



## Highlights of new City Stormwater Regulations

*Effective November 1, 2009*

### **Chapter 12, Utilities**

#### **Pet Waste**

*Background:* Pet waste is a serious water quality and public health issue. Stormwater runoff washes bacteria, parasites, viruses, and nutrients from pet waste directly into our waterways. These pathogens can cause disease in humans, recreational swimming advisories, shellfish bed closures, algal blooms, low dissolved oxygen levels, and impaired aquatic habitat. A strong pet waste ordinance encourages citizens to be responsible for cleaning up their animal's waste in order to keep our waterways clean and safeguard public health.



*The City's new pet waste ordinance requires pet owners to:*

- Fully and immediately clean up after pets on any public property.  
*(Public property consists of streets, sidewalks, right of ways, parks, plazas, stream banks, public accesses, pathways, drainageways, storm drains, creeks, officially accepted easements, etc.)*
- Carry a clean-up device (i.e. bag, scooper) at all times.
- Show the clean-up device to a Code Enforcement Official, if requested.
- Bag and dispose of pet waste in a closed trash receptacle or refuse container.
- Do not flush pet waste down the toilet (Cape Fear Public Utility Authority ordinance).
- **Fines for non-compliance with the City's pet waste ordinance are \$250 per occurrence.**

## Yard Waste

*Background:* Debris is defined in the city code as yard waste (i.e. grass clippings, leaves, pine straw, etc), sediment, trash, litter or debris of any kind. Debris can cause significant water quality problems when it is blown or directed into the storm drainage system. Water quality problems include algal blooms, aquatic weed growth, oxygen depletion, fish kills, and impaired aquatic habitat. In addition, when the stormwater system is clogged with yard waste, it can cause street and property flooding.



*The City's new yard waste ordinance specifies:*

- It is unlawful to rake, sweep, blow, wash, direct or place any debris into the storm drainage system.  
*(The storm drainage system consists of streets, storm drains, ditches, swales, creeks, lakes, rights-of-way, dedicated easements, etc).*
- Property owners shall keep all ditches, drains, swales, and other drainageways on their property free from obstructions which would impede the flow of water.
- **Fines for non-compliance with the City's yard waste ordinance are \$250 per occurrence.**

Suggested best management practices (BMPs) for dealing with yard waste include:

- Direct or blow yard waste back onto a lawn or landscape area.
- Sweep, rake, and/or collect yard waste off of hard surfaces.
- Grasscycle - leave grass clippings on the lawn to decompose quickly and act as a natural fertilizer and to conserve moisture in the soil.
- Compost yard waste to use in the lawn, garden, or landscape.
- Collect and contain for city yard waste collection service according to specific yard waste collection policies. Do not use the city trash cart for yard waste or debris.
- Collect and dispose of waste at a legally authorized yard waste collection facility.

## Illicit Discharge

*Background:* Illicit discharge is described as anything that enters the storm drainage system which is not composed entirely of rainwater. Allowable exceptions that *can* enter the drainage system include water from firefighting, waterline flushing, landscape irrigation water, air conditioning condensate, de-chlorinated swimming pool water, etc.



The City's new Illicit Discharge ordinance specifies:

- Anyone found responsible for causing a polluting substance to enter the storm drainage system will be subject to a fine up to \$10,000 per violation.
- The city will have the authority to enter property to inspect for illicit discharges, and if found, to require that they be disconnected and permanently closed.
- Commercial businesses will not be permitted to wash vehicles, equipment, or any other surfaces with any soaps or solvents or dislodge any other substance that may be harmful to surface waters, unless the resulting wastewater is diverted to the sanitary sewer system.
- Restaurants will not be permitted to discharge any wastewater outside.
- Dumpster lids must be kept closed and dumpster plugs in place.
- Swimming pool water must be de-chlorinated before discharging.
- Floor drains in old buildings, connected to the storm drainage system, will be required to be disconnected and permanently closed.
- Residents and businesses will be expected to prevent harmful substances from running off into the storm drainage system.
- **Fines for non-compliance with the City's illicit discharge ordinance are up to \$10,000 per offense.**

## Article 14, Land Development Code

1. Permits for both water quality treatment and flood control will be issued by the city. Permits will no longer be issued within the city limits by Division of Water Quality (DWQ) except under some circumstances of a previously existing permit modification.
2. Applications for a Stormwater Management Permit will be reviewed within 15 days for completeness. Applicants will have 15 working days from notice of incomplete status to submit a complete application.
3. Creation of 10,000 square feet of newly constructed impervious surface, regardless of previous condition of surface, will trigger applicability of ordinance with some exceptions, including:
  - a. On-site stormwater management in the CBD is required only for the water quality volume, with flood volume control waived;
  - b. Payment-in-lieu is eliminated for the CBD;
  - c. On site stormwater management requirements are waived for *bona fide* redevelopment projects in the CBD; and
  - d. Reduced flood volume control requirements for *bona fide* redevelopment in areas identified in adopted city plans as priority redevelopment areas.
4. As-built drawings for all private development will be required.
5. Post-development peak discharge rate will be required to be controlled to not exceed the pre-development peak runoff discharge rate for the 25-year storm.
6. For multiple-lot developments, a homeowners' or property owners' association shall regulate through deed restrictions the allocation of impervious surface on a per-lot basis.
7. Separate developments standards will be applied to projects within 575 feet of Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW), those within one-half mile and draining to SA waters, and all other developments that do not fall into the other two categories.
8. Allowing proprietary devices for stormwater quality control will be considered on a case by-case basis.