

## Helping Your Business Protect the Environment

The City of Buellton's Wastewater Department's mission is to safely collect, treat and dispose of wastewater that is received from residents and businesses within the city limits.

The City of Buellton operates under strict requirements set forth by federal and state regulations. One of these requirements is that the City must have an Industrial Discharge Program. For this program to succeed we need your help to comply with federal, state and local requirements for wastewater discharge.

The purpose of an Industrial Discharge Program which includes the inspection of businesses and the issuance of permits is to prevent pollutants that could harm the environment from entering the sewer system. There are a host of pollutants that cannot be treated effectively at the plant. The industrial discharge program is designed to help you dispose of these pollutants properly, before they enter the sewer and reach the wastewater treatment plant.

We can recommend solutions called Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can help you find ways to properly dispose of pollutants and as a result may save you money.



## Why We Inspect Businesses

Our intent when inspecting a business is to provide advice for disposing of pollutants. By controlling pollutants at the source, we can do a better job of treating wastewater and protecting the environment. That is the goal of our Environmental Compliance Inspectors.

That goal is important because harsh chemicals, solvents, pesticides, paint, grease, antifreeze or anything else that is hazardous that goes down the drain will end up in the sewer system and eventually at the treatment plant, making the treatment plant less efficient.

Many companies use chemicals and produce waste which may be flammable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic. Improper discharges to the sewer can corrode pipes, cause fires and explosions, or otherwise harm people. Grease can build up in sewers and create blockages which lead to overflows into businesses, homes or storm drains. Beverage manufacturers can also discharge high strength wastewater that is difficult for the treatment plant to process.

If non domestic wastes enter the sewer, they can upset the biological treatment processes at our treatment plant or pass through and go directly to our groundwater. Even the most advanced treatment processes cannot entirely remove some of these pollutants, and in some cases, it only takes a small amount to harm our groundwater supply.

## Industrial User Permit Program

Businesses use water in many ways to manufacture products or provide a service. One example, businesses often use water to clean metal parts before they are painted. Businesses discharge the resulting "non-domestic" water into the sewer line, and then this water enters our treatment plant.



This industrial or "non-domestic" wastewater is different than wastewater from homes, and may not be able to be effectively treated at our plant. The word **pretreatment** refers to the treatment of non-domestic wastewater before it is discharged to the sewer system.

The intent of a permit is to define the discharge limits that a business will abide by so the wastewater treatment plant and environment are protected. When deciding whether to issue a permit to a particular facility, we require the business to complete an application and our Environmental Compliance Inspectors to conduct an *Industrial Wastewater User Inspection*. If a facility requires a permit, we will draft the permit and submit it to the business for review. The permit will contain requirements for the business to implement in order to comply with sewer discharge limits (e.g., maintain operating logs, complete periodic sampling for specified pollutants, and submit reports).

## What to Expect During an Inspection

Our Environmental Compliance Inspectors may conduct unannounced site inspections to observe your facility during normal operations and take samples to determine if you are complying with sewer discharge limits and regulations. Businesses with permits are inspected annually.

### Typically, our inspector will:

1. **Tour your facility** both inside and out, noting production processes, equipment, housekeeping practices, sewer inlets, wastewater pretreatment equipment, chemicals, materials, waste storage, wash areas, etc.;
2. **Review your facility records** to conduct a compliance assessment;
3. **Review inspection findings** with your facility manager; and **offer recommendations**;
4. **Issue compliance documents, if necessary.**

### Compliance Documents May Include:

- **Required Information Form:** used to obtain copies of records and other information about the business's practices and production.
- **Written Notice:** issued for a minor ordinance violation (or a condition that, if uncorrected, could result in a violation).
- **Notice of Violation:** issued for ordinance violations, failure to respond to a Written Notice, or Violations of Permit Conditions. Failure to respond to citations will lead to escalated enforcement, which may include a fine and/or a Cease and Desist Order.

## Frequently Asked Questions?

**What will it cost?** Currently, the permit is free and for most businesses there will be no additional costs. However, depending on your business, there may be fees associated with; the installation of pre-treatment devices; lab analysis of wastewater samples; or the installation of sampling location(s) – that will be determined after the initial inspection and survey.

**Who Is Required To Have A Wastewater Discharge Permit?** A permit is required for any business that connects to the sewer system and discharges or has the potential to discharge “non-domestic” wastewater other than toilets and hand washing.

**Examples:** auto related businesses, restaurants, hospitals, car wash, dental offices, medical offices, laundromats, beverage manufacturers, dry cleaners, printing shops, photography, electronic components, art studios, food processors, etc.

## Still Have Questions?

If you have any questions or would like more information about the program, please contact the Environmental Compliance Inspectors:

Bill Callahan (805) 544-4011

With your help, the City of Buellton can keep the sewers clean of pollutants. By doing so you are not only helping to keep the wastewater treatment plant running effectively you are also protecting the environment and helping to keep our neighborhoods free from wastewater pollution.



## Industrial Discharge Program

**City of Buellton**  
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