

Stormwater Quality Background Information

The Cuyahoga River, located in Ohio is famous for being the river that caught fire due to pollution of its waters. This incident helped start the environmental movement in the late 1960's that resulted in the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA) and the Clean Water Act, championed by Congress.

In 1972, Congress amended the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act (CWA)) to prohibit the discharge of any pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source unless the discharge is authorized by a permit called the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES permit. The NPDES program is designed to track point sources and require the implementation of the controls necessary to minimize the discharge of pollutants. Initial efforts to improve water quality under the NPDES program primarily focused on reducing pollutants in industrial process wastewater and municipal sewage.

Under federal regulations, a portion of Yuma County has been designated as a small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). Upon designation as an MS4, Yuma County and other municipal entities throughout the state were required to submit a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) for implementation. The SWMP highlights measures Yuma County must undertake in order to meet the requirements established under the Municipal General Permit of the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Program.

Stormwater Management Plan for Yuma County