



Industrial Stormwater General Permit

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has recently distributed a letter to all wineries in California regarding the new Industrial Stormwater General Permit (IGP) that regulates stormwater runoff from certain industrial facilities including wineries. The IGP, which replaces an old permit that has been in place since 1997, went into effect July 1st and final registration is due by August 14th. The above organizations have collaborated to distribute this letter to provide additional information on the IGP.

Although most wineries have always needed permit coverage, this requirement was little known in the industry. Why? Well, we generally don't work in the rain so why would



stormwater be an issue? But, the permit stems from the federal Clean Water Act that is intended to help keep our water clean and the SWRCB has that charge in California. And, we aren't alone;

there are a number of industries that are also now becoming aware of the permit requirements.

Family Winemakers of California, the Wine Institute, the California Association of Winegrape Growers, and the California Farm Bureau Federation have been working with the SWRCB to understand the requirements of the IGP and determine the best ways to help our industry comply with these requirements. Although nobody welcomes more regulations, there are many reasons why complying with the new permit is important for our industry. To their credit the SWRCB held numerous workshops across the state to help inform people about the new requirements.

FAQ on the Permit

Are all wineries covered? Maybe. The permit covers stormwater runoff from areas of "industrial activity," e.g.,

wine production activities in uncovered areas. But, just because part of your winery is covered doesn't mean the IGP doesn't apply. See the checklist on the back side to help determine whether your winery might need a permit. Note that this is a different permit from the one you may have for wastewater.

What does the permit require? The IGP is intended to ensure high quality stormwater runoff from industries. So, the fundamental requirements are the preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and sampling stormwater runoff from your winery. The IGP also requires other efforts such as stormwater best management practices, periodic inspections, and staff training. All of this must be described in the winery's SWPPP and documentation must be uploaded in electronic format to the SWRCB's online Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS).

What does the permit cost? The annual permit fee for full coverage is approximately \$1,700. Assuming the winery is only sampling for basic parameters (total suspended solids, total oil and grease, and pH) analytical costs can range between \$75 and \$150, plus shipping, per sampling event for each discharge location. However, wineries may need to monitor for other constituents as well. Once a winery enters into Level 1 due to poor stormwater quality, the cost of compliance can increase significantly due to the need to retain professional services.

What could happen if I don't get a permit? Well, besides being out of compliance with state regulations and potentially subject to fines or penalties, there are provisions under the Clean Water Act that allow citizens, including environmental advocacy groups, to sue businesses that have failed to comply with the permit. While this has historically been uncommon in the wine industry, the online availability of information is concerning.

What are Stormwater Compliance Groups? Stormwater Compliance Groups are a part of the permit that allows businesses within a similar industry (e.g., wineries) to join a compliance group led by a certified "Trainer of Record." There are some



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benefits to compliance group participation, such as reduced sampling requirements, but there will likely be a cost for participating. Each Trainer of Record within the state can form their own individual compliance group regardless of their

knowledge of the wine industry. We recommend careful evaluation of compliance groups before making a decision

A No Exposure Certifications (NEC) can be obtained if there is no exposure of industrial activities to stormwater at your facility.

If you answered yes to any of these questions on the left you will likely not qualify for an NEC and may require full permit coverage. The annual fee for an NEC is approximately \$200. In some situations, wineries may be able to obtain a Notice of Non-Applicability or NONA. But this would require that your winery never discharge stormwater under any conditions...ever.

Do You Qualify for a No Exposure Certification?

Is your crush pad exposed to rain water?	Yes	No
Are your tanks exposed to rain water?	Yes	No
Do you land apply pomace without special permit?	Yes	No
Do you irrigate with wash water without a special permit?	Yes	No
Do you store used barrels outdoors?	Yes	No
Do you load and unload bins outdoors?	Yes	No
Do you clean your tanks or barrels outdoors?	Yes	No
Do you track dirt or other materials from your work area?	Yes	No

Technical Resources for Wine Makers

We believe the State Water Board staff is committed to working with the wine industry to provide outreach and education on this permit. For additional information, please contact the State Water Board Stormwater Section at 1-866-563-3107 or stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov. You can also visit the SWRCB Industrial Stormwater Program's website at:

Also, the Family Winemakers of California and the Wine Institute have been working with a number of technical experts who specialize in industrial stormwater and are very familiar with the operation of wineries. We have provided their information below as a courtesy. However, providing this information does not reflect an endorsement for their services.

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/industrial.shtml



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