

This bulletin is published monthly by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to support the Caltrans maintenance staff in its efforts to achieve and maintain compliance with storm water pollution prevention regulatory requirements.

Meeting the Rainy Season Challenge

This bulletin summarizes Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prepare Maintenance facilities for meeting storm water protection challenges of the rainy season.

Keep Your Yard in Order

Keeping your maintenance yard surface clean will help to prevent pollutants from coming into contact with storm water.

Implement *T5a – Maintenance Facility Housekeeping Practices* BMP. Organize your storage areas. Remove litter, debris, sediment, and any spilled materials to prevent potential pollutants from being introduced into storm water runoff.

Outdoor Storage Preparation

Inspect outdoor storage areas prior to the rainy season and implement source control BMPs where possible to prevent potential pollutants from contact with storm water runoff:

- Store materials away from areas that have potential for runoff into the storm water drainage system or other watercourses.



Covers over stored materials (such as treated wood) should be inspected and repaired or replaced as necessary.

- Where feasible, cover materials that may have potential to impact storm water quality during the rainy season. For materials that are frequently used, keep covers or tarps available for use during rain.
- Frequently sweep around storage areas to remove materials blown, tracked or washed onto surfaces that may wash off with rain.
- Clean any spills or drips collected in secondary containment and spill containment facilities for above ground tanks and other storage/waste containers to prevent contamination of collected storm water. Drain plugs and valves should be secure.
- Clean vehicle wash rack sumps, clarifiers, and oil/water separators exposed to rain, as needed, to ensure free drainage and to prevent possible overflow.

- If debris, sediment or other materials still have the potential for impacting storm water runoff even though source controls are in place, consider installing temporary sediment controls (sand bags, straw bales, filtration socks, etc.) at inlets, stockpile areas or other sources. Make sure inlet protection will not contribute to flooding. Remember, inlet protection is intended as secondary protection only and may not be needed if source control BMPs are in place.
- All deployed BMPs should be inspected regularly during the rainy season, particularly before and after rain events. Inspecting BMPs during rain events can also be beneficial in determining their effectiveness and identifying any needed modifications.
- Re-inspect inlets and drainage facilities after rain events. Clean and repair as necessary to ensure that drainage facilities are functioning properly.

Inspect These Items at the Maintenance Facilities

Perform pre-rainy season BMP inspections and repair or replace items as needed. Inspections may coincide with the pre-rainy season drainage facility inspections.

Sediment Controls - Inspect sediment controls such as sand bags, straw bales, silt fencing, and sediment traps and basins. Remove captured sediment from the sediment controls before the rainy season. Replace or repair degraded sand bags, straw bales, or silt fencing as necessary.



Inspect drain inlets at the facility. Remove sediment from behind sediment controls. Replace or repair sediment controls as necessary.

Drainage Facilities – When inspecting drainage facilities take note of their condition along with the condition of any associated BMPs. If excess sediment, debris, or other potential pollutants are observed in or near the drainage facility, look upstream at your sources and consider modifying or implementing additional BMPs. If needed, implement temporary drain inlet protection.

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks - Maintenance Staff Guide, or from your District Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator. Questions or comments may be directed to Jennifer Malcolm, HQ Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator, (916) 653-0086, Roger Churchwell, HQ Environmental Engineering,