



Just as that someone special in your life needs a little extra attention especially in the Month of February - so also construction sites need some TLC for BMPs that have been in the cold and rain for half the rainy season.

♥ **TREAT** Many times in life, we get in such a hurry that we fail to take time to enjoy the people around us and the moments we have with them. The speed of life can erode relationships. In the same way, velocity is our enemy when it comes to controlling storm water quality and erosion. Fast moving water causes erosion. Never let storm water pass from Point A to Point B without putting something in its path to slow it down and allow particles to settle out. Storm water that flows off of your site needs to pass through treatment, which can include filtration, infiltration, or settling opportunities.

Filtration devices include compost socks, gravel bag berms, and vegetative buffers. When water passes through these devices, the device will capture or retain sediment particles as well as other pollutants. These are particularly important to utilize near discharge (and sampling) points.

Infiltration are places where we reduce the amount of runoff by retaining the water for a time and allowing it to infiltrate into the soil. These locations, which also promote settling of

Who doesn't like to receive something unexpected from someone who loves them? A special note, a card, candy, flowers, or a night out. That little extra attention goes a long way to help get through the day-in day-out grind of life and it brings new life to relationships that sometimes have had some wear and tear. While you dream up Valentine plans for that someone special in your life, don't forget to also show some **TLC** to the construction site BMPs that have gotten you through half the winter. They, too, probably have some wear and tear. A little maintenance will extend the life of BMPs and help protect storm water quality for the rest of the rainy season. Give TLC to your site and storm water runoff by **Treating, Leaving, and Covering**. While we may not have the expertise of Dr. Phil, in this edition of *The Monthly Dirt*, we will provide some tips on how to make your construction site feel well cared for.

particles, can include retention basins, sediment traps, and infiltration trenches. Many times, areas on the project that will later become bioretention design features can be utilized during construction as retention basins.

As mentioned before, we never want water to leave without being "touched" by a sediment

control device. This will slow the flow and provide settling opportunities. Drain inlet protection, track out control measures, check dams, fiber roll, and silt fence are good ways to reduce velocity on your site.

♥ **LEAVE** You won't be in a relationship long before discovering that you need to leave somethings alone! Old friends, old habits, and

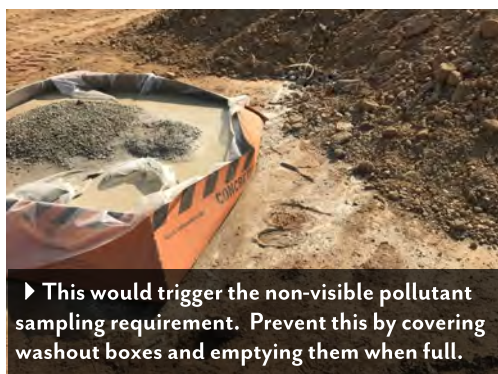




► **Make sure areas of soil disturbance have been covered with an “effective soil cover”. In February, check to see if erosion control mats and other ground coverings are still in place and properly anchored.**

unconstructive comments. Otherwise it will definitely muddy the waters in your relationship. At construction sites, especially during the rainy season, there are things that need to be left alone; such as, environmentally sensitive areas, vegetated buffers, and areas of soil disturbance that were previously sprayed with an application of hydraulic mulch or hydroseed. During the rainy season, it is best to not open up new areas of soil disturbance. February is a good month to check to see if ESA fencing is still in place and secure and check to see if new growth from hydroseed has germinated at the anticipated rate. If areas sprayed with hydraulic mulch, bonded fiber matrix, or hydroseed have been trampled or traveled on, you may want to reapply the product or cover those spots with an erosion control mat or straw.

♥ **COVER** When it comes to relationships, there’s a wise saying, “*Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.*” Meaning ... love is like a covering that conceals imperfections and allows us to overlook them. There are certain imperfections on your job site that also need to be covered. Stock piles, areas of soil disturbance, waste bins, concrete wash outs, and construction materials that can be mobilized by storm water should be covered throughout the rainy season when not actively



► **This would trigger the non-visible pollutant sampling requirement. Prevent this by covering washout boxes and emptying them when full.**

being used. When these problem areas are left uncovered, storm water comes into contact with them and carries away pollutants. If we discover that this has happened, it will trigger the CGP’s non-visible pollutant sampling requirement which will necessitate sampling downstream of the pollutant source during the next storm event for an indicator analyte and collecting another sample and testing it for the same analyte in a location that was not influenced by the problem area.

February is a good time to check previously installed covers. Recent high wind events may have damaged or removed covers. Make sure plastic sheeting on stockpiles is secure and is in good shape. Look for rills and washouts on slopes that may have removed some of the sprayed on erosion control product. Also, look to see if washout is happening under erosion control mats or plastic sheeting.

HOW DO YOU SPELL “LOVE”? T-I-M-E Relationships can’t be rushed. The quantity of time we spend is an investment in the future. When we hurry through during-storm and post-storm inspections, we tend to miss things. Sometimes there are subtle clues that the BMPs are not performing as they should or a small problem is short circuiting the erosion control process. Unless we spend time at the site observing rainfall and runoff, we may misunderstand the true nature of the problem and the way to successfully address it. When performing mid-rainy season inspections, take time to observe run-on and run-off. Look where rills are forming and sediment is depositing. Observe the site activities and what pollutant sources are present. Take time to talk to the contractor and subcontractors to hear what they are doing; and provide them with training on what BMPs to use for their current activities. - **MD**

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The Monthly Dirt

Newsletter Editor:

John Teravskis, QSP/QSD, CPESC, QJSP, ToR
jteravskis@wgr-sw.com
 (209) 334-5363 ext. 110 or (209) 649-0877

Technical Questions about Environmental Compliance?

Call ...

Mike Lewis, QSP, CESSWI (Northern California)
mlewis@wgr-sw.com, (209) 334-5363 ext. 116

Gray Martz, QSP/QSD, PG (Southern California)
jgmartz@wgr-sw.com, (562) 799-8510 ext. 1002



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