

proposals to list a species should be published prominently in newspapers of broad general circulation.

- Early consultation with potentially affected local government, including counties and incorporated cities, should be mandatory before a proposed listing is published in the Federal Register.
- Processing and review of permit applications, and habitat conservation plans should be subject to specific time periods for completion, and should be deemed approved if not completed within the allotted time.

3.8.3 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

The County of Riverside participates in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES Program. The Program is under guidance of a permit filed with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, to fulfill the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act amendments of 1987. This permit is currently required by all cities and counties with a storm drain system that serves a population of 100,000 or more.

On October 29, 1999, Phase II of the NPDES was signed into law. Phase II sets the population threshold at 50,000, and decreases the size threshold for construction site permits from 5 acres to 1 acre.

Under the NPDES, the County is responsible for six minimum control measures. These minimum measures consist of:

- public education and outreach on storm water impacts,
- public involvement/ participation,
- illicit discharge detection and elimination,
- construction site storm water runoff control,
- post-construction storm water management in new development and redevelopment, and
- pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations.

In order to comply with the Federal law, the County should continue to participate in the NPDES program. Based on observations of extensive erosion at construction grading sites during the 1992-93 storms (Kupferman, 1994), the County should also enforce the new construction site NPDES permit requirements for one-acre and larger projects.