



**Transportation Department**  
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## **BOULDER COUNTY STORMWATER QUALITY PERMIT (SWQP) GUIDANCE FOR SMALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS NEAR WATERWAYS**

This guidance is for small construction projects disturbing less than one acre located near waterways. This guidance is intended to be supplemental to the **Boulder County Stormwater Quality Permit Guidance for Construction Projects near Waterways**. Working in close proximity to waterways poses a higher risk to impact water quality which is why Boulder County requires Stormwater Quality Permits (SWQP) for projects working near waterways that are less than one acre.

### **When is a SWQP required?**

SWQP are typically required when working within 100 horizontal feet of a waterway or underneath a waterway, even when land disturbance is less than one acre. These determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis by the County's Transportation Department but will be based on the factors listed below.

- **Type of waterway** - The County is generally requiring a SWQP when working within 100 horizontal feet of a permanent, perennial stream and ditches or when boring a utility or pipeline under a waterway. Waterways are typically depicted by a solid blue line on a topographic map or by a blue line on the County's GIS layer available from Boulder County Open Data, the stream and ditch layer ([http://gis-bouldercounty.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/d52c150f5f2e48aebd8ef74b34a0dc14\\_0](http://gis-bouldercounty.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/d52c150f5f2e48aebd8ef74b34a0dc14_0)). The streams and ditches in this dataset were conflated from various data sources, including NHD, Colorado Department of Natural Resources Division of Water Resources (CDSS), Boulder County, City of Boulder and individual ditch companies. The data was verified with field visits and extensive staff knowledge. The data includes links to various internal databases, as well as the Colorado Division of Water Resources database. Pre and Post 2013 Colorado Flood alignments are included. Flow directions for network analysis are also incorporated into the data. This data is appropriate for both small and large scale usage.

However, solid blue lines in this database can also include irrigation laterals. SWQPs will not be required for projects in or near irrigation laterals that do not return to a classified waterway. Also, many agricultural ponds will be exempt from obtaining a SWQP assuming the ponds do not directly connect to a waterway. There may be other waterways that do not trigger the need for a SWQP such as an upgradient ditch that would not receive discharges from the project, check with the County's Transportation Department, [transdevreview@bouldercounty.org](mailto:transdevreview@bouldercounty.org) for a final determination.



- **Slope** – Steeper disturbed slopes upgradient of the waterway and within the project area may influence the need for a SWQP when working near waterways. For example, if the site is 100 feet away from a waterway but the topography is very steep between the project area and the waterway and drains directly into the waterway, then a SWQP may be required.
- **Distance** – Typically, SWQP will be required when working within 100 horizontal feet of a waterway as defined above.
- **Duration** – Shorter projects (less than two weeks in duration) that are less than one acre but within 100 horizontal feet may not require a SWQP, check with the Transportation Department for a determination.

### **When a SWQP is not required, what is needed?**

Even if a SWQP is not required, using control measures is essential and mandatory. Control measures will help minimize the risk of negative impacts to water quality. All construction projects regardless of size require the use of control measures.

### **SWQP Submittal Requirements for Small Projects near Waterways**

- Completed SWQP application,
- Completed SWQP Checklist for small projects,
- Site Maps meeting requirements listed on checklist. Additionally, the general principles outlined in the Storm Drainage Criteria Manual (SDCM, Section 1302.1) should be reviewed and considered in the design of the Site Maps, and
- Control Measure Details

### **MS4 Compliance Oversight for Small Projects near Waterways**

The County will require an initial inspection of the control measures and final inspection by the County's MS4 Stormwater Compliance Inspector to ensure the site has appropriate controls prior to construction and is stabilized after construction is completed.

For any additional questions, contact the Transportation Department at [TransDevReview@bouldercounty.org](mailto:TransDevReview@bouldercounty.org) or 303-441-3900.