



North Coast Building Industry Association

STORMWATER RUNOFF/EROSION CONTROL

Stormwater management and erosion control regulations should be based on best management practices instead of specific effluent guidelines or other numeric standards for discharges from construction activities. Changes in standards should not be applied retroactively.

Stormwater regulations are changing quickly. Builders and developers must understand both the minimum requirements established by federal rules as well as the different approaches used by states to implement them.

Stormwater runoff that comes from developed and urbanized areas can impact public health and safety in two ways. First, an increase in suspended solids, nutrients, metals and pathogens can threaten the health of aquatic organisms, wildlife and humans. Second, an increase in the quantity of runoff can alter or destroy aquatic habitat, change natural hydrologic patterns, and lead to local or downstream flooding.

If stormwater regulations are not designed and implemented in a thoughtful way, they can decrease the number of available pollutant-reduction options, increase costs, delay projects, result in poorly designed or maintained features, or simply occupy valuable space that could be used for housing or other community amenities. On the other hand, approaches such as green infrastructure, if implemented well, can seamlessly integrate into existing requirements, build value and achieve multiple community and environmental benefits.

Federal regulations actually affect builders twice – during active construction, and in perpetuity after the construction project is complete (post-construction).

The North Coast BIA urges Congress to work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urging the agency to enact and maintain reforms to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater program needed to reduce burdens while ensuring appropriate environmental protection.

The NCBIA also urges the U.S. EPA to streamline the reporting and recordkeeping requirements for stormwater discharges, and to reduce the paperwork requirements for business operators who construct single-family residences.

NAHB led the effort to get US EPA to withdraw its pursuit to adopt effluent limitation guidelines (EGL's). EGL's are incredibly difficult to establish and even more difficult to monitor and test for in a consistent manner. The NCBIA supports these efforts.