PLACER COUNTY

Updated 6/2008

Construction

Processes For Stormwater Quality Protection

THE STORMWATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Placer County is subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal regulations for stormwater quality protection. These Federal and State regulations require controls on potential sources of pollution from construction sites. The County meets these regulations through its Stormwater Management Plans, Grading Ordinance (Article 15.48), Stormwater Quality Ordinance (Article 8.28), and other sections of Placer County Code.

Stormwater Ordinance Points:

- **Prohibits non-stormwater (anything besides rainwater) discharges to stormdrains.**
- **Prohibits sediment discharge.**
- **Requires that construction sites apply and maintain BMPs and regulate construction site wastes.**
- **Establishes enforcement authority and procedures.**

WHAT IS A BMP?

Best Management Practice, or BMP, is a term used to describe an activity, technique, structure, or device that is intended to protect or improve stormwater quality.

Grading Ordinance Points:

- **Defines grading permit requirements that vary by area.**
- **Requires BMPs for all grading activities and vegetation removal.**

STORMWATER QUALITY REGULATIONS WITH 1 ACRE, OR MORE, DISTURBANCES

In addition to the County grading permit requirements, all construction sites which disturb more than one acre, or smaller but part of a greater plan involving over one acre, are required to obtain a State Stormwater Discharge permit. (Disturbed areas include all areas that are to be graded or paved, where vegetation is removed, building sites, access roads, parking areas, storage areas, and anywhere else that existing ground is exposed or disrupted.) **All construction sites are required to implement construction site BMPs, regardless of permit requirements.**

Projects, including building, grading, and any other site work where one acre or more is disturbed, as described above, are required to demonstrate to the County that they have filed the appropriate Construction General Permit Notice of Intent with the Central Valley or Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. Applicants will be requested to provide the County with a WDID (Waste Discharge Identification) number and a copy of the approved SWPPP (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan) **prior to construction approval.** The County's NPDES permit requires that the State be informed of any construction sites where the project owner has NOT obtained a construction permit from the State or does not maintain a SWPPP on the site.

CONSTRUCTION SITE REQUIREMENTS

All sites are required to utilize a combination of BMPs that effectively protect the site and prevent anything but clean rainwater from running off site. Construction sites will be subject to year round inspections to verify stormwater quality compliance. These may be additional separate inspections, or may be performed in the course of other routine inspections. Project sites that are large, steep, have a history of non-compliance, are next to a waterway, or that are otherwise more likely to pollute are designated as high priority and are inspected on a more frequent basis than other sites. Projects under construction must maintain sufficient erosion and sediment control materials onsite at all times, including during the 'dry' season, to be able to effectively protect the site in advance of any storms.

Construction work in the Tahoe Basin is not allowed between October 15 and May 1, with limited exception, based on specific agency approvals. Sites not finished prior to October 15 will be required to winterize the site and owners must maintain appropriate BMPs for the winter.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF GOOD BMPS

Entryways:

Rocked entries reduce tracking of dirt onto roads. Rock is typically 1 1/2" - 6" depending on site conditions. Fabric reinforcement under the rock is sometimes required to keep the rock from sinking into dirt.

Installing Waddles:

Waddles should be set into the ground per manufacturer's instructions. Water should not be allowed to go under or around the waddles.

DI Protection:

Drain inlets (DIs) need protection. Filter bags should be filled with gravel (about 3/4") not sand. In general, protect drains within 300 feet of the project.

Vegetated Areas:

Vegetation is generally a "best friend" for erosion control and sediment capture. Leave as much vegetation on the site as possible. Maintaining a strip of vegetation (5' - 10' wide) around the site perimeter is a good practice.

Dirt Piles:

Cover and contain dirt piles if erosion and sediment are a threat to any waterways.

Straw Application:

Straw is economical protection from erosion. Use "weed free" to avoid future weed problems. Recommended amount is 2" thick.

Gutter Dams & Gravel Bags:

Be sure to use gravel bags, not sand. The dams slow the water so any heavy materials and sediments drop out. If they break open, gravel stays put!

Chemical Toilets:

Keep chemical toilets on flat ground away from curbs and drains. Stake to ground when possible. Chemical toilets are easily tipped over in heavy winds or by vandalism.

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Placer County Public Works Stormwater Quality Division

Phone: (530) 745-7500

Address: 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220, Auburn, 95603

Email: stormwaterquality@placer.ca.gov

Web: http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/works/StrmWtr.aspx

County Code

http://qcode.us/codes/placercounty/

For Stormwater Ordinance see Ch. 8.28: Stormwater Quality

For Grading Ordinance see Ch. 15.48: Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control

California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA)

CASQA Best Management Practices Handbook:

http://www.cabmphandbooks.com/

State Water Resources Control Board

Small Municipal General Permit:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

Construction General Permit:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/docs/finalconstpermit.pdf