

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 implements 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 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 submit Permit Registration Documents (PRDs) to the State Water Board **before starting construction activities.** (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 PRDs including Notice of Intent (NOI), Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and other documents.

PRDs must be filed through the State Water Board's web-based Storm Water Multi-Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS). Upon approval, a written Notice of Applicability (NOA) and Waste Discharge Identification (WDID) will be generated in SMARTS. 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.



Stormwater Ordinance Points:

- Prohibits non-stormwater (anything besides rainwater) discharges to storm drains.
- 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 controls, prevents, removes, or reduces pollution.

Grading Ordinance Points:

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

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 storm water 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 October 15 thru May 1, with limited exception, based on specific agency approvals. Sites not finished prior to October 15 are required to permanently stabilize or temporarily winterize the site and owners must maintain appropriate BMPs for the winter.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF GOOD BMPS

Construction Entrances

Prevent off-site tracking of dirt from the construction site by installing stabilized entrances/exits. Rock used is typically 2 - 3" crushed rock 12" deep. Geotextile fabric reinforcement is recommended under the rock to keep it from sinking into the dirt.



Installing Fiber Rolls/Waddles:

Waddles should be set into the ground 3" deep and staked in place per manufacturer's recommendations. Water should not be allowed to go under or around the waddles.



Storm Drain Inlet Protection:

Drain inlets need to be protected with sediment control devices. 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 for a natural sediment filter. Maintain a strip of vegetation (minimum 5' - 10' wide) around the site perimeter.



Stockpiled Waste Materials & Dirt Piles:

Contain and securely protect stockpiled waste material and dirt piles, cover at the end of every business day and during rain events.



Straw Application:

Implement temporary erosion controls to stabilize disturbed slopes. Straw blowing should not result in excessive dust. Use "weed free" to avoid future weed problems. Recommended amount is 2" thick.



Gravel Bag Berms:

Install in concentrated flow lines. Be sure to use gravel bags, not sand. The berms slow the water so any heavy materials and sediments drop out. If they break open remove and replace.

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. Clean and replace as necessary and inspect regularly for leaks and spills.



RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Placer County Department of Public Works and Facilities

Stormwater Quality Division

Phone: (530) 745-7557

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

Web: placer.ca.gov/departments/works/strmwtr

County Code: gcode.us/codes/placercounty/

For Stormwater Ordinances see Ch. 8.28: Stormwater Quality

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

Placer County Air Pollution Control District

Phone: (530) 745-2330

Address: 110 Maple Street,

Auburn, 95603

Web: placer.ca.gov/apcd

Placer County Inspection/Plan Services

Phone: (530) 745-3010

