



**San Francisco  
Water Power Sewer**  
Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Urban Watershed Management Program  
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## Annual Self-Inspection Checklist

### SUBSURFACE INFILTRATION SYSTEM (Aggregate Filled)

(AKA: dry well, stormwater drainage well, stormwater injection well, infiltration gallery, seepage pit)

Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Block / Lot # \_\_\_\_\_ Installation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspected By: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Property Owner ☐ Site Manager ☐ Contractor ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS:** All inspections, maintenance tasks and repairs are to be completed prior to the beginning of the rainy season (October 15). Mark all status boxes with an S or U, where S = Satisfactory (no maintenance required), and U = Unsatisfactory (maintenance required). See the Dry Well (Aggregate Filled) Inspection instructions included in this packet for detailed descriptions of conditions requiring maintenance and further action.

Item #	Inspection Item Description	Status	Indicate Action Required or Action Planned	Indicate Action Taken (Include Date Completed)
1	Unpleasant odors			
2	Surface ponding over dry well location			
3	Water in inspection cleanouts during dry season / extended drawdown time of > 48 hrs.			
5	Visible contaminants / pollution on interior surfaces of cleanout pipe			
6	Pretreatment device damaged or bypassed / offline			
7	Sediment build-up in pretreatment device / device clogged			

8	Inlet, outlet and/or emergency overflow blockage			
9	Piping or cleanouts damaged			
<b>Item #</b>	<b>Inspection Item Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Indicate Action Required or Action Planned</b>	<b>Indicate Action Taken (Include Date Completed)</b>
10	Surface settlement over the dry well location			
11	Unauthorized modifications			
12	Mosquitos / larvae observed in surface ponding*			

\*If mosquitos or mosquito larvae are observed, please contact the San Francisco Environmental Health Vector Control Program at (415) 252-3806, or email [EnvHealth.DPH@sfdph.org](mailto:EnvHealth.DPH@sfdph.org).



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### **Annual Self-Inspection Checklist**

By completing and signing the Annual Self Certification (ASC), the Owner/Representative of the property subject to this ASC hereby acknowledges receipt of the ASC and agrees to take any and all necessary steps to comply with the ASC, the San Francisco Stormwater Management Requirements and Design Guidelines, the San Francisco Stormwater Management Ordinance (San Francisco Public Works Code Section 147 et seq.), and all other applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations. Failure to complete and provide a signature by the established deadline will result in the issuance of a non-reporting fee in accordance with the SFPUC Rates Schedule.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Annual Self-Certification Checklist Instructions

### SUBSURFACE INFILTRATION SYSTEM (Aggregate Filled) (AKA: dry well, stormwater drainage well, stormwater injection well, infiltration gallery, seepage pit)

**NOTE:** These instructions are intended to be a companion piece to the Annual Self-Certification Checklist. The information contained herein is to be used to help the preparer of the Annual Self-Certification Checklist accurately conduct an inspection and properly complete the form.

**Abbreviations:** SMR: San Francisco Stormwater Management Regulations and Design Guidelines; SCP: Stormwater Control Plan; SMO: San Francisco Stormwater Management Ordinance; BMP: Best Management Practice (Dry Well); GI: Green Infrastructure

Item #	Inspection Item Description	Inspection Instructions and Explanation
1	Unpleasant odors	<p><b>Area of Concern:</b> Several maintenance-related factors can lead to unpleasant odors in GI installations. Any dry well that consistently fails to draw down completely within 48 hours can become anaerobic. The buildup of bacteria inside the dry well, along with decaying organic material and trash can cause these odors.</p> <p><b>Maintenance Solution:</b> For more information on extended drawdown time, see the Inspection instructions and explanation for Item #3 below.</p>
2	Surface ponding over dry well location	<p><b>Area of Concern:</b> Surface ponding over the dry well location is an indication of a failure somewhere in the system. Several factors can lead to surface ponding, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced infiltration capacity due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sediment build up in the dry well</li> <li>○ Contaminants that have blocked infiltration surfaces in the dry well such as cement slurry</li> <li>○ Over compaction around the dry well structure</li> <li>○ Root intrusion that has blocked aggregate void space</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Clogged outflow or emergency overflow structures or pipes</li> </ul> <p><b>Maintenance Solution:</b> For more information on extended drawdown time, see Item #3 below.</p>

3	Water in inspection cleanouts during dry season / extended drawdown time > 48 hrs.	<p><b>Area of Concern:</b> Ponded water and extended drawdown times beyond 48 hours in dry well installations can lead to several problems such as unpleasant odors, lack of capacity to accommodate runoff from successive storms, and creation of mosquito habitats.</p> <p>Ponded water and drawdown failure can be caused by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• large amounts of sediment or debris accumulation in the dry well</li> <li>• blocked, clogged, or broken drains</li> <li>• blocked or clogged outflow structures and/or sand traps</li> </ul> <p>Inspecting the outflow structure or sand trap can be done by removing the lid or opening the access hatch and visually inspecting for standing water or excessive debris accumulation.</p> <p><b>Maintenance Solution:</b> Clogged outflow structures can be cleared by jetting or snaking the underdrain pipe or culvert that connects the structure to the sewer, and by removing accumulated debris and sediment from the bottom of the structure.</p>
Item #	Inspection Item Description	Inspection Instruction and Explanation
5	Visible contaminants / pollution on interior surfaces of cleanout pipe	<p><b>Area of Concern:</b> Visible surface contaminants and pollution can range from inert substances to hazardous substances that impact environmental or human health.</p> <p>Examples of inert contaminants are masonry, plaster or concrete "washout," and masonry or roadway saw cutting slurry and residue. Examples of hazardous contaminants are petroleum-based substances, caustic chemicals, pesticides and herbicides. These pollutants can often be identified by sight or smell when they become deposited in a dry well.</p> <p><b>Maintenance Solution:</b> If pollutants are detected, investigations must be conducted to determine the source of the contaminant, mitigate that source, and then take steps to clean up the contamination. For inert substances, cleanup of aggregate filled dry wells may require removal and replacement of the contaminated aggregate and discarding the contaminated material at an appropriate facility. Hazardous substance cleanup will require specially trained and licensed contractors and special disposal conforming to local and national laws and regulations.</p>
6	Pretreatment device damaged or bypassed / offline	<p><b>Area of Concern:</b> To provide floatable and sediment capture from stormwater upstream of the dry well, a pretreatment device must be in place and working properly.</p> <p><b>Maintenance Solution:</b> To ensure that pretreatment devices are online and working properly during dry weather, run a garden hose or other water source into a nearby cleanout or inlet to test that water enters and exits the pretreatment device before accumulating in the dry well. If the pretreatment device is missing, unhooked or damaged, replace with a new device.</p>
7	Sediment build-up in pretreatment device / device clogged	<p><b>Area of Concern:</b> Sediment accumulation in pretreatment devices is normal and expected. However, steps must be taken to remove sediment accumulation on an annual basis (or more often, depending on site conditions) to keep the pretreatment device functioning properly.</p> <p><b>Maintenance Solution:</b> Sediment and debris can collect in the sump area (sediment storage area). This accumulated sediment and debris must be removed by hand or by vactor truck before the start of the rainy season (October 15), or as frequently as site conditions dictate, and discarded at an appropriate facility.</p>



## Annual Self-Certification Checklist Instructions

8	Inlet, outlet, and/or emergency overflow blockage	<p><b>Area of concern:</b> Trash and debris can create blockages at the inlet and outlet points, or at the overflow structure of dry wells, inhibiting the flow of water into, through or out of the facility.</p> <p>Inlet blockages can cause stormwater flows to bypass the dry well, or only allow partial flows into the dry well, creating a situation where the dry well is non-functioning or underperforming. Outlet pipe and outlet structure blockages can create excessive ponding within and around the dry well, potentially leading to hazardous conditions and property damage.</p> <p><b>Maintenance Solution:</b> Blockages must be cleared before the start of the rainy season (October 15), before each forecast storm if site conditions require, and/or as frequently as site conditions dictate. Trash and debris must be removed by hand or with a vactor truck and disposed of at an appropriate facility. Overflow structure grates, sumps and traps must be cleared of debris by hand or vactor truck and discarded at an appropriate facility.</p>
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Item #	Inspection Item Description	Inspection Instruction and Explanation
9	Piping or cleanouts damaged	<p><b>Area of Concern:</b> Detention dry wells can contain many structural components that play key roles in the function of the installation. Inlet and outlet piping that directs stormwater to and from the dry well, vent pipes, and cleanouts that provide maintenance access and provide air movement and venting are all key components. If any of these components are damaged, the function of the dry well may be compromised.</p> <p><b>Maintenance Solution:</b> Note if these components are damaged, and take steps to correct the issue and restore the component's function.</p>
10	Surface settlement over the dry well location	<p><b>Area of Concern:</b> Improper backfilling during construction can lead to surface settlement that develops suddenly when the dry well first fills with stormwater or slowly over time from a repeated cycle of filling of the dry well and the subsequent infiltration of stormwater. This settlement can cause hazardous surface conditions if the dry well is located under or near a pedestrian area or accessible lawn area.</p> <p><b>Maintenance Solution:</b> Note and monitor any settlement and have the settled surfaces repaired as soon as possible to reduce trip and fall hazards.</p>

11	Unauthorized modifications	<p><b>Area of Concern:</b> Unauthorized modifications consist of any changes to a dry well that deviate from the approved construction documents. These modifications can take place during construction or can happen over time, after the dry well is constructed.</p> <p>The SMR Maintenance Agreement Exhibit B recorded on the deed of the property provides the original approved construction documents that can be referred to and used to determine if modifications have been made.</p> <p><b>Maintenance Solution:</b> All unauthorized modifications must be corrected by returning the dry well to its original configuration, as described in the approved construction documents contained in the SMR Maintenance Agreement Exhibit B. Take steps to correct the issue to restore to the original condition.</p>
12	Mosquitos / larvae observed in surface ponding*	<p><b>Area of Concern:</b> Ponded water resulting from extended drawdown times beyond 48 hours may lead to the development of a mosquito habitat.</p> <p><b>Maintenance Solution:</b> See Item #3 above for remedies to extended drawdown times. For more information on mosquito control visit <a href="http://www.sfdph.org/dph/eh/WestNile/default.asp">http://www.sfdph.org/dph/eh/WestNile/default.asp</a> or <a href="http://www.smosquito.org/">http://www.smosquito.org/</a>. If mosquitos or mosquito larvae are observed, please contact the San Francisco Environmental Health Vector Control Program at (415) 252-3806, or email <a href="mailto:EnvHealth.DPH@sfdph.org">EnvHealth.DPH@sfdph.org</a>. Also, consult with a licensed professional pest control service for eradication, as appropriate.</p>