Did you know? Rain, and any water used outdoors at your place of business, collects on City streets, sidewalks, parking lots, and gutters and flows directly into the City’s storm drain system, to the Santa Maria River, and eventually to our ocean and beaches without treatment. Some of this water is captured in basins or sports fields where it seeps, untreated, into the ground water. Federal law and the City’s Municipal Code require that you use “best management practices,” or BMPs, to keep used water out of the storm drain and prevent pollutants from being picked up by rain runoff. Only unpolluted rain should go down a storm drain.

Before you wash down your facilities or equipment, or do anything else that might cause wastewater or pollutants to go into the storm drain, follow these simple steps:

- Place sandbags or other barriers around your activity or alternately around nearby storm drain inlets to prevent water from entering the storm drain system.
- For small amounts of wastewater, allow the water to dry up before removing the barriers.
- For larger amounts that will not dry up quickly, you may send the wastewater to a private landscaped area that you own. You may not send it to public landscaping, the street, or other public or private property.
- You may also soak up excess water with towels or other absorbent materials and properly handle or dispose of them.
- You may not leave visible traces of oil, grease, sediment, debris, trash, or detergents on the ground.

If your business activities create a large amount of wastewater runoff, please contact the City Utilities Department Regulatory Compliance Division for further guidance at 805-925-0951, ext. 7270.

Statement of Understanding

I have read this page. I understand I must use BMPs to keep wastewater from my business activities out of the storm drain system. If I do not follow the rules for BMPs, I will be in violation of the law. A violation of any City storm water or wastewater ordinance is a misdemeanor and a public nuisance. It can result in criminal prosecution, administrative proceedings, civil injunction, and civil penalties up to $6,000 per day. Additional civil penalties may be imposed in the amount of $250 per day during the civil injunction process.

Applicant Signature: ____________________________ Date: ________________

City Use Only:

RECEIVED BY: ____________________________ DATE: ________________