The Monthly Dirt

January 2018

A Monthly Newsletter on the California Construction General Permit
By WGR Southwest, Inc.

Contained

Now that we are in the rainy season, storm water not only runs off of the project but it also tends to collect in certain places – by design. A properly prepared and implemented SWPPP will call out for areas of containment, so that storm water discharges will not be contaminated with construction materials and wastes. But, these areas of containment become a maintenance item as they fill up with precipitation. In this edition of *The Monthly Dirt*, we will address what the Construction General Permit (CGP) requires to be contained and how accumulated water must be managed.

Here's a check list of CGP containment requirements. See how many you have on your site:

- ☑ Store chemicals in watertight containers (with ***appropriate secondary containment*** to prevent any spillage or leakage) or in a storage shed (completely enclosed).
- ☑ Ensure the containment of sanitation facilities (e.g., portable toilets) to prevent discharges of pollutants to the storm water drainage system or receiving water.
- ☑ Prevent discharges from waste disposal containers to the storm water drainage system or receiving water.
- ☑ Contain and securely protect stockpiled waste material from wind and rain at all times unless actively being used.
- ☑ Ensure the containment of concrete washout areas and other washout areas that may contain additional pollutants so there is no discharge into the underlying soil and onto the surrounding areas.
- ☑ Place all equipment or vehicles, which are to be fueled, maintained and stored in a designated area fitted with appropriate BMPs.
- ☑ Contain stockpiled materials such as mulches and topsoil when they are not actively being used.
- ☑ Contain all fertilizers and other landscape materials when they are not actively being used.

When it comes to providing containment, a compliant site will assure that the following is performed:

1. Keep pollutant sources separated from storm water. Even when containment is provided, storm water can come into contact with stored materials. Spills, leaks, or poor housekeeping of materials located within the containment can contaminate impounded storm water. This presents a problem in how to deal with the contaminated storm water. It cannot (or should not) be released from the containment structure to be discharged off site and will, therefore, need to be treated as wastewater. This is costly and greatly complicates things. The best way to avoid this is to keep storm water separted from materials by either not letting storm water fall within the containment or by maintaining a clean environment within the containment. A covering can be placed over the containment (even consisting of a secured tarp) to keep rain out of the contained area; or good housekeeping measures can be employed to clean up any spills or residuals on the outside of containers placed within the containment structure.

2. Provide a closeable drainage mechanism. The purpose of containment is to prevent liquids from being discharged until they can be properly inspected and managed. However, two common mistakes are made. The first is that containment valves or plugs are too often left open thus defeating the containment design. The second is that often no thought is given to accomodating for drainage of the struture; thereby, making it a maintenance headache which results in procrastination and, too often, an uncontrolled overfilling of the containment device. We commonly see this occur with containment trays of port-a-potties and with field-built concrete washout areas. Think

about it! … when was the last time you saw anyone inspect or drain a port-a-potty containment tray?

3. Provide sufficient containment. All that the CGP requires concerning the volume of containment is that "***appropriate secondary containment***" be used to prevent spills. To determine what is "appropriate", we have to look to other regulations and industry standards. Generally, secondary containment must be able to contain the volume of the largest stored container plus have sufficient capacity for volume occupied by precipitation. USEPA guidelines for the development of a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan call for the ability to contain storm water from a 25-year, 24-hour storm event. This is location dependent and can by looked up by clicking here. For example, in San Francisco, this volume would be 4.22 inches. Speaking of the SPCC Plan, it is also important to note that if a project has an aggregate storage of 1,320 gallons of oil (fuel, petroleum lubricants / oils, and/or plant derrived oils) it will need to prepare and maintain the federally required spill plan. For more information about SPCC Plan requirements, go to the USEPA's website by clicking here.

4. Inspect contained water before discharging it. The CGP requires the following:

- ☑ Dischargers shall visually observe (inspect) the discharge of stored or contained storm water that is derived from and discharged subsequent to a qualifying rain event producing precipitation of ½ inch or more at the time of discharge. Stored or contained storm water that will likely discharge after operating hours due to anticipated precipitation shall be observed prior to the discharge during operating hours.
- ☑ Within 2 business days (48 hours) prior to each qualifying rain event, dischargers shall visually observe (inspect): any storm water storage and containment areas to detect leaks and ensure maintenance of adequate freeboard.
- ☑ Risk Level 2 and 3 dischargers shall ensure that the grab samples collected of stored or contained storm water are from discharges subsequent to a qualifying rain event (producing precipitation of ½ inch or more at the time of discharge).

Do not discharge water that appears to be contaminated or mixed with any unauthorized non-storm water liquids. Handle these types of liquids as wastewater or possibly a hazardous waste. (Refer to the sidebar article.) Generator knowledge and/or analytical testing may be necessary to determine the waste classification and disposal options. If water in a containment structure appears to be clean and free of pollutants, it can be discharged. Risk Levels 2 & 3, and LUP Types 2 & 3, will need to sample any released contained water if it discharges off-site. *MD*

Upcoming Training

- ✓ On-line SPPP Writing Course (now available)
  - o Visit www.pduweek.org for more info
- ✓ QSP/QSD Training in Lodi, CA, Apr. 10-12, 2018
  - o Sign up at www.gotswppp.com

(For more information about these classes, please email jteravskis@wgr-sw.com)

Alternative Disposal Options for Contained Water

What to do with contained water can be challenging and problematic. If water appears to be clean it can be discharged at any time. But, if the project is a Risk Level 2 or 3 (or LUP Type 2 or 3), a discharge of any water requires samples to be collected at a minimum of 3 times per day. However, if water infiltrates into the soil and is not discharged off site, it will not need to be sampled. For clean water, an acceptable option is to bleed it out of the containment or apply it somewhere on site so that it infiltrates into the soil and does not discharge off site. Just be careful to closely monitor this process to assure that no leak or spill occurs while removing the water. Do not let containment structures drain while the site is unattended or when active material transfers are happening within the containment structure that might result in a spill.

For contaminated storm water, the disposal options will be dependent on the type of contamination. Before selecting any of these, it will be necessary to characterize the waste stream using generator knowledge and/or analytical testing. If the impounded storm water came into contact with a hazardous material, it is possible that the contained water will now be a hazardous waste and need to be disposed of in accordance with local, State, and Federal regulations. If it is determined that the contained liquid is not a hazardous waste, disposal options include pumping it to the sanitary sewer (after getting approval from the sanitation district), trucking it offsite to a municipal wastewater plant, combining it with another liquid waste (such as the concrete washout), or having a waste contractor haul it off as a non-hazardous waste. Before, removing any waste stream from the site, proper characterization, approval from the receiving party, and documentation will be necessary. Do not discharge this type of water/liquid to impervious surfaces or permeable soil. It can cause soil and groundwater contamination, and be a violation of the CGP and other environmental regulations.

Please contact us if you have any questions …

The Monthly Dirt Newsletter Editor:
John Teravskis, QSP/QSD, CPESC, QISP, 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

COME SEE OUR SHOWROOM!
11780 N. HWY 99,
Lodi CA 95220

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

The Hornet's Nest Drain Inlet Filter is a unique, under-grate storm drain filter, perfect for locations looking for basic drain protection with a clean appearance. The oversized base allows the filter to be used with many different sizes and shapes of drain inlets. Simply insert the filter, replace the grate, and trim the excess material for a custom fit and clean appearance. The yellow webbing secures the filter to the grate and doubles as lifting straps allowing for quick and easy removal of the filter and grate. The sediment collection cone has four overflow portals to ease congestion during heavy storm events.

Product Specifications:
- Material: 8-ounce non-woven geotextile
- Strapping: Weather resistant 2" polypropylene webbing
- Flow Rate: 90 GPM/foot
- Dimensions: 48" x 36"

BMP
bmpoutlet.com

BMP Outlet is a supply house for affordable erosion control products, drain inlet protection, sorbents, spill containment, and field instruments.

We have a large inventory of many different types of product, and can order whatever you need for your project.

Elima-Drip Pads

Eliminate drips underneath your vehicles and equipment with Elima-Drip drip containment pads. Elima-Drip pads are weighted absorbent pouches contained in heavy-duty vinyl sleeves, which protect the spill pads from accidental movement. The 50"x20" pad is capable of containing up to 50 ounces of oil, and the 30"x20" pad can contain up to 29 ounces. Best of all, these pads are reusable! Simply replace the pouch inside the vinyl sleeve.

Product Specifications:
Outside Material: Heavy-duty vinyl sleeve
Spill Containment Media: Absorbent pads
Dimensions: 50″x20″ or 30″x20″

Check out our website!
shop.bmpoutlet.com

BMP Outlet • sales@bmpoutlet.com • (916) 918-0408

CALIFORNIA Water Boards

EDMUND G. BROWN JR. GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

Just released ... Guidance from the State Water Board for construction sites within areas impacted by the wildfires. For more information about erosion and sedimentation controls for burned areas, see our Oct.-Nov. 2017 newsletter (click here).

January 23, 2018

TO: CONSTRUCTION STORM WATER DISCHARGERS IN AREAS IMPACTED BY WILDFIRES

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) recognizes that Governor Brown has declared a state of emergency[1] in multiple counties throughout California due to the wildfires' impacts on the health and environment of many local communities. This letter serves as guidance for compliance with the Statewide Construction Storm Water General Permit (Permit)[2] at sites impacted by wildfires[3].

1. **Planning a New Construction Activity**
   An entity or person planning to conduct construction activity that will disturb one acre or more, or a site disturbing less than one acre but part of a larger common plan of development or sale disturbing one acre or more, is required to obtain Permit coverage.

   An entity or person with a public emergency project requiring immediate construction is required to: 1) provide the Regional Water Quality Control Board a brief description of the emergency construction activity within five days of the onset of construction, and 2) submit permit registration documents within (30) thirty days (Permit Section II.B.8) through the Storm Water Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS).

   Permit coverage is not required for the following activities related to wildfire-impacted areas:
   - Cleanup,
   - Debris removal activities, or
   - Construction activities disturbing less than one acre, as long as the activities are not part of a larger common plan of development or sale disturbing an acre or more.

2. **Entities or Persons with Active Permit Coverage for an Existing Construction Site (Dischargers)**
   Dischargers with active coverage under the Permit (active WDID number) with sites located in wildfire-impacted areas are required to comply with the Permit. Items 3 and 4 (below) provide further guidance on Permit compliance for wildfire-impacted sites.

[1] Office of Governor Recent Proclamations: https://www.gov.ca.gov/s_proclamations.php

[2] General Permit For Storm Water Discharges Associated With Construction Activities; State Water Board Adopted Order 2009-0009-DWQ (As amended by 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ)

[3] Sites impacted by wildfires: construction projects negatively affected or damaged by the occurrence of a significant wildfire in areas declared to be in a state of emergency by Governor Brown.

3. Guidance for All Risk Levels and Linear Utility Type Sites with Active Permit Coverage

a. Notice of Termination for Inactive Construction Sites

Dischargers with active Permit coverage planning to discontinue, inactivate, or suspend all construction activities for an undetermined time period, may submit a Notice of Termination to end Permit coverage. The site must meet the conditions for termination in Permit Section II.D. Guidance on site erosion controls and meeting the Notice of Termination final stabilization requirements is available on the State Water Board construction storm water webpage[4]. The Discharger must certify and submit the Notice of Termination through SMARTS for Regional Water Quality Control Board approval.

b. Visual Observations Uncompleted due to Site Inaccessibility (All Risk Levels and Linear Utility Types)

Visual observations are required during scheduled site business hours, when weather does not pose a safety hazard, and when site access is safe (Permit Attachments A, C, D, and F). The State Water Board emphasizes that safety is the priority; persons should not enter areas impacted by wildfires (for permit monitoring purposes): 1) with unsafe conditions, 2) that are closed by a government agency, or 3) with a high potential for mudslides during or after a precipitation event. Dischargers are required to include an explanation in the site's storm water pollution prevention plan and Annual Report for all uncompleted visual observations, including specific information about the regulated site location and the wildfire impacts to the site(s).

c. Visual Observations Completed at Sites Impacted by Wildfires

Visual observations are required at sites safe to access. Visual observations should include: 1) an assessment of the condition of the site and damage to best management practices related to wildfires, and 2) a plan for replacing and repairing damaged best management practices and stabilizing erodible areas. The Permit requires Dischargers to obtain a Qualified Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Developer for any updates to the site's storm water pollution prevention plan (Section XIV.A), which is to be maintained onsite and electronically reported into SMARTS. Dischargers are strongly encouraged to include the following information in the site's revised storm water pollution prevention plan to document any wildfire impacts:

- Evaluation and documentation (including photographs) of site conditions, documenting:
  - discharge locations,
  - soil stabilization,[4]
  - surrounding wildfire-impacted areas, and
  - areas of high erosion and areas with high collection of ash deposits.
- Information on site observations prior to a rain event for before-and-after comparison purposes; and
- Location information and description of currently implemented best management practices and the schedule of best management practices planned to be reinstalled, repaired, or added to manage runoff of construction pollutants, wildfire-related impacts, and site restoration.

[4] Healthy soils, the presence of native seeds, and moisture content can all play an important part in quickly stabilizing your site. For more information please see this guidance document on site stabilization: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/training/cgp_review_issue3.pdf

d. Damaged Treatment Best Management Practices
Dischargers with damaged treatment best management practices must contact their local Regional Water Quality Control Board[5] to discuss the applicability of the emergency bypass provisions in Permit Section IV.L.

4. Guidance for Risk Levels 2 and Risk Level 3 Project and Type 2 and 3 Linear Utility Projects[6]

a. Sampling and Numeric Action Level (NAL) Exceedances
Dischargers are required to collect, analyze, and report construction storm water runoff sampling results even if the results are potentially unrepresentative of storm water runoff due to construction activities. Sampling is only required during the site's scheduled business hours, when weather does not pose a safety hazard, and when site access is safe (Permit Attachments A, D, and E). Dischargers are required to include an explanation in the site's storm water pollution prevention plan and the Annual Report for all uncompleted sampling events, including specific information about the wildfire impacts related to the missed sampling events.

Dischargers are required to electronically certify and submit sampling results into SMARTS as an Ad Hoc monitoring report, including observed issues such as site burn areas, run-on, and ash fallout. If the sampling results exceed a NAL, immediate implementation of additional best management practices is required to prevent pollutants and authorized non-storm water discharges from contaminating construction storm water runoff, or to substantially reduce the pollutants to levels below the NALs. The Discharger is required to update the site's storm water pollution plan to include the additional best management practices.

The Discharger may voluntarily submit a NAL Exceedance Report as part of an Ad Hoc monitoring report in SMARTS to indicate which storm water samples were impacted by wildfire conditions (including post wildfire conditions) and are non-representative of site conditions. Additional information such as on site burn areas, run-on, ash fallout, and comparisons of historical site sampling results to the sampling results collected post-wildfires may be included.

For further information regarding Permit requirements, visit the State Water Board Construction Storm Water webpage at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/constructionstormwater.

[5] The Permit requires noticing of 10 days to the Regional Water Quality Control Board for a needed treatment bypass.

[6] The Permit establishes three levels of risk possible for a construction site. SMARTS calculates site in two parts: 1) Project Sediment Risk and 2) Receiving Water Risk. Section J of the Permit Fact Sheet describes risk determination:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/constpermits/wqo_2009_0009_factsheet.pdf

For general questions regarding this letter, contact the State Water Board, Storm Water Help Desk at stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov. For site-specific questions, contact your local Regional Water Quality Control Board staff at:

San Francisco Bay Region: r2_stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (510) 622-2402
North Coast Region: r1_stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (707) 576-2220
Central Coast Region: r3_stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (805) 549-3147
Los Angeles Region: r4_stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (213) 576-6600
Fresno Central Valley Region: r5f_stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (559) 445-5116
Redding Central Valley Region: r5r_stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (530) 224-4845
Sacramento Central Valley Region: r5s_stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 464-3291
Lahontan Region: r6a_stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (530) 542-5400
Victorville Region: r6b_stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (760) 241-6583
Colorado River Region: r7_stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (760) 346-7491
Santa Ana Region: r8_stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (951) 782-4130
San Diego Region: r9_stormwater@waterboards.ca.gov or (619) 516-1990

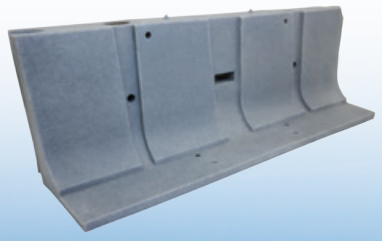
Sincerely,

Karen Larsen, Deputy Director
Division of Water Quality

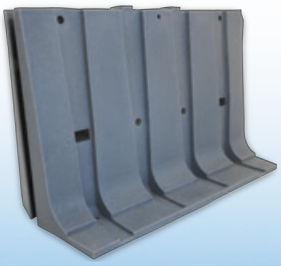
cc: (see next page)

MUSCLE WALL®

MANAGE
STORMWATER
SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY



- Sizing available from 6-inches to 8-feet
- Permeable and impermeable liners work with all Muscle Wall systems
- Lightweight for quick and easy deployment
- Reusable



FLOOD CONTAINMENT
STORMWATER

PHONE - 925.383.8224
EMAIL - musclewallsolutions@gmail.com
WEB - www.musclewall.com