



**Boulder County  
Land Use Department  
Publications**

## **Stormwater Quality Permit Requirements**

**Land Use Department**  
Courthouse Annex Building  
2045 13th Street  
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Boulder, CO 80302

**Building Safety &  
Inspection Services:**  
Phone: 303-441-3926

Email: [building\\_official@bouldercounty.org](mailto:building_official@bouldercounty.org)  
Website: [www.bouldercounty.org/lu](http://www.bouldercounty.org/lu)

### **Office Hours:**

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.  
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday

Building Permits can be applied for  
and issued until 4 p.m.

## **Stormwater Quality Permit Requirements**

Beginning on Sept. 1, 2017, a stormwater quality permit (SWQP) is required for certain construction projects. Polluted stormwater runoff from construction sites often flows to storm drain systems and is ultimately discharged into local streams and rivers, destroying aquatic habitat. See the *Keep It Clean Partnership* website for more information: [www.keepitcleanpartnership.org](http://www.keepitcleanpartnership.org). For questions, call the Transportation Department Development Review Team at 303-441-3900.

**As part of Boulder County's MS4 Construction Program, a stormwater quality permit (SWQP) is required for construction projects that:**

- A. Disturb one acre or more; or
- B. Less than one acre of construction activity that is part of a larger common plan of development, even if multiple, separate, and distinct land development activities may take place at different times on different schedules, so long as the common plan will ultimately disturb one acre or more; or
- C. Are within 100 horizontal feet of a waterway.

The County Engineer may require a stormwater quality permit regardless of the size of the total disturbed area, in conjunction with approval of a final subdivision plat, special use permit, or other site specific development plan under this Code, or if the construction activity is adjacent to a watercourse or wetlands. Refer to the Boulder County Land Use Code Article 7-904 for more information.

### **Guidance on Calculating Disturbed Area Associated with Construction Activities**

Ground surface disturbing activities which include, but are not limited to, clearing, vegetation removal, grading, excavation, removal or deposit of any rock, soil, or other materials, demolition, installation of new or improved haul roads and access roads, staging areas, stockpiling of soil, fill, or other materials, utilization of borrow areas, or other activities that expose soil. Construction activity does not include routine maintenance to maintain original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of a facility.

### **Submittal & Application Requirements for Stormwater Quality Permits**

A complete application shall include the following:

- A. Signature by the landowner or the owner's authorized representative and identification of the operator and other persons legally responsible for compliance with the permit, including the assigned erosion control supervisor as required in Article 7-904F.3.d. The County Engineer shall have the discretion to require that persons identified as operators, or other persons who are known at the time of application as being responsible for implementation of any approved permit, sign the application as applicants.
- B. Documentation of an application for a CDPHE stormwater general permit for construction. This documentation should consist of a letter from the Water Quality Control Division of the CDPHE that assigns a certification number to the project (if one is available).
- C. A Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP), including, but not limited to:
  - (i) A project description that includes the location and extent, a summary of the construction to be completed, and the end product.

- (ii) Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be installed on a temporary basis as necessary to control stormwater discharges from the construction site before and during construction until final stabilization. This includes a narrative describing nonstructural BMPs such as construction site phasing (e.g., phase the project so that vegetation will remain in those areas that will not have construction activity at the start of the project).
  - (iii) A site plan or plans depicting the affected site in sufficient detail to show significant site features (natural and manmade), areas proposed to be disturbed and developed, existing easement areas and restricted development areas, and locations of proposed temporary BMPs.
  - (iv) Identification of any affected MS4 or waters of the state anticipated to receive stormwater discharge from the site.
  - (v) Checklist for the SWQP.
  - (vi) After a stormwater quality permit is issued, the SWMP must accurately reflect current site conditions at all times. Minor and substantial modifications to the SWMP and the approved permit must meet the requirements in Article 7-904G.
- D. For project disturbing less than one acre but within 100 horizontal feet of a waterway, only C part iii (site plans) listed above is required for submittal and a checklist for small projects near waterways.
  - E. For construction activity disturbing an acre or more within the urbanized area, a final drainage plan including a narrative describing proposed permanent BMPs and methods for their perpetual maintenance, identification of the parties responsible for perpetual maintenance of proposed permanent BMPs, a site plan showing locations of the proposed permanent BMPs, and, as required by the County Engineer, engineered drawings or design schematics for proposed permanent BMPs and easement for county inspections and access if necessary.
  - F. Design, installation, and maintenance specifications for all BMPs included in the SWMP and Site Plans and installed at the site are required to be part of the SWMP. All BMPs designed to meet the requirements of this section shall generally comply with the Boulder County Storm Drainage Criteria Manual (Boulder County, 2016); USDCM (UDFCD, 2016); the CDOT Erosion Control and Stormwater Quality Guide (CDOT, 2002), or any other alternative methodology, which is demonstrated to be effective and approved by Boulder County.
  - G. All other information deemed necessary for the adequate processing of the application, as required at the discretion of the County Engineer.
  - H. Payment of a permit fee in an amount determined by the County Engineer as reasonably necessary to defray the costs of administering the county's stormwater quality program under this section.
  - I. Allowable changes, required amendments to the issued county stormwater quality permit and compliance are detailed in *Boulder County Land Use Code* at [www.bouldercounty.org/property-and-land/land-use/planning/land-use-code](http://www.bouldercounty.org/property-and-land/land-use/planning/land-use-code), and the *Storm Drainage Criteria Manual* at [www.bouldercounty.org/transportation/floodplain-management/storm-drainage-criteria-manual](http://www.bouldercounty.org/transportation/floodplain-management/storm-drainage-criteria-manual).
  - J. The county should be contacted at the beginning of any project to determine applicable procedures.

## Where to Find the Permit:

Applications can be submitted in person at the Land Use Department, or via email at [ezbp@bouldercounty.org](mailto:ezbp@bouldercounty.org). Questions on the permit process or plan requirements can be directed to the Transportation Department's Development Review Team at 303-441-3900.

## Application Checklist

### For projects disturbing an acre or more or part of a larger common plan of development:

- Grading and stormwater quality permit application
- Stormwater management plan (meeting all of Boulder County's requirements)
- SWQP checklist
- Copy of CDPS certification

### For projects disturbing under an acre within 100 horizontal feet of a waterway:

- Site Plans
- BMP details
- SWQP checklist for small projects