



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties

From: Roseann Gonzales
Director, Policy and Administration

Subject: Draft Bureau of Reclamation 'Directive and Standard' Addressing the Quality of Non-Agricultural Water Discharges into Reclamation Facilities

The Bureau of Reclamation is strengthening its procedures for authorizing the discharge of stormwater, treated wastewater, and other non-agricultural waters into facilities that are under Reclamation's jurisdiction.

These new procedures are described in a draft Reclamation Directive and Standard (D&S) document, which is posted for public review at <http://www.usbr.gov/recman/drafts/env06-01webdraft.pdf>. A question-and-answer information sheet on that D&S also is available at <http://www.usbr.gov/recman/drafts/env06-01webdraft.pdf>. You are invited to review the D&S and information sheet and provide any comments on Reclamation's proposed new procedures to dmanderson@usbr.gov.

The purpose of this D&S is to help ensure that the quality of non-agricultural waters discharged into Reclamation facilities does not jeopardize the exemption from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting requirements currently enjoyed by most Reclamation water conveyances. These procedures should help protect the quality of water delivered to Reclamation's customers and help ensure the uninterrupted operation of Reclamation projects.

It should be noted that agricultural stormwater runoff and agricultural return flows into Reclamation facilities remain exempt from federal NPDES permitting requirements and therefore, are unaffected by these proposed new procedures. Under procedures described in the D&S, non-agricultural waters proposed for discharge into Reclamation facilities will be expected to comply with applicable NPDES permitting requirements before they can secure a Reclamation "use authorization" for their discharge. Additional details are provided at the websites identified above.

Thank you for your interest in Reclamation's mission to assist in meeting the increasing water demands of the West while protecting the environment and the public's investment in Reclamation facilities.