



MENDOCINO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024

Supporting a Prepared and Resilient County

Land Improvement (Budget Unit 1910)

Title: MS4 Area Trash Capture Devices

In April 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted statewide Trash Provisions which ordered a prohibition of trash discharge to surface waters of the State via Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). The County maintains two MS4s in the urbanized unincorporated areas surrounding the City of Fort Bragg and City of Ukiah, which are permitted under the SWRCB Phase II MS4 General Permit. The Trash Provisions require implementation of the trash prohibition through requirements incorporated into the Phase II MS4 Permit. As a Phase II MS4 permittee, the County must demonstrate a reduction in trash and litter discharged from its MS4s to protect water quality and beneficial uses of local receiving water bodies (e.g., creeks, rivers, lakes and the Pacific Ocean) from the impacts of trash. To ensure compliance, The Trash Provisions require the County to select and implement one of two compliance methods or “Tracks”.

Track 1 requires the installation, operation, and maintenance of trash capture devices in all storm drains that capture runoff from priority areas within a permittee’s MS4.

Track 2 requires the installation, operation, and maintenance of any combination of trash capture devices, multi-benefit projects, other treatment controls, and/or institutional controls within a permittee’s MS4. In addition, permittees choosing Track 2 must conduct trash assessments and submit an implementation plan for SWRCB approval to demonstrate that the approach will be equivalent to the effectiveness of Track 1.

After careful consideration of the potential financial and personnel commitments required to implement each Track, the County ultimately chose Track 1 as the preferred compliance method. Using ARPA funds, County crews have installed five trash capture devices in the Fort Bragg area, bringing that MS4 area into compliance. Currently, a consultant is working with County staff to design and develop trash capture devices for the 36 sites in the greater Ukiah MS4 area (including Calpella and southern Redwood Valley). Construction is anticipated for summer 2025.