



# City of Cañon City

P.O. Box 1460 – 128 Main St. - Cañon City, CO 81215-1460  
(719) 269-9011 Fax: (719) 269-9017



## Second Quarter 2010 Stormwater Management Program News

### 2009 Stormwater Management Program Overview

The first quarter newsletter gave a brief fiscal overview of the stormwater management program. As discussed in previous editions of the newsletter, the City of Cañon City is a Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permittee. As such there are six minimum measures we must meet annually. These are Public Education and Outreach, Public Participation/Involvement, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Runoff Control, Post-construction Stormwater Management and Municipal Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping. I'd like to give an overview of what was accomplished in each area during 2009.

#### Public Education/Outreach and Public Participation/Involvement

Some of the methods we use to fulfill these requirements include newsletters, public service announcements, bus murals, presentations and stenciling of storm drains.

- 1) During 2009, 23,018 newsletters were sent to residential customers and 7,320 sent to commercial establishments. These newsletters address the stormwater management program and ask for feedback from readers.
- 2) Presentations and demonstrations on stormwater were given to several organizations and schools.
- 3) Ten public service announcements were aired on the local radio station and four stormwater related programs were aired on CCTV-Channel 19.
- 4) Fifty storm drains were stenciled with the message "Dump No Waste Drains to River" by students from Garden Park High School.
- 5) Murals about stormwater were displayed on river rafting shuttle buses.
- 6) The City provided financial support and advertising for the Upper Arkansas Recycling Program and Cañon Proud.
- 7) The City has a stormwater hotline (275-5265) for citizens to phone in with issues and questions. The adjacent table shows the breakdown of the 109 calls handled.
- 8) The City is a member of, or involved in, several council and associations concerning stormwater. Various staff members attended several meetings and conferences during 2009.

| Category           | % of Calls |
|--------------------|------------|
| Information        | 32         |
| Complaint          | 27         |
| SW Fees            | 16         |
| Illicit Discharge  | 9          |
| BMP Inspection     | 8          |
| Storm Damage       | 5          |
| Follow-up calls    | 2          |
| Impervious Surface | 1          |

#### Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Program elements required by the State in this category include an Outfall/Storm Sewer System map, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination and Staff Education.

- 1) Storm Sewer System Map: The State requires the City to maintain a current map of our storm sewer infrastructure including pipes, inlets, and outfalls (where stormwater empties into the river, creeks and drainages). The City utilizes Geographic Information Systems to map these features. Inlets, outfalls and culverts are surveyed and given GPS coordinates. Currently over 500 inlets, about 300 outfalls, 266 manholes and 9.33 miles of pipes have been surveyed. In addition, all of the inlets and outfalls are inspected at least once a year. Those outfalls that have the potential for illegal discharges are inspected more often. An interesting side note: This 1924 map of the storm sewer system shows 93 inlets, 2 outfalls, 39 manholes and 2.5 miles of pipe.



2) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: During 2009, thirty-one incidents of suspected illegal discharges were reported or found during inspections. Twenty seven of those were valid, requiring investigation. The investigations resulted in 8 verbal warnings, 6 notices of non-compliance, 6 cease and desist orders and 2 fines. One investigation lead to a company being required to apply for, and receive, a discharge permit from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment.

### **Construction Site Runoff Control**

A requirement of the City's stormwater permit is the inspection of all construction sites to assess stormwater runoff control at each site. In 2009, 140 inspections were conducted at 75 construction sites. These inspections resulted in 3 verbal warnings, 26 notices of non-compliance and 2 fines.

### **Post-construction Stormwater Management**

A requirement of our permit is the inspection of post-construction stormwater facilities such as detention basins, stormwater quality vaults, grass swales, etc. One hundred forty one (141) inspections were done in 2009 on 104 permanent facilities (both private and public facilities). Sixty letters were sent out to private custodians indicating some level of non-compliance (needing maintenance).

### **Municipal Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping**

Our State permit requires that the City of Cañon City prevent stormwater pollution, to the best of its ability, from its facilities through good housekeeping practices. A written Pollution Prevention Operations and Maintenance Manual was finished and approved in 2009. Inspections of municipally owned facilities (including parks) were conducted to assess the potential for pollution of stormwater runoff. During 2009, 49 facilities were inspected with the results sent to the appropriate department heads. In addition, 59 drainage channels under the custodianship of the City and 19 channels under private custodianship were inspected.

### **Other Accomplishments**

- The Orchard Avenue Storm Sewer Project from Central Avenue to the Hydraulic Ditch was completed.
- Storm sewer construction on North Raynolds Ave. between Central Ave. and Juniper St.
- Design and construction of a Public Improvement District on S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, which included new storm sewers.
- Design of the Hydraulic Ditch siphon under Orchard Avenue.
- Clean-up and maintenance of several drainages throughout the city.
- Emergency repairs due to flash-flooding which occurred in July.
- The purchase of a vac-truck to be used in cleaning inlets and water quality vaults.

A final note: It is my hope that these newsletters help to shed light on the Federal and State mandates the City of Cañon City is required to meet for stormwater management and how we are accomplishing these goals. Please feel free to direct any concerns or questions to Glenda DeBekker, City of Cañon City Stormwater Program at either [grdebekker@canoncity.org](mailto:grdebekker@canoncity.org) or 276-5265. You may also write to The City of Cañon City's Stormwater Program, P.O. Box 1460, Cañon City, CO 81215-1460.



**Remember: The responsibility for keeping our City's and State's waterways clean for all to enjoy ultimately falls to everyone in the choices they make. Please make wise choices.**