

# Answers to questions about...

## Special Purpose Discharge Permits

### What is a Special Purpose Discharge Permit?

A Special Purpose Discharge Permit (SPDP) is issued by Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) for water and wastewater discharges to the sewerage system when no alternative discharge points exist other than the sewer system and/or alternate discharge methods pose an environmental impact or threat.

### What types of wastewater discharges are considered?

Wastewater discharges may include:

1. Temporary facilities and projects such as groundwater cleanup, soil remediation, and site dewatering;
2. Short-term or one-time water and wastewater discharges;
3. Surface run-off from areas associated with an industrial or commercial facility, where approved.

### Under what condition can OC San grant a permit?

OC San may approve the discharge of such water only when no alternative method of disposal is reasonably available, or to mitigate an environmental risk or health hazard.

### How much does an SPDP cost?

OC San charges a one-time administrative fee plus a nonrefundable deposit for the first one million gallons (MG) of discharge. Discharge exceeding one million gallons will be charged per MG on a pro-rated basis. Rates are published in OC San's Fee Ordinance No. 60 and are subject to change at the start of each fiscal year (July 1). A Supplemental Capital Facilities Capacity Charge (SCFCC) per gallon is added for each gallon discharged above 25,000 gallons per day or 9.125 MG per year. SPDP's are renewed bi-annually and the renewal fee is also included in the Fee Ordinance No. 60.

### How do I apply for a Special Purpose Discharge Permit?

There are three steps when applying for a permit:

**Step 1 – Pre-application Screening:** Applicants must submit the following:

1. Complete lab analysis for all pollutants regulated under OC San Local Discharge Limits (see p. 33 of OC San's Wastewater Discharge Regulations Ordinance No. OCSD-53);
2. Estimated wastewater volume and flow rate in units of gallons and gallons per minute, respectively;
3. Approval from the local sewer agency for flows of 50,000 gpd or more;
4. Location, desired start date and total duration of discharge;
5. General details of pretreatment equipment.

**Step 2 – Application Acceptance:** After review, OC San will send an SPDP application package to the applicant. The applicant must submit the following no later than 30 days prior to the desired discharge start date:

1. Completed application form, including all supporting analytical results, site maps and applicable pretreatment system drawings;
2. Permit fee payment: New permit fee plus a non-refundable deposit (see Fee Ordinance No. OCSD-60).

**Step 3 – Permit Issuance:** After OC San has reviewed a completed SPDP application, the permit will be processed, which can take up to 60 days. Consultants or contractors may submit applications on behalf of their clients, after signature by the discharger, and the permit can be issued under the responsible party's or facility owner's/operator's name.

### For More Information or Questions:

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