

City of Grass Valley
Stormwater Program
Construction Site Operator Education

PURPOSE

This website provides construction site operators information regarding the **selection**, **installation**, and **maintenance** of best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality during construction activities. It also provides information on the requirements that need to be met to be in compliance with the applicable City codes and ordinances.

For resources available to you, please click on the **underlined** words.

INTRODUCTION

Construction sites can have a significant impact on water quality, since stormwater runoff and non-storm discharges (e.g., dewatering trenches, dust control, washing equipment) can collect pollutants from these sites and carry them to local waterbodies. Common sources of pollutants from construction sites include:

- Sediment from soil erosion or stockpiles;
- Hazardous waste/debris from construction materials (e.g., paint, solvents, concrete, drywall);
- Landscape runoff containing fertilizers, pesticides, and soil amendments; and
- Spilled oil, fuel, and other fluids from construction vehicles and equipment.

As a result, BMPs need to be implemented in order to minimize pollutant exposure, manage exposed pollutants, and help reduce pollutants that may be transported by stormwater runoff.

The guidance on this page primarily focuses on the requirements of the municipal stormwater permit ([Order NO. 2013-0001-DWQ](#)). While some of the same principles and practices apply to the projects permitted under the State's [Construction General Permit](#), projects requiring coverage under the State Permit should consult the Permit and/or additional guidance to ensure that they are in compliance.

LOCAL AND STATE REGULATIONS

Construction sites less than an acre must submit an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) to the Department of Public Works prior to any construction activity. The ESCP must be submitted to the City for review and written approval prior to the start of construction and comply with the City's [Municipal Code](#).

The ESCP may require modification as the project progresses and as conditions warrant. All modifications to the approved ESCP must be resubmitted to the Department of Public Works for review and approval.

Projects creating one acre or more of disturbed soil area or that are considered to be part of a large common plan of development shall:

- Submit an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) to the Department of Public Works prior to any construction activity;

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- Obtain coverage under the State's [Construction General Permit \(CGP\)](#);
- Obtain a Waste Discharge Identification (WDID) number from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) prior to the commencement of any construction activities and provide the WDID number to the City; and
- Develop/submit a [Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan \(SWPPP\)](#) to the SWRCB and City. The landowner or person responsible for construction activities, the Legally Responsible Person (LRP), shall develop and submit a SWPPP to the City prior to issuance of a grading permit or encroachment permit. The SWPPP shall be prepared and implemented in compliance with all requirements of the CGP.

RESOURCES FOR SELECTION, INSTALLATION, INSPECTION, AND MAINTENANCE OF BMPS

Selecting the appropriate BMPs is vital for preventing pollution. Knowing which BMP to select is important since some are more effective than others and/or are cheaper. The site operator is ultimately responsible for proper selection, installation, and maintenance of the BMPs.

The major categories of BMPs are:

- **Erosion control** – used to protect/prevent soil particles from becoming detached by water flows (e.g., rainfall, non-storm discharge) or wind.
- **Sediment control** – used to control/contain soil particles that have been detached.
- **Good housekeeping** – used to minimize exposure of construction materials (e.g., paint, solvents, trash, concrete) to rain and wind.

The effectiveness of a BMP depends on proper installation and maintenance. BMPs installed incorrectly or not maintained throughout the duration of construction activities can result in adverse impacts to water quality and, ultimately, potential enforcement actions by the City.

City staff may inspect a site during the course of the construction activities in order to ensure that the BMPs are implemented and functioning correctly. In order to be prepared for an inspection, construction site operators should perform regular inspections of their project site. It is recommended that inspections be conducted before and after each storm event, as well as on a regular, ongoing basis during dry weather.

Some of the key resources that provide guidance for the installation, maintenance, and inspection of BMPs are listed below.

- The [Caltrans Division of Construction](#) has a BMP manual that contains fact sheets for **erosion control**, **sediment control**, and **good housekeeping**.
- The California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) has an interactive [Construction BMP Online Handbook](#), which provides detailed information on construction site BMPs, including selection, installation, and maintenance specifications. This handbook is continually updated and available by subscription.

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- The Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) developed the [Blueprint for a Clean Bay](#), which provides general and specific site maintenance practices to help prevent and control stormwater pollution at construction sites.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Caltrans has an [Interactive Training Modules Website](#), which contains videos that demonstrate proper installation, inspection, and maintenance procedures.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To report stormwater pollution in the City of Grass Valley, please call: (530) 274-4350.