WATER QUALITY KEY TERMS – FACT SHEET

What is SUSMP?

SUSMP stands for "Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan."


Guidelines for the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan

Storm Water Best Management Practices for New Development and Redevelopment

For the Santa Rosa Area and Unincorporated Areas around Petaluma and Sonoma

June 3, 2005

Sonoma County

City of Santa Rosa

Russian River Watershed Association

EOA, Inc.
BKF Engineers

This plan determines how a development project needs to be designed to protect water quality in our local creeks and waterways.

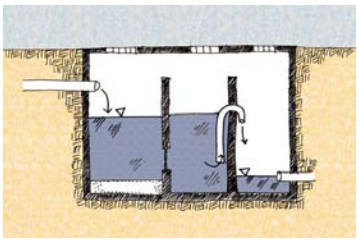
When rainwater falls on a parking lot or rooftop (impervious areas), the runoff flows much faster than before the land was built upon. Runoff may pick up pollutants like trash and oil and carry them into the creeks and eventually, the ocean. Increased runoff can also erode creek beds and banks, damaging habitat and increasing sediment deposits downstream. SUSMP provides technical guidelines for design measures (also called BMPs) that reduce negative effects on water quality due to development.

What is a BMP? BMP stands for "Best Management Practice."

BMPs include measures like underground separator units that remove oil and sediment as well as those that involve natural processes to filter water like grassy swales. BMPs can also be activities such as street sweeping to remove pollutants or installing "No Dumping" signs on storm inlets to promote public awareness.

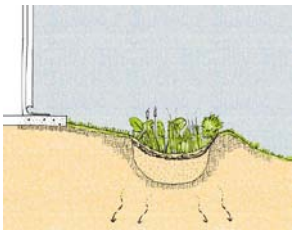
What is LID? LID stands for "Low Impact Development."

LID design emphasizes the use of natural on-site features that reduce storm water pollution in the overall layout for a new project. The goal of LID is to allow natural processes, like rain water absorbing into the ground and adding shade with trees, to continue after parking lots and rooftops are built.



UNDERGROUND SEPARATOR

VEGETATED SWALE



RAIN GARDEN

STREET SWEEPER

For more information, see the SUSMP document at
http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/doclib/Documents/SUSUMP.pdf
For more information on LID see the EPA webpage at http://www.epa.gov/nps/lid/
For a BMP guidebook for California see http://www.cabmphandbooks.com/Development.asp