Introduction

1.0 Introduction

Stormwater runoff is part of a natural hydrologic process. Stormwater runoff contains pollutants that can harm human health, degrade water quality and aquatic habitat, and impair ecosystem functions. On its way to streams, estuaries, and other receiving water bodies, stormwater runoff accumulates pollutants such as oil, gas, and other hydrocarbons, heavy metals, deicers, pesticides, fine sediment, fertilizers, and bacteria, all of which can impair water quality.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide general guidance for selecting and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce pollutants in runoff from municipal operations. This handbook is primarily designed to assist municipal staff with incorporating pollution prevention controls into their overall stormwater management program.

1.1 Objective of the Manual

The specific objectives of this manual are to:

- Provide a commonly accepted set of technical standards and guidance on stormwater management measures that will control the quality and quantity of stormwater produced by municipal activities, new development and redevelopment
- Assist the municipality in meeting Stormwater Phase II requirements
- Encourage the use of targeted best management practices (BMPs) within the watershed with long-term goal of consistent application by all regulated entities within the watershed
- Promote behavior that will improve the water quality of the Arroyo Colorado and Laguna Madre
- Encourage cost-savings for MS4s through proper and timely maintenance of stormwater systems