

# CITY OF OAKLAND



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Oakland Public Works Department  
Bureau of Design & Construction  
Watershed & Stormwater Management Division

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April 2025

Nếu quý vị cần bản thông tin này bằng tiếng việt, xin vui lòng liên lạc [tmip@oaklandca.gov](mailto:tmip@oaklandca.gov)

## **Subject: Trash Management Inspection Program and Requirements for Properties with Storm Drains that Connect to the City's Storm Drainage System**

Dear Property Owner/Business Owner or Representative:

The City of Oakland (City) is inspecting privately-owned properties in Oakland to evaluate the level of trash that could be entering the City's underground storm drainage system through private storm drain inlet(s). Properties with moderate to very high trash levels will be required to take action to prevent trash from entering the City's storm drain system via the on-site private system. This program is needed to help protect Oakland's waterways and the San Francisco Bay<sup>1</sup> and to meet the City's clean stormwater requirements.<sup>2</sup>

Over the next several weeks the City's private contractors, EOA, Inc., Northgate Environmental, Inc., and Aliquot Associates, Inc. (inspectors), will inspect the property you own/manage and will provide inspection findings to the City's Watershed and Stormwater Management Division. The inspector will follow a standard method to assess and estimate the amount of trash that could flow into the property's storm drain(s). If moderate to high levels of trash are observed, the property owner/manager will be required to either: 1) improve and document ongoing trash management on the property to ensure a consistently clean site; or (2) install and document maintenance of one or more approved full trash capture Device(s) certified by the State Water Resources Control Board.<sup>3</sup>

After the inspection, the City will send a letter to each property owner/manager describing the actions that must be taken to comply with the City's Municipal Code Section 13.16 – Creek Protection, Storm Water Management and Discharge Control and/or Section 8.24 – Property

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<sup>1</sup> Oakland's storm drains lead directly to creeks, lakes, and the San Francisco Bay.

<sup>2</sup> The City of Oakland must comply with a stormwater permit issues by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. The requirement to control trash on certain private properties is described in Provision C.10.a.ii.b on page C.10-3 of the permit which can be viewed at this online location: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2022/R2-2022-0018.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2022/R2-2022-0018.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> For a list of approved trash capture devices visit the following webpage: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/trash\\_implementation/2025/full-cptre-for-public.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/trash_implementation/2025/full-cptre-for-public.pdf)

Blight. The letter will include recommended trash reduction best management practices,<sup>4</sup> and information on installing and maintaining an approved full trash capture device. Follow-up inspection(s) will be conducted to verify that the property is clean and trash management actions are being implemented. If needed, the City may issue fines for violations of the City's Municipal Code.

The City of Oakland would like to support all residents and businesses with the information and tools they need to effectively manage trash on their property and protect our environment. For more information visit [www.oaklandca.gov/services/private-property-trash-management-inspection-program](http://www.oaklandca.gov/services/private-property-trash-management-inspection-program) to learn more about how your property will be assessed, compliance guidance, and other tools that can help you control trash and avoid fines and mitigation measures.

### **Questions**

Your cooperation in improving stormwater quality is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please call (510) 238-6600 (option #1 for English, then #3) or email [tmip@oaklandca.gov](mailto:tmip@oaklandca.gov).

Respectfully submitted,



[Terri Fashing \(Apr 25, 2025 14:42 PDT\)](#)

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Terri Fashing

Watershed and Stormwater Management Division and DD Bond Manager

Attachment: Trash Control Requirements for Private Properties: Information for Property Owners and Managers

CC (via email):

Josh Rowan, Interim Director, Oakland Public Works (OPW)

Liam Garland, Interim Assistant to the Director, OPW

Shamie Sahandy, Public Information Officer II, OPW

Ben Livsey, Watershed Program Specialist, Watershed and Stormwater Management Division, OPW

Samantha Moran, Climate Fellow, Watershed and Stormwater Management Division, OPW

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<sup>4</sup> See attached guidance on how to prepare to comply with the City's trash management requirements.

# Trash Control Requirements for Private Properties: Information for Property Owners and Managers

## Trash: An Environmental Concern for Oakland's Waterways

To keep trash out of local waterways and the San Francisco Bay—and to meet strict trash control requirements from the Regional Water Quality Control Board—cities across the Bay Area are rolling out Trash Management Inspection Programs on private properties. These programs require the flow of trash from privately owned to city-owned storm drains to be eliminated. Privately owned properties with connected storm drains must now maintain low trash levels on-land or instead capture the trash in private storm drains with a full trash capture device(s) before it leaves the property through underground pipes. This will reduce the amount of trash that enters waterways through the City of Oakland's (City's) storm drainage system. This fact sheet provides information on how property owners and managers can meet this trash reduction requirement and keep Oakland's waterways clean and protect fish and wildlife.

## Choose a Trash Control Option

The City will be inspecting properties with storm drains connected to the City's storm drain system. If moderate to high levels of trash are observed, property owners and managers must take action to keep trash off the ground and out of storm drains. There are two compliance options to consider:



Photo shows a very clean property with a storm drain that connects to the City's system. This property is implementing effective BMPs.

### Option 1. Keep Your Property Very Clean

Implement **trash best management practices (BMPs)** such as placing and maintaining trash cans around the property, posting effective anti-littering signs, regularly sweeping the ground for litter, and if possible, organizing community volunteer clean ups.

### Option 2. Install and Maintain a Certified Full Trash Capture Device(s)

By installing and maintaining a **certified full trash capture device (FTC)** in each storm drain on your property, you will intercept trash before it can travel further



Full trash capture device covers pipe opening to block trash and let water through.

down the storm drainage system. FTCs are a good option if littering is difficult to control or to simplify your compliance approach. Importantly, you must choose FTCs certified by the State Water Resources Control Board. The cost to install and maintain FTCs depends on the size and manufacturer. Property owners typically work with vendors to inspect and measure storm drain inlets to determine a device type and size that will work.

## City Permit Requirement

Property owners/managers must obtain a PZ permit from the City of Oakland's Bureau of Building before installing a full trash capture device. A PZ permit is required for construction or modification of infrastructure on private property.



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