

## October 1<sup>st</sup> is the Start of the Rainy Season

No, you might not have felt that first raindrop on your nose or have had to breakout the rain gear yet, but, believe it or not ... the Rainy Season is here. October 1<sup>st</sup> marks the official start of the 2009/2010 Storm Water Season. This means that for Industrial General Permittees, you must now be ready to collect a storm water sample from the first qualifying storm event of the year. You also need to be ready to perform visual observations of storm water discharges at each place where water leaves your facility. So, are you ready? Do you have your sample kit from the laboratory? Do you have clean sample collection equipment? Do you have fresh observation forms and chain-of-custody (COC) forms printed out and ready to go? Let's all try to get that first qualifying storm event!

## The Webinar was a Success!



WGR tried its first ever virtual storm water training event. Although I think everyone including us would agree that it was only second best to being with you in person; based on comments received from many of you, it appears to have been a successful endeavor. A benefit of the webinar was that it lowered training costs up to 50%. With the three webinar training sessions given at different dates and times, it also provided more options and flexibility for you to receive the training. Thank you for your patience while we

worked out a few bugs and technical challenges, but by the time we got to our third session, things were working pretty good. We will continue to work on improving this type of training format with the goal to cut your compliance program costs without sacrificing good education. If you haven't done so already, please let us know what you thought of the webinar training format. We welcome both positive and negative feedback.

## Your October "To Do List":

- Storm Water Observations (Form 4)
- Storm Water Sampling (if first event happens)
- Quarterly Non-Storm Water Observations sometime between now and Dec. 31 (Forms 2 & 3)
- Sweep yard areas, good housekeeping, clean storm drains, and get the place ready for rain.





## El Niño Arrives; Expected to Persist through Winter 2009-10

*Editor's Note: This should come as no surprise after this week's record breaking storm event in Northern California, but El Niño appears to be back with a vengeance.*

NOAA News Story on July 9, 2009

NOAA scientists today announced the arrival of El Niño, a climate phenomenon with a significant influence on global weather, ocean conditions and marine fisheries. El Niño, the periodic warming of central and eastern tropical Pacific waters, occurs on average every two to five years and typically lasts about 12 months.

NOAA expects this El Niño to continue developing during the next several months, with further strengthening possible. The event is expected to last through winter 2009-10.

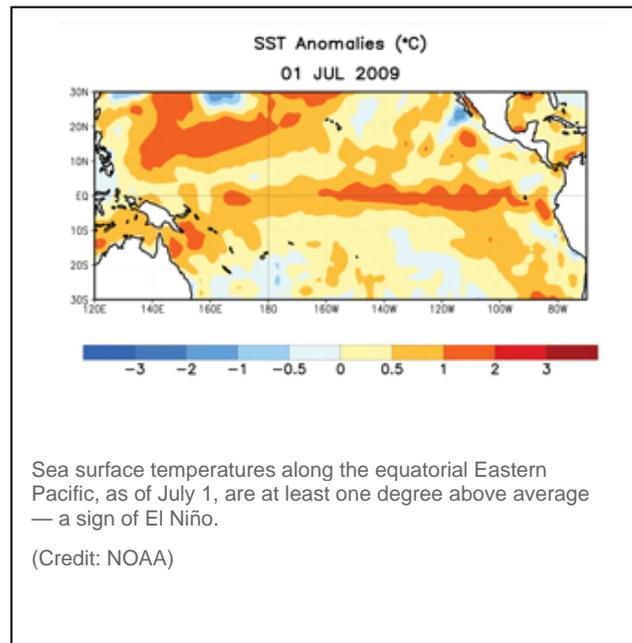
“Advanced climate science allows us to alert industries, governments and emergency managers about the weather conditions El Niño may bring so these can be factored into decision-making and ultimately protect life, property and the economy,” said Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator.

El Niño's impacts depend on a variety of factors, such as intensity and extent of ocean warming, and the time of year. Contrary to popular belief, not all effects are negative. On the positive side, El Niño can help to suppress Atlantic hurricane activity. In the United States, it typically brings beneficial winter precipitation to the arid Southwest, less wintry weather across the North, and a reduced risk of Florida wildfires.

El Niño's negative impacts have included damaging winter storms in California and increased storminess across the southern United States. Some past El Niños also have produced severe flooding and mudslides in Central and South America, and drought in Indonesia.

An El Niño event may significantly diminish ocean productivity off the west coast by limiting weather patterns that cause upwelling, or nutrient circulation in the ocean. These nutrients are the foundation of a vibrant marine food web and could negatively impact food sources for several types of birds, fish and marine mammals.

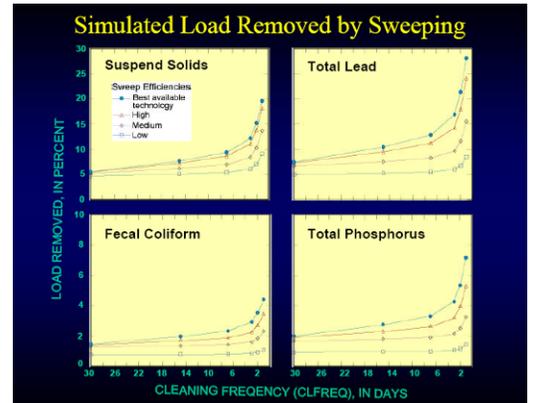
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# B M P L O S

## Street Sweeping an Excellent Way to Reduce TSS and Metals

The USGS did a study in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority which showed street sweeping to be very effective in reducing total suspended solids (TSS) and other pollutants. WGR has performed testing on storm water discharges and found that many of the common pollutants can be controlled or significantly reduced by preventing particulate matter from being transported by storm water runoff or by removing them from the runoff. BMPs such as street sweeping not only help minimize TSS and turbidity, but also help minimize heavy metals, pH, and nutrients (nitrates and phosphates), which, often, are in particulate form or are caused by particles in storm water. Contracting with an environmentally efficient street sweeper company (that has a PM10 sweeper such as the Tymco sweeper shown below) at the beginning of the wet season can really help improve your facility's storm water runoff quality and improve your sample results.



### We Have a Winner !!!

We had only two responses on last month's storm water contest, which means you have really good odds of winning a good prize.

"What are three characteristics of a qualifying storm water sampling event?"

- Larry Eshelman is the winner:
- 1) First hour runoff begins,
  - 2) Begins during business hours Mon. - Fri., and
  - 3) Must be preceded by 3 days of dry weather.

Larry will be sent a \$20 gift card to Borders.



## OCTOBER STORM WATER CONTEST

Are you ready? Enough easy questions ... here is a hard one. By October 27, submit a response for the following.

"Describe in your own words what is BAT/BCT and what does it mean to your facility."

All persons submitting correct answers will be placed in a drawing. The winner will receive a \$25 gift card to Lowes, which you can spend on BMPs at work or on home improvement projects (no brainer, right?). Please submit your entries to [jteravskis@wgr-sw.com](mailto:jteravskis@wgr-sw.com).

*Please contact us if you have any questions ...*

**Rain Events Newsletter:**

John Teravskis [jteravskis@wgr-sw.com](mailto:jteravskis@wgr-sw.com)  
(209) 334-5363 ext. 202

**Technical Questions about Storm Water Compliance? Call ...**

Aaron Ortiz, [aortiz@wgr-sw.com](mailto:aortiz@wgr-sw.com), (209) 810-5151  
John Teravskis, [jteravskis@wgr-sw.com](mailto:jteravskis@wgr-sw.com), (209) 649-0877  
Bill Senner, [bsenner@wgr-sw.com](mailto:bsenner@wgr-sw.com), (310) 629-5260