

Post-Construction Site Stabilization

As a project nears completion, measures may need to be implemented to permanently stabilize the project site and minimize the potential for future soil erosion issues resulting from project activities. Performing the following actions can help to ensure that the site is stabilized upon project completion.

Begin site stabilization before the project is completed

Some site stabilization measures such as, applying grass seed to disturbed soil areas require additional time to be effective. In this case, the grass seed must sprout and provide a relatively dense and uniform cover over the entire disturbed soil area before it will be effective at controlling soil erosion.

Once project site is stabilized, remove temporary BMPs

Many of the Active Construction BMPs listed in the previous section are designed to be **temporary** erosion and sediment controls. These BMPs are used during active construction to help prevent soil erosion and control sediment in stormwater runoff. They can quickly become ineffective if they are not routinely maintained and/or abandoned.

Temporary BMPs **MUST** be used and maintained on the project site until permanent site stabilization measures are implemented and effective. Once the site is sufficiently stabilized, all temporary BMPs that are no longer needed must be removed.

Utilize County Resources

Mendocino County encourages the public to coordinate construction projects with County inspectors and permitting staff. County personnel can provide additional guidance and information to minimize stormwater pollution issues and ensure construction projects are completed in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Helpful Links

County of Mendocino Website:

www.co.mendocino.ca.us

Mendocino County Stormwater Information:

www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/stormwater.htm

State Water Resources Control Board Stormwater Program Phase II Small MS4 General Permit:

www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO STORMWATER PROGRAM

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PRACTICES FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS



CONTACT INFORMATION

Planning and Building Services

860 N. Bush Street, Ukiah CA 95482
Phone: 707-234-6650

And

Department of Transportation

340 Lake Mendocino Drive Ukiah, CA 95482
Phone: 707-463-4363

<https://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/stormwater.htm>

Introduction

In 2013, Mendocino County adopted Ordinance No. 4313 STORM WATER RUNOFF POLLUTION PREVENTION PROCEDURE (Mendocino County Code Chapter 16.30 et seq.) which requires that, “any person performing construction and grading work anywhere in the County shall implement appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent the discharge of construction waste, debris or contaminants from construction materials, tools and equipment from entering the storm drainage system.” This ordinance was developed and adopted by Mendocino County to comply with requirements of the County’s National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

This brochure has been developed to educate property owners and construction professionals on basic stormwater pollution prevention practices for construction projects. The following sections provide a straightforward approach to reduce soil erosion and prevent sediment and other pollutants from leaving construction sites and entering the County storm drainage system and natural water courses.

Pre-Construction Planning

Developing a pre-construction plan is an effective way to minimize the potential for soil erosion and sediment issues on a project site. The following steps should be taken before any clearing, grading, excavation, and/or other soil disturbing activities begin.

Assess soil types and slopes on the construction site

In general, a construction site with fine-grain soils and/or steep slopes will require more erosion and sediment control measures.

Identify nearby streams, storm drains, and other drainage features

Perform a site walk to identify the locations where stormwater runoff will leave the site. Install sediment controls at these locations and inspect them frequently.

Preserve existing vegetation

Existing trees and vegetation provide effective erosion control. Only remove vegetation where necessary. Prohibit access to preserved areas during construction.

Design project to minimize impervious surfaces and promote stormwater infiltration

Keep the amount of impervious surfaces (roofs, parking lots, driveways) to a minimum. Design these surfaces to direct rain water onto landscaped or vegetated areas to promote infiltration.

Develop an erosion and sediment control plan

Prepare a detailed site plan showing drainage features, slopes, areas of soil disturbance, areas to be preserved, and the locations of all erosion and sediment control BMPs. The Department of Planning and Building and The Department of Transportation provide a template plan for Building and Encroachment Permit projects that require a plan.

Active Construction BMPs

A variety of BMPs can be used during active construction to minimize erosion of exposed soil areas, control sediment, and prevent exposure of project materials and waste to stormwater. Examples of commonly used construction site BMPs are listed in the following categories.

Erosion Control: The following BMPs are used to minimize and stabilize exposed soil.

- **Scheduling Construction Activities** – avoid rainy weather; minimize exposed soil by phasing work.
- **Preserving Existing Vegetation** – protect established vegetation to provide erosion control benefits.
- **Applying Seed, Straw, or Mulch** – to reduce soil erosion and re-establish vegetation.
- **Tarps, Plastic sheeting, Erosion Control Blankets/mats** – effective erosion control for steep slopes, stockpiles, and highly erodible soils.

Sediment Control: The following BMPs are used to intercept stormwater runoff and filter out sediment and prevent sediment tracking off-site.

- **Fiber Rolls, Silt Fence, Gravel Bag Berms** – versatile sediment controls to slow stormwater runoff flow and filter out sediment.
- **Sediment Trap or Basin** – intercepts runoff from work site to allow sediment to settle out of stormwater.
- **Street Sweeping and Vacuuming** – clean roadway at construction exit(s) if vehicle tracking is observed.
- **Stabilized Construction Exits** – rock section at construction exit(s) to prevent vehicle tracking onto roadways.
- **Protecting Storm Drain Inlets** – use fiber rolls and/or gravel bag berms to protect nearby storm drain inlets. Make sure not to cause an obstruction to the traveling public.

Pollution Control and Waste

Management: The following BMPs are used to prevent exposure of project materials and wastes to stormwater.

- **Store materials off the ground in a covered area** – to prevent exposure to rainfall and wet ground.
- **Cover stockpiles when not in use** – completely cover with plastic tarps and secure with sand bags.
- **Keep a spill kit on-site** – to quickly cleanup accidental spills.
- **Place waste/trash in containers and cover** – ensure proper disposal of all waste/trash, cover containers with lids or tarps when not in use.
- **Install a concrete wash-out when working with concrete** – allow waste concrete to harden and dispose at an appropriate waste disposal facility.

In order to be effective, construction site BMPs **MUST** be properly installed/implemented, routinely inspected, and maintained for the duration of the project.

Additional information regarding construction site BMPs can be obtained at the Planning and Building Services (PBS) Front Counter, Department of Transportation Main Office and on the PBS website. See contact information on front cover of this brochure.