RUN OFF MANAGEMENT PLAN (ROMP)

To protect surface water and ground water quality, urban development must be guided by plans that limit runoff and reduce pollutant discharge. To this end, County of Orange will address urban water quality problems on both a local and watershed level by placing conditions on development requiring the preparation of a Run Off Management Plan (ROMP) in conjunction with their proposed developments.

New developments should attempt to maintain the volume and peak runoff at predevelopment levels by using structural controls and pollution prevention strategies. Plans for the management of runoff, sediment, and toxics can establish guidelines to help achieve these goals. Runoff Management Plans (ROMP) shall be designed to protect sensitive ecological areas, minimize land disturbances, retain natural drainage and vegetation, minimize pollutant discharge, minimize soil erosion and sedimentation problems, maintenance of predevelopment hydrologic conditions, protection of groundwater resources, and management of run off to reduce or prevent flooding as required by CEQA.

The Run Off Management Plans will be reviewed by the County Subdivision Section (or their consultants) in consultation with the Flood Control Program (for Regional Flood Control issues) and Water Resources Sections.

MASTER PLAN OF DRAINAGE (MPD)

A Master Plan of Drainage addresses the future drainage needs of a development. The boundary of the plan usually follows regional watershed limits. The proposed facilities may include channels, storm drains, levees, basins, dams, wetlands or any other conveyance capable of economically relieving flooding problems within the development. The plan will include an estimate of facility capacity, sizes and costs.

MPD provides a guide for the orderly development of an area, and provides an estimate of costs to resolve flooding issues within a community. These plans may be used by the Board of Supervisors to determine Capital Project expenditures for each budget year. Finally, the plans are to be used to impose Area Drainage Plan fees for a given community, which prevent existing taxpayers from having to shoulder the burden of land development costs.

The Master Plan of Drainage Program is also a financing mechanism used to apportion the costs of proposed drainage facilities. The fees are imposed on new development within the plan area. Developments falling under the Subdivision Map Act (those requiring a division of lands) pay fees on a per acre basis (if MPD fees are adopted by Board of Supervisors). Developments falling outside of the Subdivision Map Act (known as discretionary developments) can only be conditioned to provide mitigations based on their impacts to the watershed.

The Master Plan of Drainage will be reviewed by the County hired consultants and will be approved by the Subdivision Section (or their consultants) in consultation with the Flood Control Division (for Regional Flood Control issues).