



Campus Administrative Policy

Policy Title: Stormwater Management Policy

Policy Number: 3090A

Functional Area: Facilities Management

Effective: October 23, 2025

Approved by: Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, CU Anschutz

Applies to: CU Anschutz

A. Introduction

The Stormwater Management Policy communicates regulatory requirements and facilitates compliance with the Colorado Water Quality Control Act to ensure the beneficial uses of surface waters are impacted to the least extent practicable by stormwater discharges from CU Anschutz.

The policy establishes the prohibition of Illicit Discharges to the CU Anschutz Storm Sewer System in accordance with applicable local, state and federal regulations. The goal of this policy is to protect water quality, prevent pollution and ensure compliance with the provisions of the federal Clean Water Act and Colorado Water Quality Control Act.

The Stormwater Management Policy describes requirements of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (CU Anschutz) stormwater discharge permit issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) in compliance with the provisions of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act (25-8-101 et seq.,

CRS, 1981 as amended). The intent of the law is to reduce the amount of pollutants entering streams, lakes and rivers as a result of runoff from residential, commercial and industrial areas, including discharges from storm sewer systems owned by cities, towns, counties, districts, associations or other public bodies created by or under state law. The policy will serve as a regulatory mechanism to ensure compliance with the prohibition of Illicit Discharges to the CU Anschutz municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).

This policy applies to faculty, staff, students, visitors, and vendors.

B. Definitions

1. **Illicit Discharge:** Any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater except a discharge that has been specifically authorized by a Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS), a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or discharges resulting from emergency firefighting activities.
2. **Storm Sewer System:** A system of conveyances, including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels or storm drains (inlets) that are owned by CU Anschutz and used for collecting or conveying stormwater.
3. **Water Table:** The upper surface of the saturated zone, which is the level below which the ground is filled with water.

C. Policy Statement

No person(s) and subsequent CU Anschutz unit shall discharge or cause any materials to be discharged into the CU Anschutz Storm Sewer System or establish or maintain any connection that results in an Illicit Discharge thereto, including but not limited to pollutants or waters containing pollutants, that cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards or impair the beneficial uses of receiving waters. Prohibited discharges include, but are not limited to:

1. Wastewater from washing machines or sinks;
2. Process wastewater;
3. Vehicle, equipment and surface wash water;
4. Paints, solvents, oils, grease and chemicals;

5. Construction site wastewater not properly treated; and
6. Sewage or septic system overflows.

CU Anschutz allows only the following non-stormwater discharges to be excluded from being effectively prohibited and the CU Anschutz Facilities Infrastructure, Safety and Compliance Department is responsible for monitoring:

1. Landscape irrigation;
2. Lawn watering;
3. Diverted stream flows;
4. Irrigation return flow;
5. Rising ground waters;
6. Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration, as defined in 40 CFR 35.2005(20), to separate storm sewers;
7. Uncontaminated pumped groundwater (must obtain authorization to discharge under a CDPS or NPDES permit or authorized under a CDPHE policy);
8. Springs;
9. Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands;
10. Potable water and water line flushing in accordance with the CDPHE's Low Risk Policy Discharge Guidance: Potable Water;
11. Foundation drains, water from crawl space pumps, perimeter and footing drains only from areas located above the water table or are authorized under a CDPS or NPDES permit or under a CDPHE policy (discharge must not contain a sheen, odor, color, turbidity or other evidence of pollutants);
12. Air conditioning condensation;
13. Individual residential car washing;
14. Dechlorinated swimming pool and decorative fountain discharges in accordance with CDPHE's Low Risk Discharge Guidance;
15. Water incidental to street sweeping (including associated sidewalks and medians) that is not associated with construction;
16. Dye testing in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations;
17. Stormwater runoff with incidental pollutants;
18. Discharges resulting from emergency firefighting activities;

19. Drainage from watercraft, vehicles and trailers used for recreation, wildlife management operations or maintenance operations when removed from a water body (drainage must not contain other non-stormwaters and must not contain a sheen or discoloration);
20. Discharges authorized by a CDPS or NPDES permit;
21. Agricultural stormwater runoff; and
22. Discharges that are in accordance with the CDPHE's Low Risk Policy guidance documents or are otherwise approved by CDPHE.

The CU Anschutz Facilities Regulatory Compliance Manager within the Infrastructure, Safety and Compliance Department shall provide public education and outreach materials to increase awareness of stormwater pollution and encourage proper disposal practices. Information on proper disposal practices will be made available via annual training, handouts and other activities.

Suspected Illicit Discharges should be [reported](#) to CU Anschutz Facilities Infrastructure, Safety and Compliance. The CU Anschutz Facilities Regulatory Compliance Manager of Infrastructure, Safety and Compliance will investigate reports promptly and will coordinate necessary enforcement or corrective action. Suspected Illicit Discharges that occur outside of normal business hours should be reported to the University of Colorado Anschutz Police Department.

Violations of this policy may result in enforcement action, including, but not limited to:

1. Verbal or written warnings;
2. Citations and/or orders to cease and desist, including clean up and removal of pollutants associated with the discharge;
3. Civil or administrative penalties;
4. Referral to government agencies for civil and criminal proceedings; and
5. Recovery of costs for cleanup or remediation.

Notes

1. History
 - Adopted October 23, 2025
2. Related policies, forms, guidelines and other resources
 - Colorado Water Quality Control Act (25-8-101 et seq., CRS, 1981 as amended)
 - Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.; the “Act”)
 - Campus Guidelines and Standards Section 01 41 00 – Regulatory Requirements
 - Campus Guidelines and Standards Section 33 40 00 – Storm Drainage Utilities
 - Low Risk Policy Discharge Guidance: Potable Water
 - CDPHE’s Low Risk Discharge Guidance: Pools and Fountains
 - CDPHE’s Low Risk Discharge Guidance: Uncontaminated Groundwater to Land
3. Responsible Office:
 - Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance; Facilities Management
 - Policy Contact: Regulatory Compliance Manager
RegulatoryCompliance@olucdenver.onmicrosoft.com