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KEEP IT ONSITE!

Best Management Practices for Small Construction Sites

Our beaches, coastal streams and wetlands are precious to our coastal communities, but human activity such as construction work can pollute these natural treasures unless contractors use effective best management practices (BMPs).

This brochure outlines the minimum required BMPs for construction projects that disturb less than one acre* of soil (small construction sites).

* Construction projects that disturb one acre or more of soil must comply with the Statewide Construction General Permit: waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SMALL CONSTRUCTION SITES

An effective combination of all of the following 13 minimum BMPs must be implemented and maintained on all small construction sites to comply with the Clean Water Act. Local agencies may have additional requirements.

EROSION CONTROLS

- Schedule** construction to minimize the area and duration of soil disturbance/exposure, especially during the rainy season.
 - Deploy all construction BMPs before beginning construction and maintain frequently.
 - Monitor weather forecasts and check BMPs before and after rain events.
 - Schedule grading for non-rainy season whenever possible (May – September).
 - Stabilize inactive areas of exposed soil.
 - At the end of the job, stabilize all exposed soil with sod, seed, vegetation or mulch.
- Preserve and Protect Existing Trees and Vegetation from Construction.**
 - Allow existing vegetation to remain as natural erosion control if possible.
 - Flag or fence trees and vegetation to be protected prior to construction.
 - Place temporary fencing at the edge of the tree canopy/dripline to protect roots from compaction.
 - Keep trenching outside of tree canopy and cover any exposed roots with soil.
 - Consult an arborist for advice on protecting valuable trees.
 - Do not cut trees or brush along the banks of a natural drainage course without appropriate permit(s) (see Additional Permits).

SEDIMENT CONTROLS

- Silt Fence** used for sediment control consists of woven geotextile fabric stretched across supporting posts with bottom edge trenched and anchored into soil and placed:
 - down-slope of exposed soil on slopes < 1:1,
 - at project perimeter,
 - around stockpiles, or
 - to protect onsite storm drain/inlets/drains.
- Sand Bag or Fiber Roll Barriers** should be placed on a level contour to intercept sheet flow and allow sediment to settle out behind the barrier. These can be effective:

- at site perimeter,
- down-slope of exposed soil,
- at the top of slopes to divert flows away from disturbed slopes,
- as grade breaks on slope faces, and
- around temporary stockpiles.
- ↓ Sand bags are not effective for flow-through filtration (use gravel bags instead).

Note: Sand bags must be replaced every 2–3 months because bag material degrades.

- Stabilized Construction Entrance/Exit** is required if vehicles will enter the site to prevent tracking of dirt and mud onto street and will include:
 - Crushed aggregate at least 3 inches in diameter placed at least 12 inches deep over filter fabric,
 - Rumble racks (manufactured steel plates with ribs), and
 - Site control to limit vehicle access only to stabilized entrance/exit.

WATER USE AND MANAGEMENT

- Water Conservation Practices** also prevent illegal construction discharges. Such BMPs include:
 - Dry sweeping and/or vacuuming paved areas
 - Use of quick-release nozzles on hoses
 - Prompt repair of leaks from water trucks, irrigation, hydrant connections, etc.
 - Reusing water generated onsite for dust control
- Dewatering Operations** If construction dewatering or impounded stormwater will be discharged to the storm drain or street:
 - 45 days prior to discharge, a separate permit must be obtained under Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. R4-2013-0095, waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/adopted_orders/
 - Implement and maintain treatment as specified by R4-2013-0095 permit approval
 - Keep the flow path of the discharge to the storm drain clean, i.e., sweep up dirt, debris, leaves, and trash in the flow path
 - Dewatering discharges must not cause soil erosion

MATERIAL AND WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Material Delivery and Storage Management**
 - Schedule material deliveries to minimize storage time and space onsite.

- Limit the number of different types of solvents and materials to reduce waste.
- Select less toxic or hazardous products when feasible.
- Store liquids or toxic materials in: double-walled tanks or watertight containers under covered areas away from drainage-ways.
- Locate material storage away from vehicle traffic and drainage pathways.
- Keep Safety Data Sheets onsite and train workers to review before using hazardous materials.

9. Stockpile Management and Protection

- Cover during non-active periods to protect from wind-blown dispersion.
- Locate stockpiles away from street or onsite drainage pathways.
- Provide perimeter sediment barrier.

10. Spill Prevention and Control Measures

- Maintain spill absorbent and clean-up supplies readily at hand.
- Utilize spill prevention/containment measures such as drip pans.
- If equipment fueling or maintenance must be performed onsite, designate a specific area on level ground away from drainage-way or street with spill kit.
- Stop, safely contain and clean up spills promptly.
- Properly dispose of spill cleanup materials.
- Keep emergency response contact numbers readily available onsite

11. Solid Waste Management

- Follow local demolition/debris management, recycling and disposal requirements.
- Maintain an organized/segregated waste storage area.
- Dispose of hazardous waste in a lawful manner.
- Control litter such as empty food and beverage containers and cigarette butts.

Do not:

- ↓ Bury or dispose of waste materials onsite
- ↓ Dispose of liquids in dumpster

12. Concrete Waste, including concrete washout, tile, stucco and any cementitious waste

- Provide designated containment area lined or designed to prevent the release of liquids onto or into the ground.

- Train workers in proper use and inspect regularly.
 - Properly dispose of waste.
- Do not:*
- ↓ Rinse concrete vehicles or equipment into the street or catch basin.

13. Sanitary/Septic Waste Management

Follow local requirements for placement and service of portable toilets.

- Locate away from catch basins and vehicular traffic.
- Anchor in areas subject to vandalism or when strong winds are forecast.
- Require spill prevention measures during service.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND ADDITIONAL PERMITS

Asbestos: work with or removal of asbestos-related materials requires special handling and containment practices under Title 8 of California Code of Regulations.

Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Removal and Painting Program Rule: The RRP Rule requires that contractors that work on pre-1978 dwellings and child-occupied facilities be trained and certified to use lead-safe work practices.

Lake or Streambed Work: Additional permits may be required if construction work will be conducted along the banks or in a lake, stream or ocean. These include:

- Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from CA Depart. of Fish & Wildlife wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/LSA
- US Army Corps of Engineers usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Obtain-a-Permit/
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board 401 Water Quality Certification permit waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/401_water_quality_certification/CleanWaterApp.shtml