

## BMP Maintenance

Once implemented, Best Management Practices (BMPs) require continued attention. *Maintaining* BMPs to ensure proper functioning for the duration of the project is a critical storm water pollution prevention requirement. This maintenance includes three basic elements: inspection, repair, and evaluation.

### Inspection

It is the contractor's responsibility to inspect the BMPs on the construction site and to document the results, including the identification of any necessary corrective actions.

Inspections before and after each storm event and at 24-hour intervals during extended storm events are required regardless of season. During the rainy season, inspections are required at a minimum of every two weeks. Appendix C of the *Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks, Construction Contractors Guide and Specifications* defines specific inspection requirements for each BMP.

The inspection should evaluate the effectiveness of the installed BMPs and identify damaged or improperly installed BMPs. Deficiencies should be repaired or replaced immediately, or should be scheduled for repair on a specific date by agreement with the Resident Engineer. In all cases, corrective actions must be completed prior to the onset of subsequent storm events.

### Repair

Some common BMP repairs and maintenance include the following:

- Maintain **linear barriers**, such as Silt Fences (CD36), Straw Bale Barriers (CD37), and Sandbag Barriers (CD38), to provide adequate sediment retention capacity. Remove built-up sediment before it reaches 1/3 the height of the barrier.
- Replace **damaged sandbags (CD38)** immediately. Sandbag contents can be reused, appropriately incorporated into the project, or disposed of properly.
- Replace degraded **straw bales (CD37)** or those that have broken bindings.
- As a rule of thumb, reapply **Soil Stabilizers (CD26A)** on exposed soils when greater than 10% of the previously treated area becomes exposed or exhibits visible erosion.
- Clean out **concrete washouts (CD16)** so that sufficient capacity is available for scheduled operations.
- Maintain **material (CD10) and waste storage (CD 13 & 14) areas** frequently to prevent deleterious materials from being blown, tracked, washed or otherwise carried off the site.
- Repair or replace **containment structures, covers, and liners (CD10)** as often as necessary to ensure proper functioning.
- Dewater **sediment basins (CD42)** within 7 days following a storm event. Remove built-up sediment when it reaches approximately 1/3 of basin capacity.



Upon inspection, it was determined that this silt fence was installed incorrectly.



BMP maintenance should include removal of sediment from the channel and from behind the silt fence.

### Evaluation

Another aspect of BMP maintenance is reviewing the effectiveness of the installation to determine if the proper BMP has been used. Is the BMP effective? Would a different BMP be more appropriate? For example, if a temporary swale treated with check dams exhibits unacceptable erosion, the use of a temporary lining, such as plastic sheeting, geotextile mats, or fiber blankets, may be called for. Refer to the *Handbook* for information on BMP options and applications.

### Compliance Assistance is available again.

This is an on-call service to provide assistance to Construction in achieving and maintaining NPDES permit compliance. Services include training personnel, reviewing your storm water management BMPs, SWPPP/WPCP review, and recommending storm water management practices. Assistance can be arranged through your storm water coordinator or by calling the assistance team at 714-567-2784.

