

Bay Area Municipal Stormwater Collaborative (BAMSC)
Tenets to Guide MRP Reissuance Discussions
October 2025

These MRP (4) reissuance tenets were developed by the Bay Area Municipal Stormwater Collaborative (BAMSC) and were agreed upon by MRP Permittees and associated Stormwater Countywide Programs. The tenets are intended to provide guiding principles for BAMSC representatives while participating in the MRP Steering Committee and topic-specific work groups that are designed to help inform the reissuance of the Municipal Regional Permit for stormwater discharges in the San Francisco Bay Area (i.e., MRP 4). These tenets should serve as points of reference for participants representing BAMSC on the MRP Steering Committee and topic-specific workgroups to best align with Permittee overall perspectives and support productive discussions between Permittee/Program staff and Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) on the scopes and schedules of MRP 4 requirements.

1. Streamlining and Simplification

Objective: Focus on reducing complexity, administrative burden, and unnecessary provisions.

- **Minimize changes** to existing (MRP 3) provisions unless they reduce implementation burden.
- **No new provisions** to MRP 4 unless justified.
- **Eliminate duplicative and unimpactful requirements**—every provision should be necessary and improve stormwater quality.
- **Reduce reporting frequency and scope**, especially Executive Officer approvals and documentation.
- **Minimize meetings** outside of standing steering committee/workgroup meetings; use scheduled committee/workgroup meetings for discussions.

2. Equity and Scalability

Objective: Ensure fairness across Permittees and adapt requirements to local capacity, geographic distinctions, and risk.

- **Include scalable requirements** that balance Permittee capacity and priorities with stormwater impact.
- **Provide equity** in permit requirements, especially for disadvantaged communities.
- **Clarify applicability** of provisions for non-population-based Permittees (e.g., Flood Control Districts).
- **Reward or recognize early action and sustained compliance** to promote fairness and motivation.

3. Clarity, Alignment, and Data-Driven Decisions

Objective: Promote clear language, consistency with broader mandates, and informed decision-making.

- **Use concise and clear permit language**, avoiding contradictions.
- **Use available data** to inform scope and decisions and don't use the permit for research and development purposes.
- **Align terminology and goals** with climate resilience and "One Water" concepts.
- **Align permit requirements** with statewide mandates and TMDLs.
- **Ensure reporting requirements** are clearly stated, demonstrate effort and effectiveness, and aligned with annual reports.

4. Transparency, Trust, and Collaboration

Objective: Encourage open communication and mutual respect among stakeholders.

- **Early identification** of substantive changes to permit requirements during the reissuance process.
- **Promote trust** through timely release of draft materials and collaborative engagement.
- **Make space for discussions** at scheduled committee meetings to ensure inclusive dialogue.