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.

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.

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 ½" - 6" depending on site conditions. Fabric reinforcement under the rock is sometimes required to keep the rock from sinking into dirt.

**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.

**Dirt Piles:**
Cover and contain dirt piles if erosion and sediment are a threat to any waterways.

**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!

**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.

**Straw Application:**
Straw is economical protection from erosion. Use “weed free” to avoid future weed problems. Recommended amount is 2” thick.

**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.

**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.

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](http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/works/StrmWtr.aspx)

**County Code**
[http://qcode.us/codes/placercounty/](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:

**State Water Resources Control Board**
Small Municipal General Permit:
Construction General Permit:
[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/docs/finalconstpermit.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/docs/finalconstpermit.pdf)