Background

Storm water discharges associated with construction activity are a potential source of pollutants. The most common pollutant associated with construction activity is sediment. Sediment and other construction related wastes could degrade water quality in creeks, rivers, lakes, and other water bodies.

In 2009, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a statewide General Permit for all storm water discharges associated with construction activity that disturbs one or more acres of land. The General Permit is intended to ensure that construction activity does not impact water quality.

Permit Questions Contact:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Attn: Storm Water Section
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
866-563-3107
stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov

City of Hughson

Public Works Department
7018 Pine Street/PO Box 9
Hughson Ca 95326

Phone: 209-883-4054
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Only RAIN Down the Drain

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Construction Sites

Erosion and Sediment Control:

The construction industry is a critical participant in the nation's efforts to protect streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and oceans. Through the use of best management practices (BMPs), construction site operators are the key defense against erosion and sedimentation.

As stormwater flows over a construction site, it picks up pollutants like sediment, debris, and chemicals. High volumes of stormwater can also cause stream bank erosion, and destroy downstream aquatic habitat. Preventing soil erosion and sedimentation is an important responsibility at all construction sites.

In addition to the environmental impact, uncontrolled erosion can have a significant financial impact on a construction project. It costs money and time to repair gullies, replace vegetation, clean sediment-clogged storm drains, replace poorly installed BMPs, and repair damage to other people's property or to natural resources.

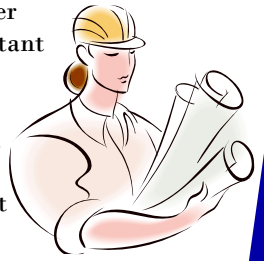
Construction sites that discharge unpermitted stormwater are in violation of the Clean Water Act and may be subject to fines of up to $27,500 a day per violation.

Erosion Control Tips...

- Design the site to infiltrate stormwater into the ground and to keep it out of storm drains. Eliminate or minimize the use of stormwater collection and conveyance systems while maximizing the use of stormwater infiltration and bioretention techniques.
- Minimize the amount of exposed soil on site. To the extent possible, plan the project in stages to minimize the amount of area that is bare and subject to erosion. The less soil exposed, the easier and cheaper it will be to control erosion.
- Reduce the velocity of stormwater both onto and away from the project area. Vegetated buffers, diversions, straw wattles, and gravel bag check dams are a few of the BMPs that can be used to slow down stormwater as it travels across the construction site.
- Keep sediment on site. Place aggregate or stone at construction site vehicle entrances in order to prevent sediment tracking onto the roadway.
- Maintaining all BMPs is critical to ensure their effectiveness during the life of the project. Regularly remove collected sediment from check dams, traps, and other BMPs. Maintain straw wattles, berms, diversions, and other BMPs.

Other BMPs...

You'll need to select other controls to address pollutant sources on your site. Construction materials, debris, trash, fuel, paint, and stockpiles become pollutant sources when it rains.



- Clearly identify a protected, lined area for concrete truck washouts.
- Park, refuel, and maintain vehicles & equipment in one area of the site to minimize the area exposed to possible spills. Keep spill kits available & clean up spills immediately.
- Practice good housekeeping. Keep the construction site free of litter, debris, and leaking containers.
- Dispose of hazardous materials properly.

Learn more

Check the following websites for more information:

www.hughson.org/stormwater
www.cabmphandbooks.com

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