



### Caltrans BMP Evaluation, Approval and Implementation Process

The new Statewide Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and accompanying Storm Water Quality Practice Guidelines identify and summarize all of the storm water BMPs currently approved and available for use during construction, operation, and maintenance of Caltrans facilities. However, this BMP "toolbox" is the subject of ongoing scrutiny to develop new, innovative BMPs, refine existing BMPs, and remove BMPs that prove ineffective. From a project design standpoint, BMP selection activities will likely focus on meeting water quality standards imposed by the new Caltrans NPDES Permit. This bulletin issue discusses Caltrans' BMP evaluation and approval process and how Caltrans staff can participate. See Section 2 of the December 1999 Statewide SWMP for a more detailed description of the BMP selection process.



The new SWMP includes overside drains in the toolbox of BMPs approved for new and reconstructed facilities.

Evaluating BMPs is a primary responsibility of the Storm Water Advisory Teams (SWATs). (See the July, 1999 issue of the bulletin for more information on the SWATs.) Suggested revisions to the BMP "toolbox" come to the SWATs from four major sources:

- The New Concepts Team (which investigates new treatment control BMPs to meet water quality standards)
- Literature reviews (including reviews of BMPs being used by other public or private storm water quality management programs)
- Ongoing Caltrans research activities
- Feedback from staff and compliance reviews

The Project Development SWAT evaluates permanent source control BMPs for incorporation into new or renovated facilities and temporary BMPs to be implemented during construction. Permanent treatment control BMPs and supplemental water quality-based treatment control BMPs are handled by the Water Quality SWAT. The Maintenance SWAT handles maintenance BMPs such as litter pickup, toxics control, and street sweeping.

Within their assigned BMP categories, the SWATs have responsibility for recommending that a proposed or revised BMP be approved, proposed for field testing, or withheld for further research. Except for water quality-based treatment controls, BMPs approved by a SWAT are forwarded to the Deputy Director or Program Managers in Design, Construction, Maintenance and Water Quality. They have the responsibility of approving and designating implementation of BMPs in their functional areas. Implementation of water quality-based treatment controls is determined by a separate process to address specific Total Maximum Daily Load or Watershed Plan requirements.

### Looking for New Ideas

Caltrans is always interested in feedback on new or existing BMPs. Perhaps you've come across a project where none of the BMPs in the toolbox seemed appropriate or maybe you developed an enhancement to an existing BMP that made it more effective or reduced construction costs. The SWATs are interested in your findings and ideas. Submit ideas or comments to your District representative to the appropriate SWAT or the storm water coordinator for your functional unit. Include as much of the following information as possible:

- **Definition and Purpose:** What is the application of the new or improved BMP? Is it applied in the field (structural) or does it involve revised procedures? Which of the BMP objectives apply (sediment, oil and grease, metals and toxics, nutrients, or bacteria and viruses)?
- **Advantages:** How will the new or improved BMP operate more efficiently than its predecessor? Will it be more cost effective or require less materials? Is there less labor involved in the installation or maintenance? If the BMP has been implemented successfully elsewhere, provide descriptive literature or details.
- **Disadvantages/Limitations:** Under what conditions should the new or revised BMP not be used? What are the trade-offs associated with the changes?
- **Specifications:** If applicable, provide a drawing(s) with approximate dimensions. Include a materials and quantities list. Briefly describe procedures or activities for non-structural BMPs. When and where should the BMP be applied? What are the maintenance requirements?
- **Cost:** Provide estimated BMP costs, including materials, labor, and annual maintenance.

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This bulletin is prepared monthly as an information resource on storm water quality issues related to the planning and design of transportation infrastructure.

Direct address changes to [matthewsc@cdm.com](mailto:matthewsc@cdm.com) or:  
Storm Water Quality Control Bulletin  
Camp Dresser & McKee  
2920 Inland Empire Blvd.  
Suite 108  
Ontario, CA 91764

Project Development questions or comments may be directed to Ranny Eckstrom, Caltrans (916) 653-4976 or Craig Matthews, Camp Dresser & McKee (909) 945-3000

Bulletin and Permit questions or comments may be directed to Thomas Fung, Caltrans (916) 653-2115