**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**
REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE SYSTEM FACT SHEET

# A REGIONAL APPROACH TO MEETING MRP STORMWATER REQUIREMENTS

Water board-approved system reduces long-term maintenance risk and administrative burden.

## WHY STORMWATER PROGRAMS USE RAC

**The Regional Alternative Compliance (RAC) System helps jurisdictions:**

- ✓ Provide a consistent, countywide alternative compliance pathway.
- ✓ Reduce long-term operations and maintenance (O&M) responsibility and risk through a funded, regionally managed system.
- ✓ Establish a dedicated, reliable funding source for maintenance.
- ✓ Support strategic placement of GSI to address legacy pollution.
- ✓ Reduce reliance on ad hoc, project-by-project solutions
- ✓ Provide another option that could help meet MRP requirements.

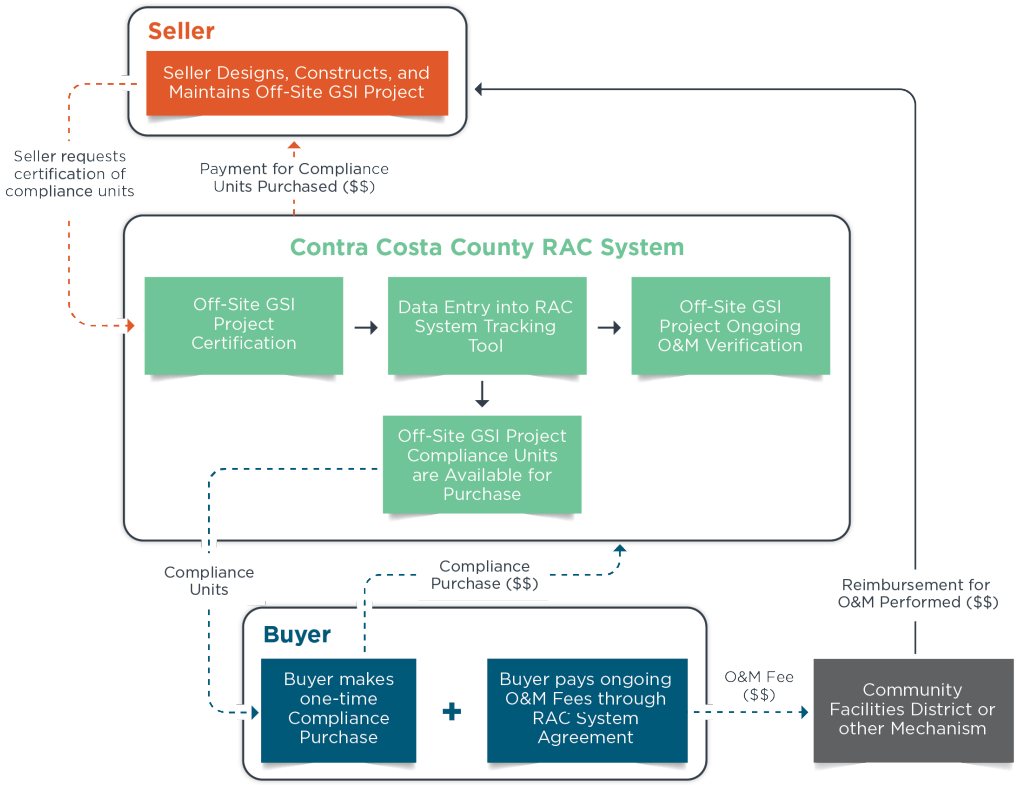
## What is the RAC

The RAC System allows projects to meet stormwater requirements by **purchasing compliance units** from approved off-site GSI projects rather than fully constructing treatment on-site.

It provides a coordinated, regional option that aligns with MRP requirements and supports more effective, maintainable stormwater solutions.

The RAC System is **Water Board–approved** and can be used for development, redevelopment, roadway projects, and impervious surface retrofit requirements (C.3.d and C.3.j), subject to local approval.

## How the RAC System Works



## Step-by-Step RAC Process

1. Off-site GSI projects are constructed and certified
2. Compliance units are generated and tracked in a centralized system
3. Developers or public agencies purchase compliance units
4. Projects incur one-time cost based on construction and administration expenses
5. Ongoing O&M is funded through a CFD or through public agency agreements
6. Jurisdictions verify long-term performance through existing inspection programs

## How the RAC System Is Managed

The RAC is administered through a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and provides a regional governance structure to implement and manage the system across participating jurisdictions.

**The JPA:**

- Administers the RAC System
- Tracks and allocates compliance units
- Coordinates reporting to the Water Board
- Manages financial and administrative functions
- Establishes and oversees the CFD over time.

Participation in the JPA is **voluntary** and **subject to local jurisdiction approval**.

## How Long-Term Maintenance Is Funded

The Community Facilities District (CFD) provides a dedicated funding source to ensure ongoing maintenance of off-site GSI facilities.

### FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

- Parcel owners vote to annex into the CFD
- Annual special taxes are collected in perpetuity through the property tax bill
- Funding supports long-term O&M of GSI facilities
- Ongoing O&M cost determined by needs, number of compliance units, and specific GSI facility

### FOR PUBLIC AGENCY PROJECTS:

- O&M costs are funded through agreements, typically collected up-front for a certain number of years
- Equivalent funding is provided outside of the property tax system

The CFD ensures that facilities are maintained over time and continue to perform as intended.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Local Jurisdiction

- ✓ Approves RAC use within its jurisdiction
- ✓ Facilitates compliance purchases
- ✓ Certifies and verifies off-site GSI projects
- ✓ Oversees O&M activities of off-site GSI projects

### RAC System Administrator

- ✓ Manages system operations and tracking tool
- ✓ Coordinates reporting to the Water Board
- ✓ Oversees system performance and adaptive management

### CFD Administrator

- ✓ Collects and manages O&M funds
- ✓ Disburses payments for completed maintenance
- ✓ Maintains financial transparency and accountability

## Program Impact

**Using RAC can help your program:**

- Reduce the burden of managing distributed, site-level GSI.
- Minimize exposure to long-term maintenance failures.
- Shift O&M responsibility to a funded, regional system.
- Provide a clear, consistent, and defensible compliance pathway
- Improve coordination across jurisdiction.s
- Support more impactful, regional-scale water quality improvements.

## Implementation Status

- JPA formation and agency approvals **underway**
- CFD formation and rate structure **in development**
- Final program documents and templates **in progress**
- Staff training and outreach **ongoing**

## Key Considerations

- ✓ RAC is a voluntary compliance option
- ✓ Use must be approved by the local jurisdiction
- ✓ Applicable to both private development and public projects, subject to approval
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- ✓ Designed to support long-term performance and compliance

**GET STARTED**

Contact your local jurisdiction early in the development process to discuss whether RAC is a good fit for your project.

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