

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST REVISIONS

Existing Checklist

The county's Initial Study Checklist has been adapted from the recommended checklist contained in the State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. The county's Initial Study Checklist combines Water Resources and Flooding into one category. The checklist includes only one direct reference, Item 4.16(d), regarding water quality impacts resulting from project-related discharges. It reads as follows:

[Will the proposed project result in] Discharge into surface waters, or alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, or thermal water pollution?

In order to highlight storm water pollution as an issue requiring review in the Initial Study the following modifications are recommended. These recommendations are derived from the Model Urban Runoff Program: A How-To Guide for Developing Urban Runoff Programs for Small Municipalities¹.

Recommended Initial Study Checklist Revisions

CEQA Initial Study Section	Proposed Revisions
Section 3.0 Environmental Setting	Add surface water bodies to the list of items to describe the setting. (Water bodies include wetlands, riparian areas, ponds, springs, creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, and estuaries.)
Section 4.13 Public Facilities	Add the following new question to the Initial Study Checklist: e. [Will the proposal result in] The construction of new storm water drainage or water quality control facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
Section 4.16 Water Resources/Flooding	Revise the following question of the Initial Study Checklist: d. [Will the proposal result in] Discharge, <u>directly or through a storm drain system</u> , into surface waters (<u>including but not limited to wetlands, riparian areas, ponds, springs, creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, tidal areas, bays, ocean, etc.</u>) or alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, or thermal water pollution?
	Add the following new question to the Initial Study Checklist: l. [Will the proposal result in] Introduction of storm water pollutants (e.g., oil, grease, pesticides, nutrients, sediments, pathogens, etc.) into groundwater or surface water?

¹ City of Monterey, City of Santa Cruz, California Coastal Commission, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Woodward-Clyde and Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. EPA Assistance Agreement No. C9-999266-95-0, July 1998.
The MURP can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/murp.html>.