

## NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is one of the environmental programs that was established when the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) was signed into law. The CWA and its various environmental programs were enacted to protect the Nation's waters. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the entity that is charged with developing, implementing and enforcing regulations consistent with this law. The NPDES Rules and Regulations (Section 402) prohibit the discharge of pollutants into the Nation's waters without a permit from the EPA.

Nimitz Elementary is impacted by the CWA law and the NPDES rules and regulations because of the culvert and drainage system that is within our boundaries, and the storm water drainage system that we have on campus. To assist schools to be in compliance with the rules and regulations, the Hawaii Department of Education has contracted a private agency to survey each school and to submit a report on their findings. This report addresses the "Individual Permit Coverage, Discharges of Storm Water and Certain Non-storm Water from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)".

The report submitted to the HIDOE and to the school provides information for the school that:

- identifies the non-storm water discharges and the disposal methods.
- indicates the NPDES permit that is on file with the Dept. of Health Clean Water Branch.
- lists the location(s) of storage areas that are exposed to storm water.
- lists the location(s) of non-storm water discharge.
- includes maps if the site layout, topography, drainage basins and storm water system.
- includes the Storm Water Management Plan.

As part of the MS4 requirements we are mandated to follow the Storm Water Management Plan that is mentioned above. There are six elements that comprise this plan that when implemented are intended to reduce the discharge of pollutants into the environment. Nimitz Elementary is responsible for the implementation of the six elements of the Plan:

- public education and outreach,
- public involvement/participation,
- illicit discharge detection and elimination,
- construction site runoff control,
- post-construction storm water management in new development and redevelopment, and
- pollution prevention/good housekeeping.

The Plan also includes Attachments with the following information specific to Nimitz Elementary: identifies the minimum control measures, describes the Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address for our site-specific needs, an implementation schedule and measurable goals to quantify our progress of program implementation. In addition, we are required to submit an annual report by the second Friday in December. Following these guidelines will ensure that we remain in compliance with federal law.