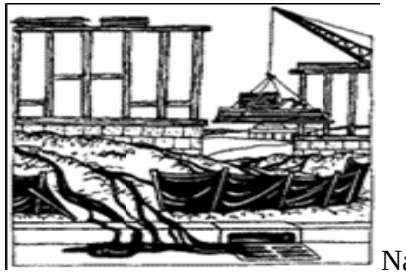
Preventing Pollution At Construction Sites



Napa County's waterways are vital to our economy and quality of life. Creeks, wetlands, and lakes provide water for drinking, irrigation, and recreation such as fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing. Unfortunately, pollutants impair many of these uses.

Stormwater runoff from construction sites may carry many of these pollutants to our waterways if effective Best Management Practices (BMPs) are not implemented.

On December 12, 2006 the Napa County Board of Supervisors adopted new construction site runoff control requirements. These can be viewed in full at www.countyofnapa.org/stormwater

It's the Law…

Federal stormwater regulations adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency require most counties and cities to implement measures for controlling pollutants from new development and redevelopment.

Napa County established this authority with the Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance (No. 1240, Chap. 26.28). In addition to prohibiting discharges of pollutants, the ordinance gives the director of Public Works the authority to establish runoff control requirements from construction sites.

How will the new requirements change the permit process?

Under the new requirements, structural or mass grading projects that meet one or more of the following criteria (also found in Appendix A of new requirements) must prepare and submit a Stormwater Quality Management Plan (SQMP):

1. Projects on slopes 15% or greater.

2. Soil disturbance of 10,000 sq ft or greater.

3. Earthmoving of 50 cubic yards or greater.

4. Soil disturbance within 50 feet of a stormwater conveyance system.

The SQMP must include a site map that identifies all potential pollutants and incorporates BMPs appropriate for site conditions. Appendix C of the new requirements provides a checklist to guide the applicant through creating a SQMP.

As before, projects disturbing over an acre must file a Notice of Intent with the State Water Resources Control Board and submit a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

What if my project does not meet the Appendix A criteria?

In this case you are not required to submit a SQMP or SWPPP with your permit application. However, all construction projects, regardless of size or slope, must fully implement BMPs to eliminate pollutants (sediment, concrete, nutrients, pathogens, oils, etc.) from stormwater runoff to the maximum extent practicable.

These standard conditions will be attached when you receive your permit.

How will the new requirements simplify the permit process?

The Construction Site Runoff Control requirements will simplify the County's Conservation Regulations by eliminating the need to apply for a separate Erosion Control Plan permit. Under the new Construction Site Runoff Control requirements, a Stormwater Quality Management Plan (SQMP) or Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be submitted with a building or grading permit application. These plans will be reviewed by the Department of Public Works.

Has the grading season changed?

Yes, under the old Conservation Regulations, the grading season depended on the slope and the watershed. Under the new requirements, the grading season is based solely upon slope. The new grading seasons are provided in the table below.

Less than 5% slope	Year-round
5% slope or greater	April 1st—October 15th

Save Money, Protect the environment...

Remember, the frequency of stormwater inspections and associated fees (or fines) will depend on the project's priority and past compliance. Effective implementation of BMPs saves money and serves to protect Napa County's waterways.

Are other agencies involved with permitting construction related stormwater runoff?

Yes, part of the plan review process at the Napa County Public Works Department includes looking for required permits from other agencies, such as:

· All projects which disturb an area larger than *one acre* must also file a "Notice of Intent" with the California State Water Resources Control Board. (http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/construction.html)

· All projects that propose work within "Waters of the State" as defined by the California Water Code must also be permitted or provide proof of a waiver from permits issued by the Department of Fish and Game (http://www.dfg.ca.gov/) and/or the Regional Water Quality Control Board (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/).

Where can I learn more?

For more guidance on construction site runoff control and post-construction runoff management see:

California Stormwater Quality Association; *Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMPs) Handbooks*
www.cabmphandbooks.com

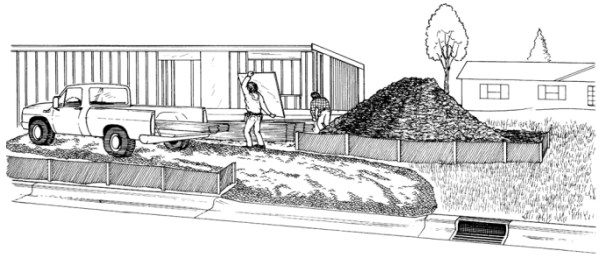
Napa County Stormwater Management Program (NCSWMP)
www.countyofnapa.org/stormwater

State Water Resources Control Board - Construction Stormwater Page
http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/construction.html

Erosion and Sediment Control Field Manual (available at the Napa County Public Works office)

Construction Industry Compliance Assistance Center
www.cicacenter.org/index.cfm

- Or call the Napa County Department of Public Works at 707-253-4351



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

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Construction Site Runoff Control Requirements

GENERAL INFORMATION

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