

*This pamphlet is for contractors and others who work on Caltrans construction sites. Its goal is to educate and encourage us to prevent water pollution. Water pollution prevention is a good thing to do and it's part of your contract.*



*For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please write or call:*

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## Water Pollution Prevention **INFORMATION SOURCES**

### **OPERATIONAL FACT SHEETS**

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- ◆ Clearing and Grubbing Operations
- ◆ Bridge Construction
- ◆ PCC and AC
- ◆ Highway Planting and Landscaping
- ◆ Mobilization
- ◆ Piling
- ◆ Roadway Construction
- ◆ Trenching
- ◆ Vehicle and Equipment Fueling

### **STORM WATER QUALITY HANDBOOKS**

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- ◆ Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMPs) Manual
- ◆ SWPPP and WPCP Preparation Manual

### **OTHER MANUALS**

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- ◆ Guidance for Temporary Soil Stabilization
- ◆ BMP Field Manual and Troubleshooting Guide



# Water Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet

## Clearing and Grubbing Operations

*For more information please visit our website:*  
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/construction/storm-water-and-water-pollution-control>

*Keep our Waterways CLEAN*



## *CLEARING AND GRUBBING OPERATIONS*

We can help minimize the impact of clearing and grubbing on the quality of our waters by identifying and containing potential pollutants before they come in contact with storm water.

The foregoing procedures and practices can minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants into storm drain systems or watercourses as a result of clearing and grubbing operations.

## *PROTECT VEGETATION*

- ✓ Protect the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and the existing vegetation that is to remain in place by installing a temporary orange fence around those areas.
- ✓ Identify and mark the plants and trees that are to be preserved.
- ✓ If possible, sequence the clearing and grubbing operations to leave as much vegetation in place as possible. Clear vegetation only as needed.
- ✓ Make sure the plants or trees you are going to remove are supposed to be removed. If you are not sure ask your foreman or resident engineer.
- ✓ If rain is forecast, the removal of existing vegetation is not recommended.

## *BARE SOIL / STOCKPILES*

- ✓ Don't let storm water runoff carry soil or other pollutants into watercourses, drainage courses, or storm drain inlets.
- ✓ Use silt fence, fiber rolls, gravel bags or other sediment controls to prevent soil and trash from getting into storm drains or watercourses.
- ✓ At a minimum, all bare soil whether it's an abutment slope or a stockpile must be protected before rain to prevent erosion.
- ✓ Use soil stabilization BMPs such as mulch, soil binders, plastic sheeting or erosion control blankets to protect bare soil.
- ✓ If stockpiles are active (being worked on) they must be protected prior to rain by covering, stabilizing or using sediment barriers such as silt fence or fiber rolls.
- ✓ Control dust by using water or a dust palliative. Applying water with a water truck is a simple method to control dust.

## *CLEAN UP SPILLS*

- ✓ If it's safe to do so, immediately contain and clean up any chemical and/or hazardous substance spills. Do not bury spills or wash them down with water.
- ✓ Liquids such as oil, fuel, hydraulic fluids and solvents, etc., need secondary containment for storage.

## *KEEP STREETS CLEAN*

- ✓ Make sure the vehicles and equipment leaving the site don't track dirt, mud or tack/seal coat onto public streets or private roads.
- ✓ Stabilize all equipment and vehicle entrances/exits with aggregate over filter fabric.
- ✓ Use a street sweeper to clean visible tracking, loose material, sand and gravel from paved roads. Do not wash streets.

## *KEEP THE JOBSITE CLEAN AND ORDERLY*

- ✓ Pick up your trash. Put trash in a dumpster or trashcan.
- ✓ Littering on state property is prohibited.
- ✓ Construction yard area should be kept neat and orderly.
- ✓ Provide dumpsters of sufficient size and number to store the solid waste generated by the project.
- ✓ Select solid waste storage areas away from drainage facilities and watercourses.
- ✓ Use barriers such as silt fence, gravel bags or fiber rolls to prevent storm water run-on from contacting stored solid waste.

*If you are not sure what to do, ask your foreman.*