

BMP NS02 - Discharges From Water Features



The Facilities Management Department operates and maintains a number of water features and/or impoundments on campus. Water in the features or impoundments may need to be recharged and replaced occasionally. Dewatering of pools, decorative fountains and other impoundments with chlorinated waters can impact receiving waters. Chlorinated waters discharged to surface waters can have adverse effect and impact on local water quality. Swimming pools are a major source of

chlorinated water. An average swimming pool holds approximately 20,000 gallons of highly chlorinated water, which can be toxic to wildlife including fish and micro invertebrates. The CSUSM campus impoundments are plumbed to the sanitary sewer. The CSUSM campus staff uses the following practices for discharging and disposing wastewater.

Pollution Prevention Guidelines:

- Discharge the chlorinated waste water to the sanitary sewer or to open space where water can be detained and not discharge to local storm drains and surface waters.
- Draining impoundments directly into the environment; water quality must comply with the applicable Federal, State or local water quality criteria.
- **Do not** drain impoundment (i.e. pool/spa) within 5-days of adding chemicals; ensure that all chemicals have dissipated prior to discharge/disposal. Make sure all chemicals are dissipated before draining impoundments.
- Dechlorinate water in impoundments with appropriate de-chlorinating agents (i.e. sodium thiosulfate) before draining the impoundment.
- Wastewater discharges to the environment should be directed over a land surface so that some level of filtration by soil particles can occur.
- Wastewater from impoundment must sit for a period of at least 2-days after the addition of chlorine or bromine or until chlorine or bromine levels are below 0.1 mg/L.
- Wastewater from impoundments must meet pH between 6.5 and 8.5 before discharge.

Design Guidelines:

- Design impoundments to drain water from sanitary sewer facilities.

Inspection Guidelines:

- Inspect water surface impoundments routinely for signs of illegal discharges.

Training Guidelines:

- Train CSUSM staff to inspect impoundments regularly. Check for signs of illicit discharges to surface waters.