Stormwater pollution is a major source of water pollution in California. It can cause discoloration, fish kill, and destruction of wetland ecosystems. The most important, stormwater pollution poses a serious threat to the overall health of the ecosystem.

Common sources of pollutants from construction sites include: sediments from soil erosion, construction vehicles and heavy equipment, concrete, cement, and mortar, paints, solvents, construction and demolition debris, and oils and greases. Construction sites require special permits and will need to comply with local, county, state, and federal regulations.

Material Storage and Spill Clean Up

- Cover spoil piles. Provide shelter from rainwater and drainage with tarps, plastic sheeting, or other materials. Pre-runoff water shall be directed to drains, catch basins, or ponds.
- Build a berm around storage areas to prevent contact with surface water.
- Store containers of volatile, flammable, or hazardous materials in accordance with secondary containment requirements.
- Use covers for storm drain inlets, for auto and equipment wash-down areas, and washdown areas not connected to sanitary sewer (i.e., indoor plumbing).
- Cover storm drain inlets and manholes with a cover, close it.
- If it is leaking, contact the leaking company for repair or replacement.

Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance

- Material can be salvaged and disposed of properly. Inspect frequently and repair immediately.
- Use all parts of a port-a-potty to catch spills and spillover. Set up storm drain catch basins and replace oil spills, fuel, or antifreeze or other materials.
- Keep all fluids, oils, and lubricants within secondary containment.
- Designate specific areas of the construction site where oil spills can occur and that require maintenance, cleaning, and disposal.
- Perform major maintenance, repair jobs, and equipment replacement in accordance with on-site regulations and standards.
- Take sufficient equipment offsite for disposal. An equipment must be removed from the site before the site is closed.

Paints, Solvents and Adhesives

- Store all solids, pasty, and dry paint products and shop dust and shop shop residues in designated areas.
- Collect shop dust and shop shop residues in designated areas.
- Store any used oil and open containers.
- Store all paints, solvents, and adhesives in a dry area.
- Store all solvents and adhesives.

Concrete, Cement and Mortars

- Pour all solid paints, pasty and dry shop shop residues in designated areas.
- Collect shop dust and shop residues in designated areas.
- Store any used oil and shop shop residues in designated areas.
- Store all paints, solvents, and adhesives in a dry area.
- Store all solvents and adhesives.

Earth-Moving Activities and Erosion Control

- Avoid spreading clean dirt from adjacent areas into a site area for landscaping or for use in a decorative manner or any other use.
- Control sediment runoff by installing management techniques in water courses.
- Collect all liquid soils on a daily basis.
- Clean up runoff from construction vehicles and equipment.
- Construct diversion ditches and drainage swales to channel runoff away from the site.
- Use filters and drainage ditches to filter stormwater from construction activities.
- Prevent construction vehicles from tracking soil into adjacent streets.
- Dry-sweep, when possible, to clean spills between construction activities.
- Prevent construction vehicles from tracking soil into adjacent streets.

Waste Disposal

- Keep all solids, pasty, and dry paint products and shop dust and shop shop residues in designated areas.
- Collect shop dust and shop shop residues in designated areas.
- Store any used oil and open containers.
- Store all paints, solvents, and adhesives in a dry area.
- Store all solvents and adhesives.

Call Environmental Enforcement at (408) 945-1000 before dusting & filling in or dumping into storm or sanitary sewer systems. Note down any decisions of the planning staff before you begin another project.

Update prevention measures as construction phases change or be completed.

Roadwork and Pavement Construction

- Apply coal-tarphaltic emulsion not later than 10 feet from the curb or street.
- (20) Load a blender surface from which it can be poured or directly applied.
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