



# City of Coronado

## Groundwater Dewatering Policy

### INTRODUCTION

The City of Coronado has historically permitted and authorized dewatering of groundwater into the City's sewer system for private construction projects. This policy will provide information to contractors and the general public on the guidelines for approval.

For a dewatering project to be considered, a proposal and Right-of-Way Permit application must be submitted to:

**City of Coronado**  
**Engineering & Project Development Department**  
**1825 Strand Way**  
**Coronado, CA 92118**

The proposal and permit application should include all requirements of the Right-of-Way Permit. Consideration will only be given to dewatering projects that are temporary in nature. All dewatering projects must incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent possible and operate within all NPDES regulations.

In the event a dewatering permit is denied, applicants may choose to pursue authorization from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to discharge groundwater into a storm drain or body of water. The City permits dewatering proposals whose discharge enters into the City's storm drain system with written authorization from the RWQCB subject to certain conditions of approval.

### REQUIREMENTS

A dewatering proposal and Right-of-Way Permit application are required. The following information is required for all dewatering proposals:

1. A short description of the project that requires dewatering.
2. A site plan, which should include a map showing the property line, the proposed layout of the dewatering equipment, and the proposed connection to the City's sewer system.
3. A proposed flow rate (*gallons per minute*) and estimate of total volume (*gallons*) of groundwater to be discharged into the City's sewer system for the duration of the project.
4. A proposed number of dewatering wells and size of pump in each well.
5. Analysis of contents of a sample of groundwater extracted from below the site boundaries if the project location is in the vicinity of a contaminated site (this is determined by the State of California's Water Resources Control Board's Geotracker which can be accessed via <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>).
6. Treatment method for filtering the groundwater prior to discharge to the sewer connection. Filtering application should address sediments (must filter sediment up to 200 microns) and other pollutants (as applicable).

7. Manufacturer's specifications should be included for all major components used in the dewatering operations.
8. The discharge flow must be metered and a flow meter device must indicate the cumulative flow and an instantaneous rate of flow (an electromagnetic metering device is recommended). The flow meter must be visible and accessible to City staff at all times.

*Note: Use of equipment exceeding the threshold of the City of Coronado Noise Ordinance beyond the typical work hours of 7:00 am-7:00 pm Mon.-Sat., excluding federal holidays, must be approved by the Community Development Department.*

The fees for a dewatering permit consist of \$275 non-refundable fee for review and processing and a deposit to be used for sewer treatment costs if approved. The minimum deposit shall be determined based on the estimated total volume (gallons) to be discharged and multiplied by the sewer treatment rate which is currently \$0.00244125/gallon and subject to change as set by the City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department. The actual total volume discharged taken from the initial and final meter readings will determine the total cost per gallon assessed for the dewatering project. The applicant is responsible for the additional cost should the actual total volume exceed the deposit based on the estimated volume. The term of the dewatering permit shall not exceed six months from date of initial application, subject to review of the City Engineer.

## REVIEW OF PROPOSAL

City staff will begin a review upon receiving a permit application, permit fees, and dewatering proposal which addresses all requirements. City Staff will review the applicant's proposal for the following elements including but not limited to:

- Identifying if adequate capacity exists in the sewer system as determined by the Sewer Master Plan (September 2000) model. A maximum authorized discharge rate will be determined from the available capacity in the system.
- Determination of the sizing of the proposed pumps.
- The Public Services Department will review for conflicts with planned maintenance to the sewer system or known areas in which a sewer pipeline would not be able to accommodate additional flow due to blockages, root intrusion, or other issues within the sewer system.
- Determination of the appropriate proposed BMP's.

The City has adopted the following threshold for determining the maximum authorized discharge rate for an individual pipeline:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| A. For pipe diameters <18":       | The ratio of depth to flow to diameter, (D/d), shall be less than or equal to 0.50. |
| B. For pipe diameters > or = 18": | The ratio of depth to flow to diameter, (D/d), shall be less than or equal to 0.75. |

Under no circumstances shall a dewatering permit be issued if the proposed discharge exceeds the design criteria threshold for a given pipeline.



Proposals will be considered in the order they are received. The date and/or time received may be used to determine priority in the event of a conflict in available capacity of pipelines in the City's sewer system. Regardless, the City Engineer retains the right to prioritize available capacity in the City's sewer system as needed for the benefit of the general public.

### **APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITY**

The applicant is responsible for scheduling an initial inspection at least 48 hours in advance of commencing groundwater extraction. An initial meter reading will be conducted during the initial inspection. In addition, the applicant is responsible for scheduling a final inspection **before** the dewatering equipment is removed from the site. A final meter reading will be taken to determine the total volume discharged and prepare the final invoice. Should the flow meter be removed prior to the final meter reading, an average flow rate (calculated from previous inspections) will be used to determine the total volume. The total volume will be calculated assuming dewatering occurred up until the date the City was notified or independently discovered that dewatering operations were completed.

To determine how to avert flooding of the proposed subterranean structure to be constructed, the City recommends that the applicant conduct a hydrology study based on the 100-Year Storm Flood Plain.

The applicant will indemnify the City against general liability for damages that extend from the project site as a result of dewatering operations. The City may stop the water extraction operation if it threatens harm or causes damage to adjacent public or private properties.

The dewatering permit allows the use of the City's sewer system or storm drain system when feasible. A permit may be revoked, amended or terminated at any time. A permit neither entitles the applicant to any temporary utility rights nor appeal once the City Engineer has made a determination. The applicant may be subject to penalties in the case of tampering of any kind that may affect the metering of the total volume. The applicant is prohibited from discharging substances which are flammable, explosive, corrosive, hazardous, or toxic, or materials which may obstruct flow and may be subject to penalties if done. Regardless, the applicant is responsible for any and all damages incurred as a result of the dewatering operations.

To coordinate an inspection, contact the Engineering Technician at least 48 hours in advance at (619) 522-7384.

In the event of an emergency after hours, contact the Police Department at (619) 522-7350.