



**Mobile Washer General Wastewater  
Discharge Permit**

This **Mobile Washer General Wastewater Discharge Permit** authorizes mobile washing operations to discharge wastewater, into the City and County of San Francisco’s (City’s) combined sewerage system, provided that such wastewater discharges are in accordance with the following conditions and requirements:

- The requirements as described in Sections 118 – 140.7 of Chapter X (Public Works Code) of Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code, Article 4.1 (hereinafter referred to as “Article 4.1”);
- The Discharge Prohibitions and other applicable requirements as described in the State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order NO. 2013-0001-DWQ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) NPDES General Permit CAS000004 WDRs for Storm Water Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems ((hereinafter referred to as “MS4 Permit”); [MS4 Permit](#)
- The conditions set forth in this permit in Parts I-XI and Appendix A herein.

Compliance with this permit does not relieve a permittee of its obligation to comply with any or all applicable pretreatment regulations, standards or requirements under local, state and federal laws, including but not limited to applicable provisions of the San Francisco Health Code and San Francisco Building and Plumbing Codes, and applicable rules, regulations, permits and authorizations issued by the General Manager. Noncompliance with any condition of this permit shall constitute a violation of Article 4.1.

Date of Issuance and Effective Date:                   October 1, 2015

Date of Expiration:   September 30, 2020

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Lewis Harrison  
Manager  
Wastewater Enterprise  
Collection System Division

## **Part I – Definitions**

As used in this general permit, the following definitions shall apply:

“*Best Management Practices (BMPs)*” mean operational activities, prohibitions, maintenance procedures, and other management activities that implement the requirements of Section 140 of Article 4.1, state and federal law, and Department rules, regulations, permits or authorizations. Also see Appendix A.

“*Combined Sewer System Regulations Article 4.1, Chapter X, Part II of the San Francisco Municipal Code (Public Works Code) Section 123 (f):*” (*Sewer Use Ordinance*) means no person shall discharge without a permit any pollutants, except stormwater, directly or indirectly into a manhole, catchbasin, or other opening in the sewerage system other than an approved side sewer.

“*General Manager*” means the General Manager of the Public Utilities Commission of the City, or a designated representative of the General Manager.

“*Grab Sample*” means an individual sample of wastewater collected over a period of time not exceeding 15 minutes.

“*Grease Capturing Equipment*” means a plumbing appurtenance or appliance that is installed in a sanitary drainage system to separate fats, oils and grease from a wastewater discharge. Grease capturing equipment includes gravity grease interceptors, hydromechanical grease interceptors, grease removal devices and any other grease capturing equipment authorized by the General Manager.

“*Mobile Washer*” means an establishment, business, agency or individual that uses mobile hardscape washing equipment to wash surfaces.

“*MS4*” means the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.

“*Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Illicit Discharge*” means any discharge to the municipal separate storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of storm water, except for discharges allowed under a NPDES permit or waters used for firefighting operations.

“*Permit*” means a generic term to allow use of the sewer within the requirements of the sewer use ordinance. The Mobile Washer General Wastewater Discharge Permit is not a permit to discharge to catch basins or the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.

“*Treatment*” means the application of engineered systems that use physical, chemical, or biological processes to remove pollutants. Such processes include, but are not limited to, filtration, gravity settling, grease capturing equipment, media adsorption, biodegradation, biological uptake, chemical oxidation and UV radiation.

## **Part II – Compliance Schedule**

All mobile washer permittees shall observe the following compliance schedule:

- A. Any existing mobile washers must complete and submit a Mobile Washer General Permit Application by November 1, 2015. New mobile washers must complete and submit a Mobile Washer General Permit Application within 30 days of starting operation.
- B. All Mobile Washing Establishments shall comply with all conditions of this general permit.

## **Part III – Applicability**

All mobile washers that operate in the City and County of San Francisco are considered likely sources of discharge to the sanitary sewer or municipal separate storm sewer system, and therefore shall comply with the requirements of this general permit.

## **Part IV – Wastewater Discharge Limitations and Prohibitions**

- A. No person shall discharge without a permit any pollutants, except stormwater, directly or indirectly into a manhole, catchbasin, or other opening in the sewerage system other than an approved side sewer.
- B. Analyses of samples representative of any mobile washer wastewater discharges to the sewer lateral(s) shall not at any time exceed the following numerical limitation, which is contained in Section 123 of Article 4.1, as amended from time to time:  
[http://www.sfdpw.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/sfdpw/boe/manager/Industrial\\_Waste\\_Or\\_dinance-19-92.pdf](http://www.sfdpw.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/sfdpw/boe/manager/Industrial_Waste_Or_dinance-19-92.pdf)
- C. Mobile washer discharge to the municipal separate storm sewer system is prohibited.  
Area Map Link:  
<http://www.sfwater.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=291>

## **Part V – General Compliance Requirements**

- A. All mobile washers shall operate in accordance with Article 4.1, the MS4 Permit and with applicable City building codes and regulations.
- B. Mobile washers shall submit an application for a Batch Wastewater Discharge Permit or other authorization, if required to do so by the General Manager.

## **Part IX – Inspection Authority and Reporting Requirements**

- A. Upon the presentation of proper credentials, employees authorized by the General Manager, when necessary for the performance of their duties, shall have the right to

enter any Mobile Washer premises or area of operation. Such authorized personnel shall, at all reasonable hours, be allowed access to any facilities and records necessary for determining compliance, including, but not limited to the ability to:

1. Copy any records, inspect equipment, and sample and monitor any wastewater discharge subject to regulation under Article 4.1; and
2. Inspect the Mobile Washer equipment and waste storage areas.

Reasonable hours, in the context of inspection and sampling, include any time the Mobile Washer is engaged in any activity which could result in wastewater discharge into the City's sewerage system.

## **Part XI – Noncompliance**

A. A Mobile Washer shall reimburse the City for extraordinary costs, in addition to the applicable sewer service charge, if discharges of waste from its operation cause an obstruction, damage or other impairment to the sewerage system. The Mobile Washer shall pay to the City an amount equal to the costs, penalties and other incidental fees and expenses.

B. A Mobile Washer may be subjected to the following penalties for noncompliance with the requirements of this permit or Article 4.1:

1. Criminal Penalties

Under Section 133(a) of Article 4.1, any person who violates any provision of Article 4.1 is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in an amount not exceeding \$1,000 or be imprisoned in County Jail for not more than six months, or both. Each day each violation is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense.

Any person who knowingly makes any false statement or misrepresentation in any record, report plan, or other document filed with the General Manager, or tampers with or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or sampling and analysis method required under Article 4.1, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$25,000 or by imprisonment in County Jail for not more than six months, or both.

2. Civil Penalties

Under Section 133(b) of Article 4.1, any person who, without regard to intent or negligence, causes or permits any discharge of wastewater or hazardous waste, as defined in Title 22, California Code of Regulations and its amendments, into the City's sewerage system, except in accordance with all permit requirements and other provisions of Article 4.1; violates any provision of a cease and desist order or cleanup and abatement order issued by the General Manager; or violates any requirement or prohibition of Article 4.1, shall be liable civilly to the City in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 per day for each violation that occurs. For intentional or negligent violations, the person so deemed shall be liable civilly to the City in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 per day for each violation that occurs.

3. Administrative Civil Penalties

Under Section 133(c) of Article 4.1, notwithstanding Section 133(b), any person who, without regard to intent or negligence, causes or permits any discharge of wastewater or hazardous waste, as defined in Title 22, California Code of Regulations and its amendments, into the City's sewerage system, except in accordance with all permit requirements and other provisions of Article 4.1; violates any provision of a cease and desist order or cleanup and abatement order issued by the General Manager; or violates any requirement or prohibition of Article 4.1, shall be liable civilly to the City in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per day for each violation that occurs.

Notwithstanding Section 133(b), for intentional or negligent violations, the person so deemed shall be liable civilly to the City in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 per day for each violation that occurs.

## Appendix A - General Mobile Washing Best Management Practices

- **Walk the area to identify all storm drains and sanitary sewer drains.**
- **Use dry cleanup methods whenever possible.** Examples include shovels, mops, brooms, rags, or wire brushes to clean pavements and collect debris. Use absorbant to pick up spills that cannot be collected with a wet/dry vacuum.
- **Block or seal off any drains and/or other release points.**
- **Minimize water use.** All devices must be fitted with an automatic shut-off nozzle or other water-efficient device and any washing to address immediate health and safety needs should be spot cleaned as water-efficiently as possible, without causing runoff into the street, catch basins, or storm drains.
- **Contain, collect and treat wash water.** Decide on the best method of collection (e.g. berms, drain cover mats or inserts, vacuums/pumps, etc.) and treatment.
- **Train employees on the proper use of equipment, how to comply with the permit and the use of BMPs.**

Types of Cleaning & Disposal	Best Management Practices
Sidewalks, walkways, plazas, driveways	Dry cleanup by shoveling and sweeping up loose dirt and debris. Dispose of debris as solid waste. Using water to wash driveways and sidewalks is currently prohibited by the State of California for purposes other than an immediate health and safety need.
Parking lot, and drive-through	Dry cleanup first. Use absorbent materials to clean spills/leaks before spot washing. Collect wash water for treatment and disposal.
Restaurant floor mats, exhaust filters	Wash mats in a sink or wash area with a drain leading to grease capturing equipment. Discharge to a storm drain or catch basin is prohibited.
Building surfaces, decks (without loose paint)	Dry cleanup first. Place socks/booms around storm drains and collect wash water. Use a drop cloth for paint chips. Sweep up debris afterwards.
Painted surfaces washed for paint removal	Place a drop cloth below painted wall or fence to catch chips. All water and chips must be collected and properly disposed.
Vehicles (new or used) for sale, lease, or delivery	Wash at a commercial car washing facility.
Vehicles or equipment (fleet washing)	Discharge into an oil water separator connected to the sanitary sewer.
Non-biodegradable absorbant disposal	Commercial clay or silicate pet litter should be disposed of in the garbage (black bin).
Biodegradable absorbant disposal	Absorbant or pet litter made from wood, recycled paper, corn, wheat or other 100% compostable materials used to absorb non-hazardous non-infectious biodegradable material such as liquid food waste can be wrapped in a paper bag and disposed as compost (green bin).