Vegetation provides important benefits for erosion and sediment control along California's highways. For safety, aesthetics, and vegetative health, vegetation is routinely maintained and controlled through mechanical or chemical means. This bulletin reviews the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for controlling vegetation while maintaining erosion control and minimizing the potential discharge of pollutants that may be generated during vegetation maintenance.

**Housekeeping Along the Roadway**
The main focus of the BMPs for vegetation management is good housekeeping.

- After pruning, chipping, and removing vegetation, clean up your work area.
- Do not leave cuttings or chips in areas where they may be easily washed into the storm water drainage system.
- Do not fuel or lubricate equipment, such as weed whackers or leaf blowers, next to drain inlets or watercourses.
- Consider the potential erosion problems in an area when vegetation is disturbed.
- Remember to cover your load when transporting vegetation debris.

- Follow your District Annual Vegetation Control Plan for herbicide use.
- Use herbicides as directed in the Caltrans Maintenance Manual, Volume I, Chapters C2 and E12.
- Calibrate the spray rig as necessary to ensure accurate herbicide application.
- Avoid overhead irrigation after herbicide application for the length of time recommended by the chemical manufacturer.
- Be aware of your surroundings when handling herbicides. Identify drain inlets near your work area. Contain any spilled herbicides promptly and protect drain inlets to block spilled material from entering them.

**Chemical Weed Control**
When chemical weed control is necessary:

- Use herbicides as directed by the product label. The label is considered to be the law.

- Refer to your Storm Water Quality Handbooks, Maintenance Staff Guide, E-Family BMPs.
- Contact your District Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator for the training video that reviews Vegetation Management BMPs.
- Contact your District Maintenance Landscape Specialist, who is a licensed Pest Control Adviser, for additional guidance on herbicides.
- Contact your District Landscape Architect or refer to Caltrans Standard Specifications, Section 20 for more information on erosion control.

**For More Information**
- Visit our Caltrans storm water intranet website at: HTTP://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/orside/water/watqual.htm for the latest storm water bulletins, training information, list of storm water coordinators, inspection forms, and Maintenance Staff Guide.
- Additional information is also available on the Caltrans Environmental website at: HTTP://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/Environmental/stormwater/index.htm for the latest storm water bulletins, training information, list of storm water coordinators, inspection forms, and Maintenance Staff Guide.

Vegetation debris is removed from pavement.

Minimize the use of herbicides in and near drain inlets and watercourses.