

Post-Construction

Stormwater Quality Protection Treatment and Control

THE STORMWATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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.



TREATMENT CONTROL MEASURES

Stormwater quality treatment control measures are engineered technologies designed to remove pollutants from site runoff. The treatment control methods suitable for a given project depend on a number of factors including: type of pollutants to remove, amount of stormwater runoff to be treated, and site conditions. Land requirements and costs to design, construct and maintain treatment control measures vary by measure and locale.

SOURCE CONTROL MEASURES

Source control and prevention, including management techniques and education, are always emphasized over treatment controls, which attempt to remove contaminants once the runoff is already polluted.

RUNOFF REDUCTION CONTROL MEASURES

The goal of runoff reduction control measures is to mimic a site's predevelopment balance of runoff and infiltration by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to its source. Runoff reduction controls are integrated into site design and can be distributed throughout the site in a series of small-scale (or micro-scale) measures.

POST-CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER QUALITY

Project applicants should plan and design projects with suitable long term pollution controls. Water quality BMPs can alter a project's site design, such as planning room for water quality basins or vegetated swales. Project proponents should provide a 'BMP plan' with initial project submittals to lay out proposed solutions. The BMP plan identifies probable sources of pollution, means of source control to prevent such pollution, and proposed treatment controls. Additionally, construction plans and permits approved by the County have to include adequate detail to insure proper construction, implementation, operation, and long term maintenance of the BMPs for the project. Long term funding and a mechanism to transfer maintenance responsibility when a property is sold should be considered and addressed.

Design requirements are available in 'Attachment 4' of the Small Municipal General Permit (available at the SWQCB website address shown on back), and include such things as use of low impact development principles, proper design of trash enclosures, material storage areas, and automotive facilities, plus operation and maintenance requirements as well as specific design requirements.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The property owner is ultimately responsible for the operation and maintenance and long-term continued performance of the source and treatment control measure(s). Failure to properly operate and maintain the measures could result in no treatment of site runoff, or a slug loading of pollutants to the storm drain system. Both consequences will result in violation of the local permitting agencies' municipal codes (Placer County's Storm Water Quality Ordinance 8.28), as well as state and federal water quality regulations.

Placer County's Stormwater Quality Ordinance, Section 8.28:

- Prohibits non-stormwater (anything besides rainwater) discharges to storm drains.
- Prohibits sediment discharge.
- Establishes enforcement authority and procedures.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF GOOD BMPs

Constructed Wetland Basin



A constructed wetland basin is an earthen basin treatment system with a permanent pool of water. The basin contains an area above the permanent pool to retain runoff from the stormwater quality design storm and slowly releases excess water over a specified drawdown period.

Vegetated Swale



A vegetated swale is a wide, shallow, open channel planted with dense, sod-forming vegetation and designed to accept runoff from adjacent surfaces.

Stormwater Planter



A stormwater planter is a low-lying vegetated planter that receives runoff from roof drains or adjoining paved areas. A shallow surcharge zone above the vegetated surface temporarily stores stormwater.

Sand Filter



A sand filter is a two-stage constructed treatment system including a pretreatment sedimentation basin and a filtration basin containing sand.

Infiltration Trench



An infiltration trench is a long, narrow trench constructed in naturally pervious soils and filled with gravel.

Vegetated Filter Strip



A Vegetated Filter Strip is a gently sloped soil surface planted with dense, sod-forming vegetation and designed to receive and treat sheet flow runoff from adjacent surfaces.

Disconnected Pavement



Disconnected pavement is any impervious pavement designed to sheet flow runoff over adjoining vegetated areas or porous pavement before it reaches the storm drain system.

Infiltration Basin



An infiltration basin is a shallow earthen basin constructed in naturally pervious soils and designed for infiltrating stormwater.

Green Roof



A green roof is a multi-layered, vegetated rooftop system designed for filtering, absorbing, and retaining stormwater.

Interceptor Trees



Interceptor trees are those used in residential and commercial settings as part of the stormwater quality management plan to reduce runoff and pollution from the development project.

Porous Pavement



Porous pavement allows stormwater runoff to infiltrate into the ground through voids in the pavement materials.

Alternative Driveways



Alternative driveways exhibit one or more of these features: they have permeable surfaces, drain to landscaping, provide access to more than one house, and/or limit concrete use to narrow driving strips.

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, CA 95603
Email: stormwtrquality@placer.ca.gov
Web: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Stormwater>



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

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