

# The Monthly Dirt

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

## PREPARE FOR RAIN

Will El Niño bring an abundance of rain? Politicians say “no”, scientists say “yes”, but only God knows for sure. But, regardless of what happens, it is time to prepare your construction site for rain. After a long hot summer, BMPs often need to be refreshed or replaced, maintenance needs to be done, areas of soil disturbance need to be covered with an effective erosion control “blanket”, and employees need reminding of their duties in preventing pollutants from flowing off with storm water runoff. October 1<sup>st</sup> is typically thought of as the start of the rainy season in California so it is time to raise storm water awareness and prepare for rain. The Monthly Dirt staff went into the field and took some photos of construction projects that need some more preparation for rain.

### Refresh & Replace – BMPs that were once effective may no



longer be effective such as the track out control shown here. Track out controls lose effectiveness every time a vehicle passes over it or a gust of wind blows sediment onto it. Some BMPs are seasonal. This track out control might

have been sufficient during the dry season but it is not hard to see that it will be woefully inadequate when the first storm rolls in. This is case calls for more rock. If this was your site, you would want to call for a delivery of truck and trailer of 3 – 5” rock. It would not be a bad idea to lay down a geotextile fabric before the rock is delivered and to add a “grizzly” to aid in knocking sediment off of tires.

### Identify Problem Areas & Fix Them – Uh oh, this is not a

good photo! If a Water Board staff person was to inspect this site in September, they would assume that there has been an illicit discharge; which appears to be coming from the waste bin. If you were to see this on your site it would mean several things to you as a QSP. First, you



have some education to do with on-site personnel. They apparently are not understanding that the CGP prohibits discharges of rinse or wash waters on impervious or pervious site surfaces and that it requires discharges from waste disposal containers to be prevented.

The second thing is that you need to get a waste bin that is not leaking and make sure that it is covered at the end of each day and during rain events. Finally, if this occurred on your site, it would trigger a non-visible pollutant monitoring for the next storm event; so you would want to prepare a sample kit and consult the SWPPP as to what should be sampled and what analyses should be performed.

### Cover it up – The most important thing to do in preparing for

rain is to cover up pollutant sources. Obviously areas of soil disturbance need to be covered. The CGP requires that an effective soil cover be placed on all finished slopes, open space, utility backfill, completed lots, and areas of soil disturbance that have been inactive for 14 days or more. What is a “cover”?



It can be a sprayed on product such as hydraulic mulch or a soil binder. It can be an erosion control mat or geotextile. It can also be a “blanket” of straw, wood mulch, rock, or vegetation. But, don’t wait until it rains to establish your cover. It takes time to get a cover on and some of products need to be applied while soils are still dry. The other key word in the CGP requirement is that it must be “effective”. Too little cover material or a haphazard application just wastes money and can actually complicate things later. Other things that should be covered before the storm season include stock piles; landscaping materials that can be mobilized by storm water; bags of chemicals, grout and cement; and oily equipment.

MD



Clip & save

## Checklist to Prepare for Rain

- Review SWPPP to make sure that it reflects the current site status. Ask QSD to make any necessary changes.
- Inspect the site looking for areas of soil disturbance that need an effective cover, potential pollutants that need to be moved under a covering, and maintenance needed for sediment capturing BMPs such as track out control, perimeter controls, check dams, and sediment traps.
- Inspect, clean, and test the pH pen and turbidity meter. Make sure that the calibration standards are still valid. Replace batteries.
- Determine if non-visible pollutant sampling has been triggered and, if so, order a sample kit from the laboratory.
- Train site personnel on BMP implementation and SWPPP requirements.
- Train delegated inspectors on the inspection and sampling procedures.
- Prepare inspection forms and laboratory COCs.
- Coordinate with erosion control contractors, street sweepers, concrete washout system suppliers, and waste bin suppliers to make sure they have you covered.

## Free Training Opportunities

Storm Water Awareness Week is coming up and you will not want to miss this annual opportunity for free training for you and your team. Check out the following list of construction related workshops. Register for these or any other workshops being offered that week at [www.stormwaterawareness.org](http://www.stormwaterawareness.org).

Title	Description	City	Date	Time
Using Active Treatment Systems	In this workshop we will look into what an Active Treatment System is, where one might be needed, and the regulations that guide the safe operation of a system.	Loomis	9/22/2015	10:00
Construction General Permit - QSP Refresher	Has it been some time since you attended the 2-QSP class? Do you need to refresh on the Construction General Permit requirements before the rainy season? Do you need to do an annual training for your crew? If so, bring them or yourself to WGR's QSP Refresher.	Orange	9/22/2015	11:00
Construction General Permit Review	Long periods of dry weather have been punctuated by infrequent short periods of intense high volume rain events. These rain events, called Atmospheric Rivers can quickly wash out a construction site that has been dry for months. We'll discuss what you can do to prepare your site.	Santa Rosa	9/22/2015	13:00
Storm Water Basics for Construction Sites	This public workshop reviews storm water basics for construction sites including information regarding best management practices and storm water pollution prevention plans. Representatives from Nevada County and the City of Grass Valley will be available to discuss local requirements as well. This workshop is designed for contractors, developers and consultants involved in construction.	Grass Valley	9/22/2015	15:30
Storm Water 101 for Construction Sites	This public workshop reviews the water quality requirements for construction sites including BMP selection and design, inspection, sampling, and reporting. This workshop is designed for contractors, developers, and public agencies involved in construction.	Marysville	9/23/2015	10:00
QSP Refresher	Has it been some time since you attended the 2-QSP class? Do you need to refresh on the Construction General Permit requirements before the rainy season? Do you need to do an annual training for your crew? If so, bring them or yourself to WGR's Construction Sandbox for a hands-on learning experience about the CGP requirements. We will have a silt fence installation demonstration and storm water sampling and testing simulations.	Lodi	9/24/2015	8:00
Compost Socks vs. Fiber Rolls - A down and dirty (and wet) demonstration	Come to WGR's Construction Sandbox to see our QSPs perform a physical demonstration and performance comparison of fiber rolls (straw wattle) and compost socks. Learn about the science behind both of these linear control BMPs and when they should or should not be used. Seeing is believing ... and it may make a believer of you.	Lodi	9/24/2015	9:15
Concrete and paint washout systems for Construction Sites	Construction projects are prohibited by the Construction General Permit from allowing wash water from discharging to permeable and impervious surfaces. So what can be done about it? Come see some portable systems that can be used to effectively and cost efficiently keep your construction site in compliance with the CGP requirements. A great activity for all ages! Stay for the other Storm Water Awareness Week workshops and make a fun afternoon of it!	San Joaquin County, east of Clements	9/25/2015	13:00

## Upcoming Training

- ✓ **Register Now!** – Storm Water Awareness Week 2015 is coming up! September 21-25, 2015 For more information, go to [www.StormWaterAwareness.org](http://www.StormWaterAwareness.org)
- ✓ QSP/QSD Training, **October 6 - 8, 2015 in Lodi, CA** (For more information about these classes, go to [www.gotswppp.com](http://www.gotswppp.com).)
- ✓ Need storm water training for your crew? Bring them to our training facility in Lodi and use our conference room and multi-media system, the construction sandbox (a hands-on simulated construction site complete with BMPs), living wall demonstration, a warehouse full of BMP samples, and BBQ / kitchen facilities.

## Making a Topo Map for a SWPPP

A vicinity map showing topography and nearby receiving waters is required to be included in a SWPPP. Watch our latest Tips for SWPPPs video to see how to make this map easily with a few clicks of a mouse.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zXV4TP4ypY>

Please contact us if you have any questions ...

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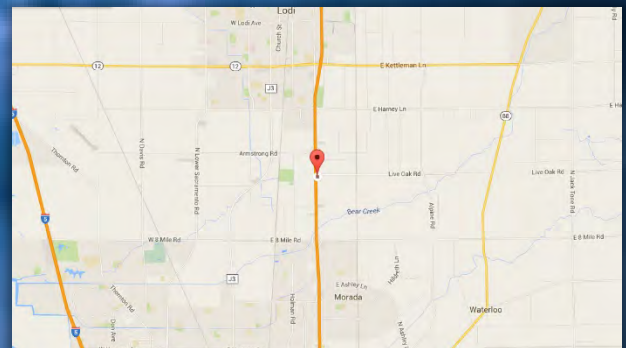
# Ready for El Niño?

We are.



- ✓ Stocked and ready for pick-up
- ✓ Fiber rolls, compost socks, rock bags, spill kits, field instruments, and much more
- ✓ Freeway convenient
- ✓ Knowledgeable erosion control staff
- ✓ Delivery and shipping options available

BMP Outlet / WGR Southwest, Inc.  
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Lodi, CA 95240  
(916) 918-0408



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11780 N HIGHWAY 99  
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**CALL FOR MORE INFO, PRICING, AND RESERVATIONS  
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## STORM WATER AWARENESS WEEK SPECIALS

### **QSP / QSD Training Coupon**

*Been waiting to get your QSP or QSD certification? Wait no longer!*

Redeem this coupon for \$50 off the normal QSP or QSD fee for the October 6 – 8, 2015 got SWPPP? Class in Lodi, CA

Use coupon code **SWAW2015** when registering at

[www.gotSWPPP.com](http://www.gotSWPPP.com)

### **QSP Inspection Coupon**

*Have WGR's QSPs brave El Niño's Storms and take care of your weekly and storm event inspections?*

San Francisco Bay Area:	\$275/inspection
Sacramento Area:	\$225/inspection
San Joaquin County:	\$175/inspection
Other Areas:	Call for a quote

*Valid for October 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016*

*Not valid for existing WGR projects.*

*For more information, call (209) 334-5363 x110 or email [jteravskis@wgr-sw.com](mailto:jteravskis@wgr-sw.com)*