

TARRANT COUNTY Unincorporated Urbanized Areas

**TPDES General Permit # TXR040000
2013 – 2018**



**Storm Water Management Program
06/11/14**

Tarrant County TPDES Management Program Table of Contents

Section I – Overview and Definitions

1. Overview.....	3
2. Definitions.....	3-5

Section II – Permit Applicability and Coverage

1. Regulated Portion of Small MS4.....	5
2. Categories of Small MS4.....	6
3. Allowable Non-Storm Water Discharges.....	6
4. Impaired Water Bodies and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Requirements.....	6-7

Section III – Storm Water Management Program (SWMP)

Overview of Tarrant County’s SWMP.....	7-8
1. Public Education, Outreach and Involvement.....	8-12
2. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination.....	12-15
3. Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control.....	15-17
4. Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment.....	18-20
5. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.....	20-23

Section IV – Recordkeeping and Reporting

1. Recordkeeping.....	23
2. Annual Report.....	23-24

Note:

Detailed information about the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) storm water permit rule, executive decision and fact sheets are available at the TCEQ website, www.tceq.state.tx.us , and at Tarrant County Transportation Services and Public Health Departments Offices.

Part I –Overview and Definitions

Storm Water Rule Overview

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continues to be authorized by EPA to issue and enforce the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Phase 1 and 2 storm water permits, in lieu of federal NPDES permits. Tarrant County was issued Permit #TXR040052. Effective 12/13/2013, TCEQ Commissioners approved the TPDES General Permit to authorize discharge of storm water from regulated Phase 2 MS4s. Permittees must submit applications for coverage to TCEQ before 6/11/2014. The application must include a Notice of Intent for coverage (NOI) and a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). The NOI is a document that provides TCEQ with an official notification to seek permit coverage and identifies legally responsible parties for permit enforcement. The SWMP describes what actions are to be implemented by the permittee to address the required elements of a storm water program. The SWMP describes in detail which Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to meet permit requirements. The permit term covers 5 years (12/13/13 – 12/12/18). The permit will be renewed at 5 year intervals, which will likely require significant changes to the SWMP for future permit approvals.

Definitions:

Best Management Practices (BMPs)- Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, structural controls, local ordinances, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control runoff, spills, waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage areas.

Classified Segment- Refers to a water body that is listed and described in Appendix A or Appendix C of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, at 30 TAC § 307.10.

Clean Water Act (CWA)- The Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, Pub. L. 92-500, as amended Pub. L. 95-217, Pub. L. 95-576, Pub. L. 96-483, and Pub. L. 97-117, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et.seq.

Conveyance- Curbs, gutters, man-made channels and ditches, drains, pipes, and other constructed features designed or used for flood control or to otherwise transport storm water runoff.

Discharge- When used without a qualifier, refers to the discharge of storm water runoff or certain non-storm water discharges as allowed under the authorization of this general permit.

Hyper chlorinated Water- Water resulting from hyper chlorination of waterlines or vessels, with chlorine concentration greater than 10 milligrams per liter (mg/l).

Illicit Connection- Any man-made conveyance connecting an illicit discharge directly to a municipal separate storm sewer system.

Illicit Discharge- Any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water except discharges pursuant to this general permit or a separate authorization and discharges resulting from emergency firefighting activities.

Impaired Water-A surface water body identified on the latest approved CWA 303(d). List as not meeting applicable state water quality standards. Impaired waters include waters

with approved or established total maximum daily loads (TMDL's) and those where a TMDL has been proposed by TCEQ but has not yet been approved or established.

Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP)- The technology-based discharge standard for MS4s in order to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges that was established by CWA § 402(p). A discussion of MEP as it applies to small MS4s is found at 40 CFR §122.34.

MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Operator- The public entity, and/or the entity contracted by the public entity, responsible for management and operation of the small MS4 that is subject to terms of this general permit.

MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Small- A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains): (a) Owned or operated by the U.S., a state, city, town, borough, county, district, association, or other public body (created pursuant to State law) having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, storm water, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district, or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under § 208 of the CWA; (b) Designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water; (c) Which is not a combined sewer; (d) Which is not part of a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR § 122.2; and (e) Which was not previously authorized under a NPDES or TPDES individual permit as a medium or large MS4, as defined at 40 CFR §§ 122.26(b)(4) and (b)(7).

This term includes systems similar to separate storm sewer systems at military bases, large hospital or prison complexes, and highways and other thoroughfares. This term does not include separate storm sewers in very discreet areas, such as individual buildings. For the purpose of this permit, a very discreet system also includes storm drains associated with certain municipal offices and education facilities serving a nonresidential population, where those storm drains do not function as a system, and where the buildings are not physically interconnected to an MS4 that is also operated by that public entity.

Non-Traditional Small MS4-A small MS4 that often cannot pass ordinances and may not have the enforcement authority like a traditional small MS4 would have to enforce the stormwater management program. Examples of non-traditional small MS4's include counties, transportation authorities (including the Texas Department of Transportation), municipal utility districts, drainage districts, military bases, prisons, and universities.

Outfall- A point source at the point where a MS4 discharges to waters of the U.S. and does not include open conveyances connecting two MS4s, or pipes, tunnels, or other conveyances that connect segments of the same stream or other waters of the U.S. and are used to convey waters of the U.S.

Surface Water in the State - Lakes, bays, ponds, impounding reservoirs, springs, rivers, streams, creeks, estuaries, wetlands, marshes, inlets, canals, the Gulf of Mexico inside the territorial limits of the state..., and all other bodies of surface water, natural or artificial, inland or coastal, fresh or salt, navigable or non-navigable, and including the beds and banks of all water-courses and bodies of surface water, that are wholly or partially inside or bordering the state or subject to the jurisdiction of the state; except that waters in treatment systems which are authorized by state or federal law, regulation, or permit, and

which are created for the purpose of waste treatment are not considered to be water in the state.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)-The total amount of a substance a water body can assimilate and still meet the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.

Urbanized Area (UA)- A high population density area which may include multiple small MS4s. This is defined and used by the U.S. Census Bureau in the 2000 and the 2010 Decennial census.

Waters of the U.S.- (a) All waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; (b) all interstate waters, including interstate wetlands; (c) all other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds that the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters: (1) which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes; (2) from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or (3) which are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce; (d) all impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the U.S. under this definition; (e) tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this definition; (f) the territorial sea; and (g) wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in paragraphs (a) through (f) of this definition. Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA...are not waters of the U.S. This exclusion applies only to manmade bodies of water which neither were originally created in waters of the U.S. (such as disposal area in wetlands) nor resulted from the impoundment of waters of the U.S. Waters of the U.S. do not include prior converted cropland. Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other federal agency, for the purposes of the CWA, the final authority regarding CWA jurisdiction remains with EPA.

Part II - Permit Applicability and Coverage

Regulated Portion of Small MS4

The TPDES Permit requirements apply only to the portions of unincorporated Tarrant County that are identified as urbanized areas. There are approximately 30 non-contiguous urbanized areas in unincorporated Tarrant County. These areas are identified based upon data in the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census map. The map may be viewed at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/urbanmaps.cfm>. Several maps are available.

The Tarrant County SWMP addresses permit required BMPs only in the unincorporated urbanized area portions of the county: however, certain elements of the SWMP may be voluntarily implemented by the permittee within the larger unincorporated area. One example is *Public Education and Outreach*, which may be implemented on a more regional basis, such as television broadcasts or websites associated with the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Categories of Regulated Small MS4s

Texas is somewhat unique in the U.S. regarding the restrictions it places upon counties. Basically, the Texas Constitution and State statutes do not grant Texas counties the ability to create and enforce ordinances, such as the ones that Texas cities (Home Rule) are allowed to create in order to meet the TPDES permit requirements. To address this restriction, TCEQ rules contain text stating “to the extent allowable under state and local law”. This statement is cited several times in Part III, SWMP development and implementation, of the general permit. Tarrant County will address the various elements in the General Permit SWMP requirements to the extent allowable under current state and local law.

This permit defines MS4 Operators by the following categories, or levels, based on the population served within the 2010 UA. Tarrant County is a Level 2 operator based on the following definition: “Operators of a traditional small MS4’s that serve a population of at 10,000 but less than 40,000 within the UA. This category also includes all non-traditional small MS4s such as counties, drainage districts, transportation entities, military bases, universities, colleges, correctional institutions, municipal utility districts and other special districts regardless of population served within the UA, unless the non-traditional MS4 can demonstrate that it meets the criteria for a waiver from permit coverage based on the population served.”

Allowable Non-Stormwater Discharges

Tarrant County accepts the TCEQ list of allowable non-storm water discharges in the MS4. These non-storm water sources may be discharged from the MS4 and are not required to be addressed in the MS4’s Illicit Discharge and Detection MCM or other MCMs, provided they have not been determined by the MS4 to be substantial sources of pollutants to the MS4. A list of the allowable discharges is contained in the TCEQ General Permit, TXR040000; see Part II, Section C, and Page 14. Also Tarrant County will allow charitable car wash events to temporarily discharge water mixed with detergents if wash water is discharged into a grassy area and the wash water soaks into the ground prior to the next runoff producing rain storm.

Impaired Water Bodies and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Requirements

Discharges to Water Quality Impaired Water Bodies with an Approved TMDL

Tarrant County has unincorporated urbanized areas in the watershed of the approved TMDL drainage area. The Tarrant County stormwater staff will work to implement the region wide “Implementation Plan for the Seventeen Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria in the Greater Trinity River Region” covering the Upper Trinity River, Cottonwood Branch and Grapevine Creek and Lower West Fork Trinity River. Tarrant County Storm Water Staff has determined that the largest portion of the Unincorporated Urbanized Area in the above mentioned I-Plan is located in the Sub Watershed 0841M. Based on the benchmark information from the I-Plan, the Waste Load Allocation (WLA) for stormwater is 184.4 billions MPN/day. The I-Plan describes the steps watershed stakeholders and the TCEQ will take toward achieving the pollutant reductions identified in the TMDL’s, technical reports and outlines the schedule for implementation activities. During the creation of the I-Plan, the Tarrant County’s Stormwater staff played an active role as Chairperson of the Onsite Sewage Facility subcommittee and a committee member of the TMDL Coordinating Council.

In reviewing the I-Plan, Tarrant County's Stormwater staff has determined Tarrant County has no direct discharge into any impaired water bodies within the approved TMDL watershed. Tarrant County will implement some (such as, onsite sewage facilities, illicit discharges and dumping and residential education) of those implementation strategies and BMP's listed in the approved I-Plan and from the small MS4 General Permit Part II, Section D 4(a)(5) "Impairment for Bacteria." These implementation strategies and BMP's for bacteria reduction will be listed as BMP's in the body of our SWMP and highlighted by (TMDL).

Tarrant County will assess progress by using program implementation indicators such as:

- (1) Number of sources identified or eliminated-See MCM 2(e) and 2(f)
- (2) Decrease in number of illegal dumping-See MCM 2(f)
- (3) Increase in illegal dumping reporting-See MCM 2(f)
- (4) Number of educational opportunities conducted-See MCM 1(g), 1(i) and 1(m)
- (5) Reductions in sanitary sewer flows (SSOs)-See MCM 2(e)

Discharges Directly to Water Quality Impaired Water Bodies without an Approved TMDL

Tarrant County staff has determined there are direct discharges from our MS4 system to impaired water bodies without an approved TMDL. Based on information from the Texas 303(d) list on May 9, 2013, Tarrant County has two locations (Burlson Retta Road and Village Creek and Shelby Road at Village Creek) where we direct discharge into Segment 828A Village Creek (unclassified water body). The pollutant of concern is bacteria, which is listed as active from Lake Arlington to the headwaters from Village Creek. These implementation strategies for bacteria reduction will be listed as BMP's in the body of our SWMP.

Part III – STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (SWMP)

Overview of Tarrant County's SWMP

To the extent allowable under State and local law, Tarrant County's SWMP was developed and will be implemented according to requirements of Part III of TPDES General Permit TXR040000, for discharges of storm water to surface water in the state. This SWMP was developed to prevent pollution in storm drainage systems to the maximum extent practicable, with control measures being phased in during the 5 year permit term. Since Tarrant County is a Level 2 Category of Regulated Small MS4's, it's SWMP will only address five minimum control measures (MCMs) as required by TCEQ rules. MCMs will be implemented in urbanized areas of unincorporated Tarrant County and may be voluntarily implemented in other unincorporated areas of Tarrant County if warranted by special conditions such as participation in regional initiatives. MCMs will be evaluated based upon the accomplishment of activities (BMPs) listed under each MCM. Tarrant County storm water staff from two departments will monitor MCM activities and are identified in each section.

Legal Authority (Traditional Small MS4s vs. Non-Traditional MS4s)

As a non-traditional MS4, Tarrant County is not authorized by the State Constitution or State Statutes to enact the ordinances and implement all of the regulatory requirements that Phase 2 (small MS4) requires. Tarrant County addresses and explains it's authority under "to the extent allowable under state and local law" in the appropriate Minimum Control Measure sections of

the Storm Water Management Plan. Tarrant County has determined it is not feasible to Tarrant County to enter into interlocal agreements. Tarrant County shall notify adjacent MS4 operators with enforcement authority or TCEQ's Field Operations Support Division as needed to report discharges or incidents that the County cannot itself enforce.

Ditch Drainage System (Traditional Small MS4s vs. Non-Traditional MS4s)

Unlike cities, Tarrant County's storm drainage system is not a traditional underground drainage system (curb inlets, underground pipes and outfall discharges from pipes). Instead, Tarrant County's storm drainage system is mostly comprised of unlined (pervious) above ground ditches. Benefits and challenges associated with this type of system will be addressed in the appropriate MCM sections.

Large Area and Long Distances between Non-Contiguous Urbanized Areas (Traditional Small MS4s vs. Non-Traditional MS4s)

Unlike cities, Tarrant County has approximately 30 small non-contiguous Urbanized Areas scattered across a county wide area of 863 square miles. Long travel distances, often exceeding those found in large MS4 cities will be required by small MS4 County staff to implement daily activities associated with this program. This extra challenge is another element to consider when comparing the SWMPs of counties to cities in the area.

Annexation and De-annexation (Traditional Small MS4s vs. Non-Traditional MS4s)

Unlike cities, counties will be losing land areas when annexation occurs. Counties will not be adding new areas of responsibilities and will not have to provide services to the annexed land. Tarrant County will only add urbanized areas when population densities increase in existing unincorporated county, as designated by the U.S. Census Bureau on a ten year cycle.

Participants in developing/implementing Tarrant County's SWMP

Tarrant County's SWMP was developed by County staff with over 20 years of storm water experience. Responsibilities for implementing the SWMP are divided between two County departments: Transportation Services and Public Health. Each MCM contains the name, department, mailing address, phone number and email of staff or manager primarily responsible for that specific MCM.

Rationale Statement for Tarrant County's SWMP

During the development of Tarrant County's SWMP, the County staff considered Best Management Practices and the Implementation Plan for Seventeen Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria in the Greater Trinity River Region (TCEQ Approved Regional I-Plan) that would protect water quality, comply with General Permit TXR040000, meet the MEP and ensure program costs that would not create undue hardship on county residents and businesses. Established Phase I storm water programs, as well as proposed Phase II programs from other MS4 operators, were reviewed and evaluated. Tarrant County's involvement with NCTCOG and the regional approach with storm water quality BMPs were also reviewed and evaluated. A variety of BMPs for each minimum control measures were considered and compared. BMPs were ultimately selected based on an evaluation of overall effectiveness, affordability and suitability to the unincorporated Tarrant County MS4 system. The program will allow continual

adjustment and refinement through County implementation experience and feedback from various sectors of the unincorporated population.

Section III. MCM 1 – Public Education Outreach and Involvement

Tarrant County will inform the public about water quality issues regarding storm water runoff and illicit discharges by providing informational materials in multiple formats and media. Tarrant County, Tarrant County/ Texas AgriLife Extension Service, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and other resources may be used to develop and distribute public education and outreach material. If practical, Tarrant County will work with NCTCOG and other local governments to develop suitable community materials for website posting and/or distribution at Tarrant County Sub-Courthouses.

The community to be addressed will consist of residents, public service employees, businesses, commercial/industrial facilities and construction site personnel in unincorporated/urbanized areas of Tarrant County. Due to the lack of a centralized location to attract visitors within the approximately 30 non-contiguous urbanized areas in unincorporated Tarrant County, visitors will not be a targeted group. Also these areas are mostly residential in nature and not intended to attract visitors.

(a) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date** – **Texas SmartScape Website**

Tarrant County staff worked with NCTCOG and others to develop an interactive regional internet version of the *Texas SmartScape*, which is available at www.txsmartscape.com and is currently maintained by NCTCOG. The website promotes both storm water education and water conservation.

Goal and Date: Tarrant County will report the number of visits to the Texas Smartscape website in the annual report.

Status: **In Progress**

(b) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date** - **Texas SmartScape Bookmarks**

Bookmarks to publicize the Texas SmartScape website will be purchased and distributed by Tarrant County stormwater staff. Tarrant County will distribute its order through the Tarrant County Sub-Courthouses and other sources.

Goal and Date: Number of Bookmarks purchased and the number handed out will be tallied every permit cycle.

Status: **In Progress**

(c) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date** – **March is Texas SmartScape Month**

This is a coordinated annual activity where local governments jointly conduct public education and awareness events to promote less pesticide and fertilizer use associated with landscapes. This is a NCTCOG RDI (Regionally Developed Initiative) and records will be maintained on both a regional and entity basis. Tarrant County will continue to participate in this annual event.

Goal and Date: At least one website posting or newspaper article will be published to support “March is Texas SmartScape Month”. Any additional efforts will be documented and reported as part of the annual report to TCEQ. Tarrant County has participated in past

“March...” activities and will continue to do so annually during the 5 year permit term.

Status: **In Progress**

(d) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Tarrant Regional Water District Website**

Participate in the Tarrant Regional Water District Website, “SaveTarrantWater.Com”. Tarrant County is a resource link from this main webpage. This project consists of a webpage for the Dallas Fort Worth area and is intended to increase awareness about local environmental issues and individual voluntary measures that the public can take to protect our North Central Texas watershed resources.

Goals and Date: Tarrant County staff will continue to monitor this webpage and update any changes as needed. We will report the number of visits to this site every permit cycle. This website is under the jurisdiction of Tarrant Regional Water District and if future funding is not available, and the website is discontinued, Tarrant County will seek other regional efforts.

Status: **In Progress**

(e) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Educational Materials and Distribution**

Tarrant County will distribute storm water related material at 5 or more County buildings. Examples include such items as information sheets, brochures, bookmarks, etc. These materials may be developed by Tarrant County staff, NCTCOG Storm Water Education Taskforce, EPA, TCEQ, or any other source, current or future. Some of these materials will address illicit discharges, construction, NOI submittals and other informational materials required by the permit. Additionally Tarrant County may elect to use materials that are intended for TV or radio broadcasts, if such materials are affordable. Also Tarrant County may participate in regional storm water education projects to supplement (if the regional activities are more effective or reach a larger audience) this BMP and will report activities in the annual report.

Goal and Date: At least 500 copies will be distributed annually, beginning in Permit Year 1 and continuing through Permit Year 5. TV or radio broadcasts may substitute for 500 hundred copies.

Status: **In Progress**

(f) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Texas AgriLife Extension Service**

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service conducts a variety of environmental educational activities (speeches, TV shows, radio programs and newspaper stories, training, etc.) in Tarrant County. Storm water staff will coordinate with Texas AgriLife Extension Service staff (which will include the volunteer group Tarrant County Master Gardeners) to report any annual educational activities that are storm water related in Tarrant County. The Texas AgriLife Extension Service staff coordinates with many other volunteer groups (i.e. 4-H groups) and will be a good resource to reach the community.

Goal and Date: Tarrant County staff will document this information and include it in the annual report.

Status: **In Progress**

(g) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Tarrant County News (TMDL)**

The *Tarrant County News* section in the Star Telegram newspaper is published on a

routine basis. Annually, storm water staff will prepare an article for the *Tarrant County News* that targets the TCEQ public education and outreach groups on stormwater issues and an article addressing bacterial concerns in impaired regional watersheds. The County's Public Information Officer will determine whether it can be used. If not, documentation will be provided that at least 2 storm water related articles from other sources have been published in other sections of the newspaper during the permit year.

Goal and Date: Either one annual *Tarrant County News* story will be prepared by county staff or two storm water related stories contained in other Star Telegram sections and created by others will be documented.

Status: **In Progress**

(h) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – NCTCOG Participation**

Participate in the NCTCOG's Storm Water Education Task Force and the Regional Storm Water Management Coordinating Council, in order to develop storm water educational materials which can be used by MS4s in the North Central Texas Region. Any materials developed by the Taskforce or Council will be reviewed by Tarrant County staff and may be selected for use during appropriate times during the permit term. See (e) Educational Materials and Distribution.

Goal and Date: Document participation in NCTCOG Storm Water groups. Participation will continue throughout the permit term, unless the Task Force and/or Council are dissolved. Records of participation will be maintained every permit cycle.

Status: **In Progress**

(i) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – Public Health & Transportation Services Websites (TMDL)**

Post storm water information on the Tarrant County Public Health Department website, www.tarrantcounty.com/publichealth and on the Transportation Department website, www.tarrantcounty.com/etransportation. Tarrant County will provide links to the TCEQ, EPA and NCTCOG storm water websites.

Goal and Date: The Tarrant County Public Health & Transportation Services websites will be active and contain storm water information. By the end of Permit Year 2, bacteria information will be added to the Tarrant County Public Health website. The sites will be reviewed annually to determine if content revisions are needed.

Status: **In Progress**

(j) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – Public Notice for Meetings**

Tarrant County Commissioner's Court meetings are subject to state/local public notice requirements, which meet TCEQ minimum requirements for public involvement/participation.

Goal and Date: Staff will bring at least one SWMP item before Commissioner's Court each year and include that information in annual reports to TCEQ. Public notice for meetings is already in effect and will continue.

Status: **In Progress**

(k) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – Posting Draft/Current SWMP on Website**

After internal review by Tarrant County Officials and prior to submittal to TCEQ, staff will post the draft SWMP on the County’s website.

Goal and Date: Staff will post the Draft SWMP on the County Website.

Status: **In Progress**

(l) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – Earth Day Event**

Tarrant County Public Health holds an annual Earth Day Event on or near the actual day of Earth Day to educate Tarrant County Employees and guests visiting the public health building in Fort Worth, Texas. Tarrant County staff and outside vendors distribute various educational materials addressing the practice of good stewardship toward the environment, ecosystems and public health in general. Staff and vendors also have demonstrations during the event, whether it be making rain barrels, erosion exhibition explaining the effects of stormwater events, solar power or any other available prop.

Goal and Date: Tarrant Stormwater staff will participate at the Earth Day Event to distribute educational information on stormwater concerns, water conservation and various materials to Tarrant County employees and visiting guests. Stormwater staff will monitor and tally the distribution of any materials and information during this April event.

Status: **New BMP**

(m) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – Targeted Bacteria Pollutant Reduction (TMDL)**

Tarrant County Stormwater staff will begin our first educational campaign to educate employees and citizens in the reduction and abatement of the targeted bacteria, E-Coli, from the Trinity River and its tributaries within the urbanized unincorporated area of Tarrant County. Staff plans to develop printed educational materials explaining the negative effects of E-Coli in the waterways.

Goal and Date:

Permit Year 1-Organization and gathering of information;

Permit Year 2-Develop and print educational materials;

Permit Year 3-Distribution and tracking of the education materials

Status: **New BMP**

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Section III. MCM 2 – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

To the extent allowable under State law, Tarrant County currently implements an illicit discharge program. Since Texas counties do not have the rule/ordinance making authority that cities have, illicit dischargers that Tarrant County cannot enforce against, after seeking voluntary compliance, will be referred to the TCEQ Region 4 Office in Fort Worth. Malfunctioning on-site sewage facilities, such as septic systems, are subject to County corrective actions and enforcement, as necessary. Tarrant County's allowable non-stormwater discharges have been documented on page 6 of our SWMP. Another item that impacts the development of this MCM is the actual structure of the MS4 system. Tarrant County's MS4 is mostly composed of open drainage ditches, as opposed to underground pipe systems and outfalls found in urbanized cities. This means that illicit connections/discharges to underground systems, which are often an important source of illicit discharges for cities, are not as hidden or difficult to locate in open drainage ditch systems found in many counties. Also dry weather flows are not as common in ditch systems since they are not lined in concrete and water is absorbed into the ground, while also being exposed to wind and sunlight. Additionally, outfalls are not as commonly found in a ditch system compared to an underground pipe system which discharges into readily identifiable outfalls.

(a) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – MS4 Mapping

Tarrant County will continue to update our MS4 outfall map in the urbanized areas in unincorporated Tarrant County. Staff will locate old and new outfalls contained in those areas that discharge directly into waters of the State, using available resources such as EPA Urbanized Area maps, NCTCOG developed maps, TCEQ website, 7.5 minute USGS topographic maps and the Texas Integrated Report, 303(d). Tarrant County will select the best resource(s) to use in map preparation. Tarrant County staff will locate on the MS4 map all outfalls that are located in the urbanized unincorporated areas and discharge into waters of the U.S. The map will have the location and names all surface waters receiving discharges from Tarrant County's outfalls.

Goals and Dates:

Permit Year 1-Organization and planning;

Permit Year 2-Revisit outfalls from census year 2000 UA and find new outfalls from the census year 2010 UA in unincorporated urbanized Precinct 2.

Permit Year 3-Revisit outfalls from census year 2000 UA and find new outfalls from the census year 2010 UA in unincorporated urbanized Precinct 3.

Permit Year 4-Revisit outfalls from census year 2000 UA and find new outfalls from the census year 2010 UA in unincorporated urbanized Precinct 1.

Permit Year 5-Revisit outfalls from census year 2000 UA and find new outfalls from the census year 2010 UA in unincorporated urbanized Precinct 4.

Status: Not Started

(b) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – Employee Training

A training program will be revised for County employees who have the potential to impact storm water quality. This is a NCTCOG Regionally Developed

Initiative (RDI). The training program will consist of videos and educational materials developed by NCTCOG and other private providers. Storm water staff will train employees about pollution prevention techniques, illicit discharges, illicit connection, good housekeeping practices and staff to contact with stormwater related questions or concerns.

Goal and Date:

Permit Year 1-Revisions to the training program will be reviewed and updated with current standards and techniques.

Permit Year 2-Storm Water staff will train Tarrant County Public Health (Environmental Division) and Facility Management field personnel.

Permit Year 3-Storm Water staff will train Tarrant County Transportation Department and the four Tarrant County Precinct Maintenance Centers field personnel.

Permit Year 4-Storm Water staff will train only new employees to Tarrant County Public Health (Environmental Division) and Facility Management field personnel.

Permit Year 5-Storm Water staff will train only new employees to Tarrant County Transportation Department and the four Tarrant County Precinct Maintenance Centers field personnel.

Status: **Not Started**

(c) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Public Reporting: NCTCOG Illegal**

Dumping Hotline

Tarrant County will continue this current activity with the North Central Texas Council of Governments to offer residents of unincorporated Tarrant County the opportunity to report illegal dumping to the regional *Stop Illegal Dumping Hotline*, 1-888-335-DUMP. This number is monitored by NCTCOG and calls are referred to local governments. Tarrant County will continue to publicize and follow up on reports from this hotline. If this program is discontinued, an alternate way of reporting will be developed by Tarrant County.

Goal and Date: Document yearly phone calls to the NCTCOG Hotline which are forwarded to Tarrant County beginning in Permit Year 1 and continuing through Permit Year 5.

Status: **In Progress**

(d) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Public Reporting: Citizen Reports and County Staff Surveillance.**

Citizen and county staff reporting of apparent water pollution in neighborhood drainage ways and creeks is a reasonable means of detecting illicit discharges in unincorporated areas of Tarrant County. County storm water staff phone numbers will be listed on both department websites for citizens to use. Also during the performance of other duties, such as mosquito collections and road or drainage maintenance, county transportation or precinct staff may see signs of illicit discharges. In the unincorporated urbanized area, Tarrant County staff will investigate citizen reports and county staff discovered illicit discharges in a timely manner. Voluntary compliance will be suggested to prevent TCEQ enforcement.

Since the County's enforcement powers are restricted, TCEQ's Region 4 Field Office will be notified of illicit dischargers that do not comply voluntarily.

Goal and Date: Storm Water staff phone numbers are placed on both Departments websites. Staff will document yearly citizen reports received by Tarrant County Public Health and the Transportation Department beginning in Permit Year 1 and continuing through Permit Year 5.

Status: **In Progress**

(e) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Source Investigation and Elimination: Onsite Sewage Facility (OSSF) (TMDL)**

The Tarrant County Public Health Department, Environmental Health Division staff will maintain records of actions taken regarding OSSF in regard to the Storm Water Program. Tarrant County has authority from the State of Texas under TCEQ to enforce rules regarding the installation and operation of on-site sewerage facilities and public health violations that may contribute to bacteria loading into the waters of the State.

Goal and Date: Computer software is used to track, monitor and document OSSF's regarding any violations which may contribute to bacterial pollution. Storm Water staff will document the number of OSSF citizen and staff complaints, the number brought into compliance and the number of violations still under investigation.

Status: **In Progress**

(f) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date -**Source Investigation and Elimination: Illegal Dumping Team (TMDL)**

The Tarrant County Sheriff's Department Illegal Dumping Team is a group of deputies who investigate illegal dumping in the county. Storm water staff will coordinate with the Sheriff's Department team to report annual activities (number of illegal dumping cases, number of cleanups and number of issued citations) that occurred in the county's storm water drainage right of ways.

Goal and Date: Document activities and include in annual report, beginning in Permit Year 1 and continuing through Permit Year 5.

Status: **In Progress**

(g) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Source Elimination: Household Hazardous Waste**

The Tarrant County Transportation Department will continue to partner with the City of Fort Worth to offer residents of unincorporated Tarrant County the opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste at Fort Worth's Environmental Collection Center. Tarrant County will continue to fund the use of this regional facility, as long as it's economically feasible. This is a current program and is planned to continue during the permit term.

Goal and Date: Document yearly participation beginning in Permit Year 1 and continuing through Permit Year 5.

Status: **In Progress**

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Section III. MCM 3 – Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control

To the extent allowable under State law, the County will continue construction inspections in the urbanized areas of unincorporated Tarrant County. Since Texas counties do not have the rule/ordinance making authority that cities have, the County cannot enforce a program to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff from construction sites. Any required enforcement will be conducted by TCEQ. The County will participate in this MCM by providing general information about the TCEQ requirements to construction site operators, conducting voluntary reactive and proactive inspections and promoting the iSWM Design Manual for Construction developed by NCTCOG.

Tarrant County accepts the TCEQ list of prohibited discharges for construction sites. A list of the prohibited discharges is contained in the TCEQ General Permit, TXR040000; see Part III, Section B 3 (3), Page 37.

- (a) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – iSWM Design Manual for Construction**
This Regionally Developed Initiative (RDI) created by the NCTCOG is used to provide guidance to governmental entities, property owners, developers, engineers, and contractors for reducing the impact of storm water runoff from construction activities on downstream natural resources and properties. The manual establishes the framework and provides the tools to effectively plan install and maintain erosion and sediment controls, soil stabilization and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction site storm water runoff. The county plans to STRONGLY suggest that all developers and construction site operators use this manual.
Goal and Date: Tarrant County will continue to promote the use of the iSWM Design Manual for Construction. The Tarrant County Engineer has developed a letter to be sent to prospective developers in the unincorporated county highlighting iSWM. Storm water staff will track the number of letters being sent by the county engineer and report on the number during the annual report.
Status: **In Progress**
- (b) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – Construction Plan Review Procedures**
The County’s storm water team currently reviews all projects where Precinct work crews may be involved with construction projects. These projects may be internal county road construction projects or they may be projects that the county performs for local cities. The review by county staff is to ensure all TCEQ

Construction General Permit rules and regulations are followed by the city and county. Staff also reviews the projects for potential water quality impacts. Goals and Dates: The storm water staff will track the internal construction projects and external construction projects with other cities or contractors building structures for Tarrant County.

Status: **In Progress**

(c) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Construction Site Inspection and Enforcement**

The County will begin conducting voluntary construction site inspections in the urbanized unincorporated areas of Tarrant County. At least 4 sites will be inspected annually in the urbanized area. If there are not 4 sites to review, staff will try to locate additional sites in the unincorporated areas of the county. Site operators will be checked for NOI submittal, the presence of a functional SWPPP, erosion control materials, proper control of construction waste and general compliance with TCEQ requirements. If, after initial inspection and follow-up, there are significant violations which have not been corrected, then the TCEQ will be notified that the County is discontinuing its voluntary inspections at the site. Also, if entrance to a site or a request to review records is denied, then the County will notify TCEQ that it will not be performing inspections at the site.

Goal and Date: At least 4 annual voluntary construction site inspections in urbanized unincorporated areas of Tarrant County will be conducted beginning in Permit Year 1 and continuing through Permit Year 5.

Status: **In Progress**

(d) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Information Submitted by the Public**

The County will continue to address public submittals of information regarding storm water quality issues associated with construction sites. The County will receive information and evaluate an appropriate response. The response may include a voluntary construction site visit to observe conditions and resolve issues, a direct referral to TCEQ, periodic site surveys or other response to address public submittal of information. Also, a public information flyer about the Construction Storm Water TPDES Permit will be developed to distribute to citizens and the construction industry. Due to anticipated low numbers of NOI and CSN notices being sent to the MS4 by the construction industry, Tarrant County will publish at least 1 article in the *Star Telegram Tarrant County News* to encourage construction operators to comply with this TCEQ notice requirement to the MS4.

Goal and Date: County storm water staff has placed phone numbers on the Transportation Department and Public Health's website for citizens to use to obtain storm water quality information. The public information flyer will be developed in Permit Year 2. The article in the *Star Telegram Tarrant County News* will be published yearly beginning Permit Year 1 and continue through Permit Year 5.

Status: **In Progress**

(e) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **MS4 Staff Training**

Storm water staff will track their annual training on construction storm water issues. This training may come from classes, seminars, professional membership meetings or TCEQ workshops.

Goals and Dates: Staff has begun tracking construction storm water training. It will be documented in the annual report.

Status: **New BMP**

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Section III. MCM 4 – Post Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment

The intent of this MCM is to lessen the storm water quality impacts after construction has been completed on new and redeveloped sites (1 acre or larger of disturbed earth). To the extent allowable under State law, Tarrant County will develop and implement a Post Construction MCM in unincorporated Tarrant County, which includes both urbanized and other areas. Since Texas counties do not have the rule/ordinance making authority that cities have, the County cannot enforce a program to reduce pollutants in post construction storm water runoff at new and redeveloped sites.

The County will participate in this MCM by allowing the use of unlined or pervious drainage ditches, instead of impervious concrete gutter and underground storm drain pipe systems, which cities typically require, and other activities. Compared to impervious underground storm drain pipe systems, above ground open grassy drainage ditch systems allow more storm water runoff to soak into the ground, which reduces downstream runoff velocities (erosion reduction), provides a means of detaining and treating, to a degree, some pollutants (sediment, nutrients/fertilizers, detergents, etc.) and allows illicit discharges to be easier to observe and locate. Drainage ditch systems are usually less costly to install and are compatible with large lots that are required for OSSF's which provides obvious incentives for their continued installation during and beyond this permit period. Tarrant County maintains drainage ditches and channels that serve County roads and will continue to do so throughout the permit term.

(a) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Allow Pervious Drainage Systems**

Instead of requiring impervious concrete curb and gutter systems, Tarrant County will generally allow developers, home builders and residents in unincorporated areas to use open, unlined grassy storm drainage ditches next to streets. This is an example of a policy that is both cost effective to the construction community and environmentally effect for the County's storm water permit. Specific legal

agreements with some adjacent cities may supercede this policy, but overall the policy will continue to be allowed.

Goal and Date: Tarrant County will allow open grassy drainage ditches and channels to receive and transport storm water runoff from roads and other impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways and sidewalks. This activity is currently in effect and will remain in effect during the permit term.

Status: **In Progress**

(b) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Tracking Additional Pervious Drainage Systems**

Tarrant County crews will maintain the open grassy drainage ditches beside County roads in unincorporated Tarrant County. This will allow the drainage system to operate properly and produce storm water quality benefits listed above.

Goal and Date: Report annual additions to the County maintained drainage ditches. Updates will be provided in the annual report, beginning in Permit Year 1 and continuing through Permit Year 5.

Status: **In Progress**

(c) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Texas SmartScape**

Tarrant County will continue to support *Texas SmartScape* activities both in the North Texas region and County. New home owners and others will be encouraged to use native and adapted plant landscaping by providing promotional materials and internet links (from either the Tarrant County’s main website or the Tarrant County Public Health Department’s webpage) to www.txsmartscape.com which will be maintained by NCTCOG.

Goal and Date: Tarrant County will report the number of visits to the Texas Smartscape website in the annual report.

Status: **In Progress**

(d) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **New and Current County Facilities**

As Tarrant County believes this BMP to be a long term maintenance of post construction storm water control measure for our county facility sites, we will continue to encourage new and current County facilities to plant *Texas SmartScape* or comparable landscapes. The new Tarrant County Public Health Department will plant and maintain a *Texas SmartScape*. Storm water staff will cooperate with Tarrant County Cooperative Extension staff to promote the use of native and adapted plants in landscaping. Tarrant County staff will continue to photograph current and new county facilities documenting the use of native plants and other water conservation efforts.

Goal and Date: A photographic record of County facilities that use *Texas Smartscape* or comparable landscapes will be maintained beginning in Permit Year 1 and continuing through Permit Year 5.

Status: **In Progress**

(d) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **iSWM (integrated Storm Water**

Management) Tarrant County believes this BMP to be a long term maintenance of post construction storm water control measure for private and public

development site. Therefore, Tarrant County will continue to participate in developing this regional initiative that will link storm water quantity (flood control) and storm water quality (storm water permits). A considerable amount of time and money has been spent by many local governments in North Central Texas to produce an innovative product, *iSWM* (formally *Comprehensive Drainage Criteria and Design Manual*). Due to State law limitations regarding enforcement, Tarrant County won't be enforcing *iSWM* content; however, the county plans to STRONGLY suggest that developers and engineers use this manual in development and redevelopment of sites.

Goal and Date: Tarrant County will continue to promote the use of the *iSWM* Design Manual. The Tarrant County Engineer has developed a letter to be sent to prospective developers in the unincorporated county highlighting *iSWM*. Storm water staff will track the number of letters being sent by the county engineer and report on the number during the annual report.

Status: **In Progress**

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Section III. MCM 5 – Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Tarrant County has established a program to conduct its general operations in a manner that prevents or reduces pollution in storm water runoff to the maximum extent practicable. This MCM requires a local government to examine multiple internal operations to see if they can be maintained or modified to prevent or minimize storm water pollution or illicit discharges. As stated by TCEQ, examples of local government operations include, but are not limited to: park and open space maintenance; street, road or highway maintenance; fleet and building maintenance; storm water system maintenance; new construction and land disturbances; parking lots; vehicle and equipment maintenance and storage yards; waste transfer stations; and salt/sand storage locations. Staff has determined that Tarrant County has no county owned or operated industrial activities that are subject to TPDES industrial storm water regulations.

- (a) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date- Permittee Owned Facilities Inventory**
Identify Tarrant County operational activities that have a potential to impact storm water quality or generate illicit discharges. This was accomplished by conducting site surveys of County facilities (county operations and/or industrial activities) and discussing issues with County administration, departmental

representatives and/or storm water staff. The survey will determine if the County facility is in Tarrant County's unincorporated urbanized area.

Goal and Date:

Permit Year 2- 50% of the Tarrant County facilities will be identified and reviewed.

Permit Year 3- The other 50% of the Tarrant County facilities will be identified and reviewed.

Status: **In Progress**

(b) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date- Training and Education

A training program will be revised for County employees who have the potential to impact storm water quality. This is a NCTCOG Regionally Developed Initiative (RDI). The training program will consist of videos and educational materials developed by NCTCOG and other private providers. Storm water staff will train employees about pollution prevention techniques, illicit discharges, illicit connection, good housekeeping practices and staff to contact with stormwater related questions or concerns.

Goal and Date:

*Permit Year 1-*Revisions to the training program will be reviewed and updated with current standards and techniques.

*Permit Year 2-*Storm Water staff will train Tarrant County Public Health (Environmental Division) and Facility Management field personnel.

*Permit Year 3-*Storm Water staff will train Tarrant County Transportation Department and the four Tarrant County Precinct Maintenance Centers field personnel.

*Permit Year 4-*Storm Water staff will train only new employees to Tarrant County Public Health (Environmental Division) and Facility Management field personnel.

*Permit Year 5-*Storm Water staff will train only new employees to Tarrant County Transportation Department and the four Tarrant County Precinct Maintenance Centers field personnel.

Status: **In Progress**

(c) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date-Disposal of Waste Material

A report has been developed to document the proper disposal of waste generated from County MS4 related operations or maintenance. This report will continue to address dredge spoil, accumulated sediments and floatables (trash and debris in storm drain system).

Goal and Date: The report will be reviewed and updated in Permit Year 3 and 5, as needed.

Status: **In Progress**

(d) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – Contractor Requirements and Oversight

Tarrant County storm water staff will work with Facilities Management Department and Purchasing to require any county hired contractors to follow all storm water good housekeeping BMP's when working on county grounds and buildings.

Goal and Date:

Permit Year 1- Stormwater Staff has begun discussions with Facilities Management about current vendors with adverse storm water quality potential.

Permit Year 2- Staff will continue discussions with Facilities Management and Purchasing to determine procedures to be inserted into upcoming contracts.

Permit Year 4- Staff will have contracts in place with storm water quality procedures with BMPs included.

Status: **New BMP**

(e) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date - **SPCC Plans for County Facilities**

After Tarrant County reviewed its county owned facilities during the past permit term, it was determined four sites needed SPCC Plans and one site needed additional spill control procedures.

Goal and Date: Storm water staff will continue to do the required training for these five sites and document the training for the annual report.

Status: **In Progress**

(f) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – **Identifying Chemical Pollutants of Concern from O&M Activities**

After Tarrant County reviewed its county owned facilities during the past permit term, it was determined five sites have the potential to discharge chemical pollutants of concern. Storm water staff will perform an assessment of county operations, identify pollutants of concern, review pollution prevention measures and visually inspect county facilities with the potential to discharge these chemicals. This will be accomplished by preparing a work place chemical list (chemicals present in the work place in excess of 55 gallons or 500 pounds)

Goal and Date: Storm water staff will complete a work place chemical list for our five sites and any other county sites found that have potential to discharge chemicals to the environment. A work place chemical list will be inserted into a file.

Status: **New BMP**

(g) BMP, Measurable Goal and Date-**Licensed Applicators for Pesticides**

Tarrant County Public Health Vector Control Team has licensed pesticide applicators who maintain their applicators licenses per state and federal requirements. This team will also maintain an SDS of all pesticides purchased and used in unincorporated Tarrant County and any contracted municipalities. In following state and federal regulations, the team will follow safe application practices to maintain integrity of the environment and stormwater runoff.

Goal and Date: Tarrant County Public Health's Vector Control Team will apply appropriate pesticides as directed by the Health Departments Director and Elected Officials when necessary to mitigate disease carrying pests, such as mosquitos. In the annual report, storm water staff will document the number of spray events and current status of licenses.

Status: **New BMP**

(h) **BMP, Measurable Goal and Date – Structural Control Maintenance**

Tarrant County Precinct crews maintain the open vegetative lined drainage ditches beside County roads on an as needed basis (citizen complaints or minor flooding) or when maintenance is performed on the adjacent road. This work allows the drainage system to operate properly, reduces flooding potential and removes debris from the ditches.

Goal and Date: Tarrant County storm water staff will document in linear feet the amount of area cleaned in our MS4 ditches. This information will be provided in the annual report

Status: **In Progress**

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Part IV – RECORDKEEPING and REPORTING

Section IV. 1 – Recordkeeping

Tarrant County will maintain all records, a copy of the TPDES general permit and all data used to complete the application (NOI) for this permit, for a period of at least three years, or for the term of this permit, whichever is longer. A current/updated copy of the SWMP, NOI and a copy of the permit language/requirements will be maintained at both the Tarrant County Public Health Department and the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department. See the above SWMP for both site locations.

Tarrant County will make the records, including the NOI and SWMP available to the public, if requested to do so in writing. The SWMP will be available within two working days following the request from the public. Other records will be provided within 10 working days, unless the request requires an unusual amount of time or effort to assemble. In this case, Texas law regarding the Public Information Act will be followed. Reasonable charges, in accordance with Texas law, may be levied by the County for researching and preparing any requested materials.

Section IV.2 – Annual Report

Tarrant County will submit a concise annual report to the Executive Director of TCEQ within 90 days of the end of each permit year. The annual report will address the requirements listed in the TPDES Phase 2 MS4 general permit rules. The County will also maintain copies of annual reports at both the Tarrant County Public Health Department and the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department. See the above SWMP for both site locations.

Tarrant County plans to use the calendar year option as annual reporting year. For example, Permit Year One (December 13, 2013 to December 12, 2014), Tarrant County's Permit Year One Annual Report will be submitted 90 days after December 31, 2014.