

Gonzales Public Works

Picture

STORM WATER

The City of Gonzales Public Works Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the storm water system that serves Gonzales residents and businesses.

The Public Works Department also provides emergency response during and after normal hours including weekends. The Department assists the community with various services such as cleaning culverts removing leaves and debris, keeping storm drains clear and clean prior to winter rains.

Urban Runoff:

The surface water from our yards, driveways, and streets which flow through storm drains is the single greatest source of pollution to our sloughs and the Monterey Bay. Unlike sewage and industrial discharges, urban runoff cannot always be treated adequately before it reaches the bay. By reducing the quantity and improving the quality of runoff, we can lower levels of harmful bacteria, toxins, and other forms of pollutants affecting our creeks and the bay. Reducing urban runoff and amount of pollutants discharged are essential for the health and safety of our community. Urban runoff is a national, as well as local concern. In 1990, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set forth regulations governing storm water discharges under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program (NPDES). In California, the NPDES Stormwater Program is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board through its nine regions.

The City of Gonzales is impacted from 26 square mile water shed, the Gabilan and Santa Lucia Mountain ranges bordering the city are the sources of the principal water courses in the area. The foothills surrounding Gonzales also generate runoff. The principal stream inside Gonzales is the Gonzales Slough. While Gonzales is located in the basically flat terrain of the Salinas Valley runoff originating in the city drains mostly through the streets and is ultimately conveyed to the Salinas River and finding its way into Monterey Bay.

Storm Drains:

The storm drain system is designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater into a storm drain system. The Streets Maintenance Division maintains storm drains,

endeavoring to keep them clear and free of debris. When it rains, water collects and travels through the gutters into a catch basin. The storm water is then transported through underground storm drain pipes. The water empties from the storm drains and eventually flows into the Monterey Bay. Unlike the sewer system, which carries wastewater from indoor drains (i.e. sink, toilet, and bathtub) to a wastewater treatment plant, the storm drain system releases storm water into the ocean untreated. This means that any **trash, organic materials, or hazardous chemicals which are dumped in the street can pollute our ocean**. So please be cautious! Although green garden waste is organic and will biodegrade, when it enters the ocean, clippings require oxygen to break down. Green waste in the ocean means less oxygen is available for marine life to survive. The bottom line is **green garden waste washed into the ocean through our gutters and storm drains can suffocate fish and other marine wildlife**. If you see anyone washing foreign material (e.g., paint, lawn clippings, concrete, etc.) into the gutters and storm drains, please call the Public Works Department at (831) 675-5000.

Floods:

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States. Flood effects can be local, impacting a neighborhood or community, or very large, affecting entire river basins and multiple states.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency or FEMA is a government agency in the United States which is organized under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate. The agency is charged with what it defines as four domains of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Mainly, FEMA responds to any disaster that occurs in the United States that is declared a federal disaster area by the President of the United States.

FEMA coordinates the work of federal, state, and local agencies in responding to floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. FEMA provides financial assistance to individuals and governments to rebuild homes, businesses, and public facilities; trains firefighters and emergency medical professionals; and funds emergency preparedness throughout the United States and its territories (description by <http://www.wikipedia.org/>).

1. How do I obtain or review the flood map for my area, and how do I read it?

The most widely distributed [National Flood Insurance Program](#) (NFIP) flood map product is the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). A FIRM offers much useful information and represents the official depiction of flood hazards for a community.

At the online FEMA [Flood Map Store](#) you may research, view (free), and purchase the available inventory of effective NFIP products, including the FIRM, the Flood Insurance

Study (FIS) report that accompanies the FIRM, and other mapping products. The "effective date" is the date on which the NFIP map for a community becomes effective and all sanctions of the NFIP apply. Therefore, an "effective FIRM" is the NFIP map issued by FEMA that is in effect as of the date shown in the title block of the map as "Effective Date," "Revised," or "Map Revised."

You can also create a customized FIRMette—a paper copy of a user-defined portion of an effective FIRM, produced and saved on your computer. The FIRMette is true to scale and includes title block, scale, and north arrow. It can be used to help determine the location of a property or structure relative to the Special Flood Hazard Area.

You may also order copies of the effective FIRM, FIS report, and other NFIP products by calling the FEMA [Map Assistance Center](#) toll-free at 1-800-358-9616. When ordering, you will need the six-digit community identification number (CID) for the community in which you are interested. The CID appears in the title block of each map panel or may be found in FEMA's online [Community Status Book](#).

You may also view copies of the effective FIRM and FIS report by visiting the Community Map Repository for your community, which is usually maintained by the community floodplain administrator or officials at the planning and zoning office.

Using the [How to Read a FIRM Tutorial](#) along with the FIRM for your property can assist you in determining the potential flood risk for your property and whether you should insure your home from flood loss. The [How to Read a FIS Tutorial](#) will assist you in understanding the information presented in the FIS report.

2. How do I find out in which "flood hazard area" or "flood zone" my home is located?

You can find out which flood insurance risk zone shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for your community applies to your property by:

Visiting your Community Map Repository, which is usually maintained by the community floodplain administrator or officials at the planning and zoning office; or

Ordering or viewing the FIRM at the FEMA [Map Service Center](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood related web page links:

[FEMA Home Page](#)

[FEMA Flood Home Page](#)

[FEMA Fast Facts to Learn about flood risk and flood insurance](#)

[FEMA Buying Flood Insurance Guide](#)

[FEMA Flood Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[FEMA Flood Hazard Mapping](#)

[FEMA Flood Hazard Mapping - forms](#)

[Elevation Certificate](#)

[Flood Proofing Certificate \(FEMA Form 81-65\)](#)

MT-1 Form: Application Forms for Conditional and Final Letters of Map Amendment and Letters of Map Revision Based on Fill

MT-2 Form: The forms to request Conditional Letters of Map Revision (CLOMRs) and Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs).

MT-EZ Form: Application Form for Single Residential Lot or Structure Amendments to National Flood Insurance Program Maps

[Fee information pertaining to submittals](#)

[FEMA Elevation Certificate Information and Guide](#)

[FEMA Letter of Map Amendment \(LOMA\) or Letter of Map Revision-Based on Fill \(LOMR-F\) Process](#)

FEMA Map Service Center – Provides information on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS): online access and online store for hard copy purchases of maps.

[Additional Resources:](#)



Our Water Our World

www.ourwaterourworld.com



USEPA Stormwater Program

www.epa.gov



Water Boards State Water Resources Control Board

www.swrcb.ca.gov



US EPA Stormwater Program

www.epa.gov

Contact Information:

City of Gonzales

147 Fourth Street

Gonzales, CA 93926

Phone: (831) 675-5000

Fax: (831) 675-2644

If you are reporting something that requires immediate attention, please call City Hall directly: Weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at (831) 675-5000

Weekends and after hours, call the Police Department at (831) 769-8888 or 755-5111