, Appendix K, page 40 of 64.

<sup>59</sup> Personal communication with K. Carberry, IDEQ, 6/22/2020.

**Appendix 5.3 – Lower Boise River**

**Summary:** Consistent with the WLAs established in the EPA-approved TMDLs, the City must continue to monitor/assess, and conduct targeted pollutant reduction activities that address sediment and *E. coli* in MS4 discharges to the Boise River. Monitoring/assessment of potential temperature impacts from MS4 discharges, combined with targeted pollutant reduction activities, is necessary and appropriate to address waters impaired for temperature in the absence of an applicable TMDL.

| Receiving Water | Waterbody Assessment Unit                                                                                                                        | Impairment Pollutants and TMDL Status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Boise River     | ID17050114SW005_06b<br><br><i>Boise R.-Middleton to Indian Creek</i><br><br>ID17050114SW001_06<br><br><i>Boise River - Indian Creek to mouth</i> | Fecal Coliform and Sediment/Siltation:<br><br><i>Lower Boise River TMDL Subbasin Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Loads, September 1999. Approved January 2000.</i><br><br>Temperature:<br><br>No TMDL for completed.<br><br>Total Phosphorus:<br><br><i>Lower Boise River TMDL - 2015 Total Phosphorus Addendum. August 2015. Approved December 2015.</i> |

The City of Nampa MS4 discharges to tributary conveyances leading to the Lower Boise River, including but not limited to Indian Creek, Mason Creek, Wilson Drain (aka Wilson Creek), Elijah Drain, Aaron Drain, Grimes Drain, Peters Lateral, Herron Lateral, Purdam Gulch Drain, North Nampa Lateral, Phyllis Canal, and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drain. IDEQ’s 2016 Integrated Report lists the segments of the Boise River in the table above as impaired for sediment, *E. coli*, temperature, and total phosphorus.

**Regarding sediment and E. Coli:** In 1999, IDEQ originally established the *Lower Boise River TMDL: Subbasin Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Loads* (1999 LBR TMDL) for sediment and bacteria impairments in the segments representing the LBR main stem. The 1999 LBR TMDL establishes sediment allocations for reaches of the LBR upstream of Middleton equal to the 1995 baseline conditions (e.g. the allocations represent a 0% reduction in sediment, or no net increase). The TMDL considers urban and suburban land uses upstream of Middleton as contributing sediment sources to the main stem LBR, and states that the comprehensive municipal SWMP, as implemented through a NPDES permit, is likely sufficient to meet the sediment TMDL allocations.<sup>60</sup> The comprehensive SWMP that is required by the Nampa MS4 Permit is comparable to the SWMPs implemented by other regulated MS4 communities

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<sup>60</sup> See: *Lower Boise River TMDL Subbasin Assessment* (1999), Table 14, pg 58-61

upstream of Middleton, and therefore is consistent with the pollutant reduction goals of this TMDL.

In the same document, IDEQ's bacteria TMDL assigned estimated bacteria load allocations to various tributaries based on meeting a fecal coliform target concentration. The TMDL estimates that more than 70% of the nonpoint source bacteria load must be reduced from the area upstream of the Middleton compliance point. In 2007, IDEQ revised its WQS indicator for bacteria from fecal coliform to *E. coli*, represented as 126 cfu/100 ml, based on the geometric mean of five samples taken 3-7 days apart over a 30-day period. The *2003 Implementation Plan for the Lower Boise Watershed* (2003 LBR Plan) references the federal NPDES storm water requirements, and cites a menu of activities expected to reduce sediment and bacteria from upstream urban and suburban land uses, such as: targeted public education, construction site runoff control, and on-site management of post-construction runoff from new development and redevelopment. Such activities are required explicitly in the Nampa MS4 Permit

**Conclusion:** The requirements for continued implementation of a comprehensive SWMP as directed in Permit Part 3, and the monitoring/assessment and pollutant reduction activities required by Permit Part 4, are consistent with the WLAs identified for sediment and bacteria in MS4 discharges to the Lower Boise River and are sufficient to ensure progress towards complying with the 1999 LBR TMDL.

**Regarding temperature:**

IDEQ's 2016 Integrated Report lists this segment of the Boise River as impaired for temperature; no TMDL has been established. EPA requires the City of Nampa to monitor/assess MS4 discharges for temperature and other impairment pollutants as described in this Appendix and Section 2.5 of this document.

**Conclusion:** EPA is not requiring additional SWMP control measures to address temperature impairments at this time. The requirements for continued implementation of a comprehensive SWMP as directed in Permit Part 3, and the monitoring/assessment and pollutant reduction activities required by Permit Part 4, are sufficient to address and assess the contribution of urban storm water to temperature impacts in the Boise River.

**Regarding total phosphorus:**

The Lower Boise River, from Middleton to its confluence with the Snake River, does not meet the narrative criteria for excess nutrients in the Idaho WQS. The *Lower Boise River TMDL 2015 Total Phosphorus Addendum* (LBR Phosphorus TMDL), approved by EPA on December 22, 2015, quantifies total phosphorus pollutant sources, and identifies responsibility for load and waste load allocations needed to achieve the WQS.<sup>61</sup> IDEQ's numeric target to describe nuisance aquatic growth within impaired Assessment Units of the main stem lower Boise River is established as the mean monthly benthic (periphyton) chlorophyll a  $\leq 150$  mg/m<sup>2</sup>, year round.<sup>62</sup>

IDEQ assigned two types of WLAs for total phosphorus to City of Nampa and other NPDES-regulated small MS4s discharging to the LBR. One WLA for municipal storm water discharges occurring during wet weather represents a target total phosphorus load reduction of 42% on

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<sup>61</sup> See: Lower Boise River Phosphorus TMDL at: <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/60177413/lower-boise-river-tmdl-total-phosphorus-addendum-0815.pdf>.

<sup>62</sup> See: Lower Boise River Phosphorus TMDL, page 64.

average across all regulated small MS4 discharges. A second WLA for dry weather discharges from MS4s represents a target of 84% total phosphorus load reduction on average across all MS4s.

The LBR Phosphorus TMDL also includes load allocations of 0.07 mg/L total phosphorus which are to be met at both the mouth of Mason Creek and Indian Creek. The WLAs (expressed as % reductions) described above for MS4 discharges were calculated by IDEQ to meet the 0.07mg/L target at each of these locations.<sup>63</sup>

IDEQ acknowledged at the time that it based these WLAs and load reduction targets on limited data and conservative assumptions. Because the “plumbing” of the MS4 systems with the LBR watershed is intricate and complex, and the quantity of the non-storm water inputs is unknown, IDEQ asked MS4 Permittees to provide initial estimates for the percentage of the non-storm water discharges through their MS4s that originates from nonpoint sources. IDEQ expects these estimates to be refined through monitoring and mapping in future permit cycles and as part of TMDL implementation. Further, IDEQ recommends that TMDL-related activities be determined on a watershed basis, such that all regulated small MS4 entities are conducting the same or similar types of actions. EPA agrees that it is necessary for City of Nampa and other MS4s to verify all existing MS4 outfalls discharging during dry weather, and to characterize such flows by type and source. It is also necessary to confirm whether such ground water and/or irrigation water flows are indeed uncontaminated. If dry weather flows from the MS4 are determined to be uncontaminated, they may be “allowable non-storm water discharges,” as conditionally provided by Permit Part 2.4.

IDEQ encourages discharge or pollutant trading (between with other sectors and sources) to facilitate cost effective load reductions. The LBR Phosphorus TMDL recognizes that retrofitting the existing infrastructure may require considerable time and resources; and recommends that runoff from new urban development be managed carefully, using appropriate BMPs consistent with the overall total phosphorus reduction goals.<sup>64</sup>

**Conclusion:** EPA determines that continued implementation of the comprehensive SWMP control measures by the City of Nampa is also consistent with the goal of meeting the numeric target for nuisance algal growth established by the LBR Phosphorus TMDL. To address the LBR Phosphorus TMDL WLAs for wet and dry weather MS4 discharges, EPA has required City of Nampa to update or revise the storm water monitoring/assessment efforts begun under the prior MS4 permit term, and to submit descriptions of at least two (2) pollutant reduction activities to target and control discharges of total phosphorus and other impairment pollutants. Such activities may augment existing control measures (for example, enhance the City’s ongoing efforts to verify, screen and address MS4 outfalls where known discharges during dry weather are regularly occurring); or the City may target new actions. EPA encourages a watershed-based approach to monitoring/assessment efforts and encourages the City of Nampa and other stakeholders to work together to fulfill the necessary objectives of the LBR Phosphorus TMDL implementation efforts in a consistent manner. EPA believes that continued monitoring/assessment data will help substantiate future modelling efforts to assess the effectiveness of stakeholders’ ongoing efforts to reduce wet and dry weather pollutant loading from MS4 outfalls.

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<sup>63</sup> IDEQ 2020b.

<sup>64</sup> See: LBR Phosphorus TMDL page 98