This monthly bulletin is intended to focus on how the Department’s Project Development processes might contribute to the continued improvement in the quality of California’s waters. Future issues of this bulletin plan to discuss success stories, soil stabilization, design of runoff conveyance facilities, and slope stabilization, as well as the preparation and issuance of various guidance documents.

Your comments and feedback are encouraged for the development of future topics for this bulletin. We look forward to making this a tool that will assist in the incorporation of storm water quality controls into transportation projects. All questions and comments can be submitted to the address provided in the sidebar.

**Project Development**

A thorough set of contract documents is an essential tool for contractors and REs execution of a construction project. The Project Engineer (PE) responsible for preparation of the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) makes key decisions on which existing standard details and standard special provisions to include in the PS&E package, for ultimate use by the contractor and RE. The existing Handbook and specs continue to evolve. Future editions of this bulletin will provide status on the various efforts to update these tools.

The PE is reminded to use the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbook and the latest water quality SSPs when preparing the PS&E packages.

**Erosion Control Team**

Erosion is a key water quality concern, both during the design of a project as well as on construction sites. The Department has identified a need to enhance soil stabilization efforts. This past year a training program was initiated to develop additional soil stabilization expertise. Over 75 Caltrans staff participated in the initial training, establishing a network of readily available experts.

These experts within the district staff are the first line of assistance to the PE and RE. They can be called upon for:

- Assisting in selecting and designing permanent erosion and sediment controls.
- Reviewing temporary erosion and sediment controls in Water Pollution Control Programs and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans.
- Aiding with inspection of erosion and sediment controls at construction sites.
- Facilitating the resolution of maintenance related erosion and sediment control issues.

These experts draw upon knowledge of erosion and sediment control, ranging from planning and design practices, to construction practices, and to maintenance practices gained through both classroom instruction and on-the-job experience. Contact your District Storm Water Coordinator for the trained staff in your area.