

## **Storm Water Quality**

The Public Works Department monitors this program. The Clean Water Act of 1972 was enacted by Congress to control and reduce sources of water pollution. At that time the focus centered on point sources or specific geographic locations. In 1987, revisions to the Clean Water Act required that storm water runoff be cleaned up as well. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) are responsible for the implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) required by the Clean Water Act revisions. Under guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Whitewater River Region of Riverside County is required to be covered by an area-wide storm water discharge permit. Desert Hot Springs is a part of this region. The permit requires certain activities and programs to be in place in order to ensure compliance with Clean Water Act regulations. Requirements include retrofitting of retention basins with filters and traps, cleanup of hazardous water spills, enforcement of ordinances that prohibit illegal discharge of pollutants, and a higher level of street sweeping. Public education and technical training are also required, as well as preparation of a Drainage Area Master Plan. The City has annexed into County Service Area 152, which was established as a mechanism to fund NPDES Programs and more cost-efficiently coordinate certain tasks such as public education. A charge is assigned to a parcel based on the amount of runoff generated by that parcel.

For more information please visit the County of Riverside website at <http://floodcontrol.co.riverside.ca.us/>