

# Middle Rio Grande (MRG) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit





Stormwater Quality Program Environmental Compliance and Monitoring October 27, 2023



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SAND2023-10333PE

# MS4 Permit Overview

- Issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2014
- Applies to all centralized storm drainage systems within the Albuquerque Urbanized Area
- Approximately 13 Permittees, including:
- City of Albuquerque
- Bernalillo County
- Albuquerque Metropolitan Area Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA)
- Kirtland Air Force Base
- Sandia National Labs
- Permit requires development of Stormwater Management Program (SWMP), implementation of 7 control measure programs, water quality monitoring, and annual reporting
- All SNL submittals to EPA available to the public: http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/snl\_ms4/

# SNL/NM MS4 Location and Water Quality Monitoring Stations





- MS4 includes all of TA-I, TA-II, and TA-IV
  - 742 acres (1.2 square miles)
- 5 water quality monitoring locations:
  - I inflow location Stormwater Sampling Point (SWSP)-02
  - 4 outflow locations SWSP-05, SWSP-24, SWSP-35, SWSP-36
- 90% drains south to Tijeras Arroyo
  - 10% drains west to KAFB



# <sup>4</sup> MS4 Stormwater Quality Monitoring to Date (2016-2022)

Constituent	# Samples	# Exceedances
рН	66	4
Temperature	66	0
Dissolved Oxygen	66	4
Specific Conductance	66	0
Gross Alpha	61	4
Biological Oxygen Demand	56	
Chemical Oxygen Demand	58	
Phosphorous (dissolved)	59	0
Phosphorous (total)	59	0
Oil and Grease	53	0
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	59	0
Nitrate plus Nitrite	55	0
Total Dissolved Solids	56	0
Total Suspended Solids	59	
E. coli	68	46
PCBs	60	60

-- No Water Quality Standard established for this constituent.

#### MS4 E. Coli Samples by Location (2016-2023)

SWSP-02 SWSP-05 SWSP-24 SWSP-35 SWSP-36



# E. Coli in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area

SNL/NM ABQ Metro Rio Grande<sup>2</sup>



U.S. Geological Survey, Scientific Investigations Report 2015-5006. Summary of Urban Stormwater Quality in Albuquerque, NM 2003-2012. 2015.

2 https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nm-water/science/microbial-source-tracking-and-escherichia-coli-monitoring-rio-grande-south?qt-science\_center\_objects=0#qt-science\_center\_objects.

# Activities to Improve Water Quality

- Microbial Source Tracking Study (2020)
  - No E. coli from human sources
  - No E. coli from canine sources, low avian contribution
  - Suspect primary source is skunks, racoons, rodents
- Coordination with the Ecology Program reducing wildlife attractants and access to stormdrains
  - Wildlife proof trash cans
  - Barriers to stormdrains
- Coordination with Facilities group to reduce sediment load and standing water in stormdrains
  - Have seen significant improvements in the area of SWSP-02

#### PCB Samples by Location (2016-2023)



#### SWSP-02 SWSP-05 SWSP-24 SWSP-35 SWSP-36

### PCBs at Various NM Locations



U.S. Geological Survey, Scientific Investigations Report 2015-5006. Summary of Urban Stormwater Quality in Albuquerque, NM 2003-2012. 2015

2 Los Alamos National Laboratory. LA-UR-12-1081. PCBs in Precipitation and Stormwater Within the Upper Rio Grande Watershed. 2012

## Activities to Improve Water Quality

- PCB source tracking and characterization (2017-ongoing)
  - Majority of PCBs entering MS4 at SWSP-02
  - PCBs strongly correlated to sediment load
  - Conducting further monitoring to identify potential source areas
    - Potential hot spot upgradient of SWSP-02
- Sediment Reduction Plan (2015-2020, ongoing)
  - Reduced sediment contribution to stormdrains by ~25%
  - New detention basins and conveyance channel configuration at SWSP-02
- More Information: http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/snl\_ms4/

# **EPA** Audit and Site Inspection

- Audit of SWMP and Records, June 2022
  - EPA requested specific information from all 7 control programs + monitoring program
  - SNL provided 550+ pages of records and proof of compliance to EPA
  - No deficiencies identified
- Site Visit and Inspections of MS4 Facilities, May 2023
  - Inspectors from Region 6 Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division and NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau
  - Inspected all outfalls and numerous facilities
    - No violations identified, several recommendations were made:
      - Cover waste and recycling bins at reapplication yard, fix silt fence around a stormdrain inlet at fleet services, provide better containment of landscaping materials stored on ground surface

EPA Inspection Report issued August 2023: "...EPA inspectors found no deficiencies in staff understanding and application of permit requirements, or in the condition of the facilities. SNL has a comprehensive stormwater program and appears to do an excellent job of implementing their stormwater permit..."

# 12 Questions?

# More Information at the UNM Digital Repository http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/snl\_ms4/

