

The Monthly Dirt

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

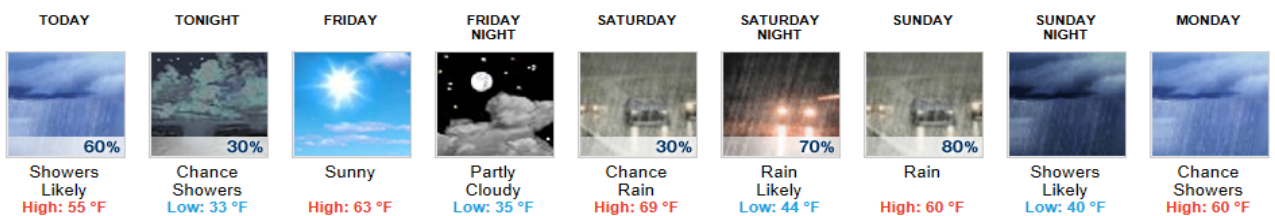
Event Planning

No, we are not talking about a wedding or an anniversary ... but rather a Rain Event. Now that the rains have returned to California, Risk Level 2 and 3 projects are needing to do some pre-planning. Of course, what we are referring to is the Rain Event Action Plan or REAP. We are finding that, although this is not a new requirement, there are still lots of questions about when they need to be prepared and what needs to be included in the REAPs. According to the State Water Board, a REAP is a written document, specific for each rain event. A REAP should be designed that when implemented it protects all exposed portions of the site within 24 hours of a forecasted likely precipitation event. Only Risk Level 2 and 3 dischargers are required to develop and implement REAPs. Although it could be beneficial by helping to prepare them for an expected storm; Risk 1, LUP, and waiver projects are not required to prepare these plans. The REAP requirement is designed to ensure that the project has adequate materials, staff, and time to implement erosion and sediment control measures. If there is a likely precipitation event, which is defined as any weather pattern that is forecast to have a 50% or greater probability of producing precipitation in the project area, the QSP is required to obtain a printed copy of precipitation forecast information from the National Weather Service Forecast Office by entering the zip code of the project's location at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/forecast>. Attachments D and E of the permit, state that the REAPs must be prepared by a QSP and this is one task that cannot be delegated by the QSP to another appropriately trained individual. REAPs must be prepared for all phases of construction (i.e. Grading and Land Development, Streets and Utilities, Vertical Construction, Final Landscaping and Site Stabilization). They even must be prepared for inactive projects where construction activities have been indefinitely halted or postponed. The REAP must begin to be prepared 48 hours prior to a likely precipitation event and be in place (as a hard paper copy) and implemented within 24 hours of that event.

When preparing the REAP, the QSP must include the following:

- Site Address
- Calculated Risk Level (2 or 3)
- Site Storm Water Manager Information including the name, company, and 24-hour emergency telephone number
- Erosion and Sediment Control Provider information including the name, company, and 24-hour emergency telephone number
- Storm Water Sampling Agent information including the name, company, and 24-hour emergency telephone number

In addition, the QSP must address in the REAP, for each construction phase, the activities and trades currently taking place on the construction site; contact information for the trades and subcontractors currently present; and suggested corrective or preventative actions for each activity or pollutant source.



Chance of Rain?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines a chance of precipitation as a probability of precipitation of 30% to 50% chance of producing precipitation in the project area. NOAA defines the probability of precipitation (PoP) as the likelihood of occurrence (expressed as a percent) of a measurable amount (0.01 inch or more) of liquid precipitation (or the water equivalent of frozen precipitation) during a specified period of time at any given point in the forecast area.) Forecasts are normally issued for 12-hour time periods. Descriptive terms for uncertainty and aerial coverage are used as follows:

| PoP | Expressions of Uncertainty | Aerial Coverage |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 0% | None used | None used |
| 10% | None used | Isolated |
| 20% | Slight chance | Isolated |
| 30-50% | Chance | Scattered |
| 60-70% | Likely | Numerous |
| 80-100% | None used | None used |

REAP Q&As

Q: Who is responsible for preparing and implementing the REAP? Do you have to be a QSP?

A: The project QSP must develop and be in responsible charge of implementing the REAP. A QSD may also implement the REAP if they are also in responsible charge for implementing the SWPPP onsite.

Q: Does the REAP need to change with each storm event?

A: The REAP is a living document specific to a project site. A new REAP must be prepared/revised specific to each forecasted rain event (any likely precipitation event forecast of 50% or greater probability). However, some of the REAPs for an individual project might look similar for each construction phase.

Q: Do REAPs have to be prepared for storms occurring on weekends or holidays?

A: Yes, the point of the REAP is to prepare for the storm event. It is especially important to have the project prepared ahead of time for a storm that will occur when no one is present.

Q: Are forms available to use for REAPs?

A: Yes. See the following:

For the CASQA template, go to: www.CASQA.org (you must have a subscription to use their construction portal)

For Caltrans templates, go to:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/forms.htm>

For a downloadable app for mobile devices, go to:

<http://www.gocanvas.com/mobile-forms-apps/11556-QSPpad-REAP>

Upcoming Training ...

Got SWPPP? Classes coming to Lodi:

- ✓ QSP/QSD Training, April 22-24, 2014
- ✓ PDU Week – Free Workshops May 19-23, 2014
- ✓ CPESC – Next review & exam in June 2014

For more information about these classes, go to www.gotswppp.com.

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Please contact us if you have any questions ...

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