

# Permitting Guidance Manual

Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati

In 2011 Coldwater signed a Master Services Agreement with the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSDGC) as a Small Business Enterprise. Coldwater's first Task Order under this agreement included the preparation of a Permitting Guidance Manual (Manual), training MSDGC staff on the permitting process, and assisting with siting consolidated wetland and stream mitigation bank areas.

The Permitting Guidance Manual covers U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 Permits, Section 10 Permits, Ohio EPA Section 401 Water Quality Certifications, and Ohio EPA Isolated Wetland Permits. The Manual includes "ancillary" agency coordination procedures with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Historic Preservation Office, and Ohio DNR. Coldwater developed flow charts of the permitting processes for every scenario MSDGC could face along with corresponding checklists to ensure complete documents are being submitted to the regulatory agencies.

Coldwater performed two in-house training sessions for MSDGC's project managers. The training sessions included review of the Manual, flow charts, and checklists. Example MSDGC projects were also taken through the step by step process laid out in the Manual. Professional Development Hours were offered to the MSDGC project managers for attending the training classes with Coldwater.

In order to meet their Consent Decree, MSDGC is implementing a substantial number of projects. Thus, the identification of stream and wetland mitigation options is a key factor in streamlining the permit process. Coldwater has identified several viable stream and wetland mitigation options in all four of MSDGC's watersheds.

