



FACT SHEET

The Sanitation Districts’ Wastewater Ordinance strictly prohibits the discharge of rainwater, stormwater, and drainage (collectively referred to as stormwater herein) into the sanitary sewer except where prior approval for such discharge is given by the Chief Engineer under approved conditions outlined in the discharge requirements for “Stormwater, Groundwater, and Other Water Discharges” (Guidelines). Changes have recently been made to these Guidelines to better safeguard the Sanitation Districts’ sanitary sewer and treatment systems from excessive hydraulic loads resulting from rainwater and stormwater inflow into the sewer.

REVISED REQUIREMENTS:

Elimination of 400 Square Foot Exemption

The discharge of stormwater to the sanitary sewer from any area is restricted.

Reset of Rain Switch

In the absence of a feature to detect active rainfall for automatic reset, any switch associated with an automatic diversion system shall be reset manually.

Impound & Delayed Discharge Prohibited

Storage (impound) and discharge of stormwater to the sanitary sewer from any area is prohibited unless otherwise approved from spill containment areas.

Additional Grading, Diversions, & Controls

Enhanced source control measures may now be required to limit uncontrolled discharge resulting from runoff into areas approved for stormwater discharge to the sanitary sewer.

COMPLIANCE DATE

— (Industrial Waste Discharge Permitted Sites) —
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

COMPLIANCE DATE

— (Un-Permitted Sites) —
18 Months from this Mailing

REASON:

The design of the sanitary sewer system was not intended to function as a combined system with the storm sewer. Therefore, it cannot handle intense surges resulting from stormwater inflow. Los Angeles County has experienced record-breaking rainfall in recent years, leading to extreme flows within the Sanitation Districts’ sanitary sewer and treatment systems beyond system capacity and resulting in multiple sanitary sewer overflows including an 8-million-gallon overflow in February 2024. These occurrences underscore the urgent need for proactive measures to manage stormwater inflow into the sanitary sewer system.

02/2025 DOC 7325501



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What changes have been made?

The Sanitation Districts' Wastewater Ordinance strictly prohibits the discharge of rainwater, stormwater, and drainage (collectively referred to as stormwater herein) into the sanitary sewer except where prior approval for such discharge is given by the Chief Engineer under approved conditions outlined in the discharge requirements for "Stormwater, Groundwater, and Other Water Discharges" (Guidelines). Changes have recently been made to these Guidelines to better safeguard the Sanitation Districts' sanitary sewer and treatment systems from excessive hydraulic loads resulting from stormwater inflow into the sewer.

2. Who is affected?

Any site located within the Sanitation Districts service area with drains exposed to stormwater which discharge to the sanitary sewer. This includes sites currently permitted for industrial waste discharge by the Sanitation Districts, as well as those that are not currently permitted, and/or have been previously exempted.

3. What is the timeline for compliance?

Permitted Sites - Sites currently permitted for Industrial Waste Discharge by the Sanitation Districts with exposed area(s) less than 400 square feet, and/or sites operating a stormwater diversion system without proper resetting function of the rain switch, must install controls and/or diversion measures to comply with these revised Guidelines by **September 1, 2026**.

Permitted sites that don't satisfy additional requirements in the revised Guidelines such as impound and delayed discharge, discharge from non-process areas, or discharge during a rain event, will be reviewed for compliance on a case-by-case basis including timeline for compliance.

Unpermitted Sites (formerly exempt) - Sites formerly exempted from permitting by the Sanitation Districts with exposed area(s) less than 400 square feet will be required to comply within **eighteen(18) months** from receipt of this letter, Attestation, Fact Sheet, and Submittal Checklist.

4. How do I comply if my facility is affected?

Dischargers should review the [Guidelines](#) and submit the enclosed Form of Attestation. Permitted sites subject to the compliance milestone date shall perform modifications and/or upgrades as necessary for compliance with the revised Guidelines, and shall submit for review and approval the necessary information specified in the Submittal Checklist. Permits may require amendment or revision through the local agency depending upon changes in flow volume or quality. Deviations from these requirements must be preapproved by the Sanitation Districts.

Facilities formerly exempted or unpermitted and identified to be discharging stormwater to the sanitary sewer shall submit the aforementioned documents to the Sanitation Districts' Industrial Waste Section. Final installations will be verified by Sanitation Districts' Inspection staff prior to the compliance deadline.

5. How do I submit the Form of Attestation and documents?

The Form of Attestation, as well as the Submittal Checklist and associated documents, may be emailed (preferred) or sent via hard copy to the address listed below.

Email: IndustryStormwater@lacsdsd.org Address: Industrial Waste Section
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998

6. Where can I find more information?

Information regarding the Sanitation Districts' and the Industrial Waste Permitting process can be found on our website. Additionally, you may contact the Industrial Waste staff at 562-551-7115.

Guidelines:

<https://www.lacsdsd.org/services/wastewater-programs-permits/industrial-waste-pretreatment-program/industrial-waste-policies>

Website:

www.lacsdsd.org