



City of Albuquerque

Significant Drainage Ordinance Changes

(Effective May 12, 2014)

Manage 90th Percentile Storm Events:

All new development projects, where practicable, shall manage the runoff from precipitation which occurs during 90th Percentile Storm Events. The ordinance defines the 90th Percentile Storm Events as 0.44 inches.

Storm Water Control Permit for Erosion and Sediment Control:

- A current Stormwater Control Permit for Erosion and Sediment Control is required for all construction, demolition clearing, and grading operations that disturb the soil on one acre or more of land.
- The Stormwater Control Permit includes an Erosion Sediment Control Plan. The new ordinance defines the plan as the following: A plan prepared by a licensed New Mexico Professional Engineer submitted to ensure that minimum design standards are met to reduce potential pollutants that may result from demolition and construction activities.
- Post-Construction Maintenance for the Private Stormwater Facilities will be the responsibility of the facilities' owner. Periodic inspection and certifications of the facilities are required and shall be reported to the City Engineer.

Storm Water Control Measures:

- Stormwater Control Measures shall be designed to manage first flush and control runoff generated by contributing impervious surfaces.
- First Flush is defined as the following: The stormwater runoff during the early stages of a storm equal to or less than runoff from a 90th Percentile Storm Event that can deliver a potentially high concentration of pollutants due to the washing effect of runoff from impervious areas directly connected to the storm drainage system.

Grading and Drainage Plan requirement changes (now includes Stormwater Control Permit):

- Structures constituting less than 1,000 square feet in plan view are excluded. Formerly, the requirement was 500 square feet.

Paving Permit requirement changes:

Paving an area larger than 2,000 square feet (formerly 1,000 square feet) other than right-of-way shall require a paving permit. Applications for paving permits shall be accompanied by a Grading Plan and Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, if deemed necessary by the City Engineer. Repaving of right-of-way is excluded.

Enforcement*:

Project not in compliance with the ordinance, after having received notices, shall be subject to the penalty provisions set forth in § 1-1-99 of the City's code of ordinances. Each day of violation is considered a separate offense.

Sources:

- New Drainage Ordinance: <https://cabq.legistar.com/legislation.aspx>, Search: O-13-47, Year 2013, and "All Types".
- Previous Drainage Ordinance: Chapter 14, Article 5, Part 2, Revised Ordinances of Albuquerque (ROA) 1994: http://www.amlegal.com/albuquerque_nm/

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* Subject to reasonable leniency where ordinance changes still require Development Process Manual (DPM) modifications.