Surface Cleaners Workshop

Commonly Used Terms and Expressions

When people mean “wastewater,” they may say:
  Sewage

When people mean “sewer system,” you may hear:
  Sanitary sewer
  Collection system
  Sewers

Referring to a wastewater treatment plant, people may say:
  POTW—“Publicly Owned Treatment Works”
  Water quality control plant
  Waste treatment authority
  Sewage treatment plant
  Treatment plant

When people talk about “stormwater,” they may use these terms:
  Urban runoff
  Polluted runoff
  Storm drain pollution
  Nonpoint source pollution

A curbside or parking lot grate that is part of the storm drain system may be referred to as:
  Storm drain
  Catch basin
  Drop inlet
  Storm drain inlet

The system of pipes, channels, etc. that carries stormwater to a creek, the Bay, or the Delta may be referred to as:
  Storm drainage system
  Storm drains
  Storm sewer

Voluntary or regulatory pollution prevention guidelines for businesses or others may be referred to as:
  Best Management Practices
  BMPs
  Control measures
  Pollution prevention practices