Vehicle & Equipment Washing SOP-21.0

Description of SOP:

Wash water from vehicle and equipment cleaning activities performed outdoors where water can flow into surface water or ground waters can contribute to contamination of the Arroyo Colorado. Good housekeeping practices can minimize the risk of contamination from wash water discharges.

Purpose of SOP:

The following procedures outlined below will prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to stormwater during vehicle and equipment cleaning.

Suggested Protocols:
General

- All vehicles shall be taken off-site to a commercial carwash facility better equipped to handle and properly dispose of the wash waters
- In the event that vehicle and equipment washing must be performed on-site the following procedures apply:
    - Use biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents
    - Use designated paved wash areas which are well marked with instructions on where and how washing must be done
    - Use hoses with nozzles that automatically turn off when left unattended
    - A covered trash container should be provided in the wash area
    - Discharge of equipment or vehicle wash water should be done to the sanitary sewer system, oil/water separators, sand/grit traps or on-site treatment/recycling units.
    - Washing area should be swept to remove solid debris

Training:

- All newly hired employees will be trained on proper cleaning and wash water disposal procedures and refresher courses will be conducted on a regular schedule
- Employees will be trained on proper maintenance measures for the wash area
- Employees will be trained in the proper spill containment and cleanup procedures.

Spill Response and Prevention:

- Refer to SOP 11.0 Spill Prevention, Control, and Cleanup
- Have spill cleanup materials readily available and in a known location
- Clean up spills immediately and use dry methods (absorbents) if possible
- Properly dispose of spill cleanup material