

## **Your Actions Prevent Stormwater Pollution!**

## Guidance Document for 'Low Risk' Land Disturbance

## **GESC Considerations for Minor Right-Of-Way Construction Activities**

**Guidance Documents** have been prepared for all construction activities **under an acre** to control the transport of sediment and waste materials **without a formal permit**. The goal is to provide time-tested, generally accepted routine procedures that minimize the potential for release of pollutants during the performance of short-term, 'low risk' construction. The Grading Erosion and Sediment Control (GESC) Program requires the installation of best management practices (BMPs) and maintenance of those BMPs to promote environmentally-sound construction practices. If your project has components that are more complicated than anticipated here, contact SEMSWA for permit instructions.



## **General Practices**

- Schedule construction work for dry weather whenever possible.
- Identify all street storm drainage, including inlets, area drains, and rundowns located near the Right-of-Way (ROW) construction site and be
  aware of the street flow direction in the work site area to prevent sediment and other pollutants from leaving the construction site. Materials
  must not be allowed to enter the storm system.
- Determine if BMPs are necessary to prevent runoff of sediment or materials from the site. The more complicated the access and the BMPs required to protect water quality, the greater the chance a permit will be required for the work. Install BMPs prior to work commencing.
- Designate one area for vehicle parking and equipment maintenance/refueling not in flow line. The designated area should be well away from
  gutters, storm drains, and conveyance paths. Inspect equipment frequently for leaks; keep maintenance activities involving fluids and other
  contaminants to a minimum; perform any necessary repairs off-site. Washing of equipment and machinery is not allowed in the ROW.
- Throughout the workday, especially when precipitation (rain or snow) is in the forecast, sweep and remove tracked and incidental materials from surfaces that drain to storm sewers. Always work only within the established construction limits.
- Streets in the immediate vicinity of your activity must be completely swept at the end of the work day, and immediately following completion of
  construction. All affected street ROW areas should be small enough in size to be hand-broomed often to prevent tracking.
- Contain stockpiled materials on paved surfaces, not in flow line, and install erosion control BMP around entire material pile to eliminate any transport offsite. If stockpiling in the ROW, follow the Street Cut Use Permit requirements. City Code allows 72 hours to remove materials.
- Construction areas left open to collect rain/irrigation water will not be pumped/drained directly into a flow line or inlet. The water needs to be filtered with a filter bag and then discharged to a vegetated buffer area to infiltrate.

DO

Maintain a designated location for work materials to minimize staging area and control disturbed area. Proper site management will eliminate any tracking from disturbed area and any transport of sediment from the construction site.

Prior to work commencing, install site BMPs as necessary to prevent any sediment or material from leaving the construction site. Maintain BMPs periodically or as needed.

Ensure that correct procedures are followed to eliminate sediment or waste transport from work, staging and access areas. Stay within the established construction limits. Small jobs can have many activities going on in a small area; keep on top of each component and anticipate BMPs needed to eliminate transport of pollutants offsite.

Locate any washout area away from drainage and traffic/access areas; size so all liquids are contained. Properly dispose of all washout fluids and all dried materials.

Plan how to control, contain and dispose of all materials not used. Excess materials are to be removed from site and not stockpiled or broadcast over site to dispose. Have dry cleanup methods available during final prep of work area.

**DON'T** 

DO NOT let sediment/waste leave the site as runoff.

DO NOT clean equipment or conduct maintenance/repairs on machinery in the ROW. DO NOT hose down equipment.

DO NOT clean up excess construction materials with a hose or water; use dry sweeping methods.

DO NOT let excess materials accumulate at or around the construction site area.

DO NOT undersize washout area or locate near access area; there is to be NO tracking or wash water overflows from washout operations.

DO NOT pump any collected precipitation from open construction areas to flow line or inlet.