PORT of SAN DIEGO Environment

3/19/2026

Trash Amendments Full Capture Systems:

Frequently Asked Questions
Hydrology & Hydraulics Analysis

What is the basis for the trash control sizing standards?

In 2015, the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the Trash Amendments, which apply to the Port and other municipal agencies throughout the State. The Trash Amendments dictate performance and sizing standards for structural trash controls in municipal storm drains, referred to as Full Capture Systems (FCS).

Where do FCS need to be installed, and what area do they need to treat?

FCS need to be installed to treat runoff to storm drains that receives runoff from any Priority Land Use (industrial or commercial) area. The FCS must be sized to treat the entire drainage area to the storm drain where the FCS will be installed, even if that includes some offsite area. There is some flexibility on the approach to meet this treatment requirement. For example, this requirement may be met by installing FCS in each applicable storm drain, or in some cases a single FCS may be sized and sited such that it can treat the runoff to multiple upstream storm drains.

What is the treatment sizing standard for structural trash controls (FCS)?

FCS must be sized to treat the peak flow for a 1-year, 1-hour storm, calculated using the Rational Method. The 1-year, 1-hour rainfall depth, typically obtained from NOAA Atlas 14, is used as the intensity value in this calculation.

What is the bypass sizing standard for structural trash controls (FCS)?

FCS must be sized to bypass the flow rate associated with the flood control design storm, which is typically the 100-year, 6-hour storm. This flow rate is calculated using the Rational Method, following the process in the City of San Diego Drainage Design Manual or the County of San Diego Hydrology Manual.

How can I tell if an FCS will meet the treatment and bypass flow standards?

If using a proprietary FCS, such as an inlet filter screen or a connector pipe screen, the device manufacturer or vendor should be able to provide documentation of the treatment flow rate and the bypass flow rate. Ensure that the manufacturer's stated treatment flow rate and bypass flow rate are equal to or larger than the flow rate calculated for your FCS installation location. Include the information provided by the manufacturer in the Hydrology & Hydraulic (H&H) Analysis submittal to demonstrate that the selected device and model number meets the applicable sizing standards.

What if it is challenging to find an FCS that works for my site?

Some properties may include storm drains that are non-standard sizes or encounter tidal influence or other constraints. Vendors are continually developing new FCS products, and it may be that an FCS that will work for your site has been developed. Consult the State's current list[1] of certified FCS to evaluate if there are available FCS that will work for your site. Contact FCS vendors to see if they are able to identify a product that will work for your situation. If you are not able to identify an FCS that will work for one or more storm drains on your site, consult with Port Environmental Protection staff.

How to document a project's structural trash control compliance?

The port has developed templates to document compliance with trash capture requirements. All stormwater-related templates can be found at the Port's Stormwater Management website.[2] Refer to Sections 2.4 and 5.7 of the Port of San Diego BMP Design Manual for additional guidance.

[1] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/trash_implementation.html
[2] https://www.portofsandiego.org/stormwater-management