Storm Water Management on Construction Sites

Construction sites must minimize erosion and prevent pollutants from contacting storm water in order to protect water quality.

All construction projects disturbing 1 acre or more or part of a larger common plan of development must comply with General Construction Permit 2009-0009-DWG.

The General Permit requires all applicable projects develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

The UCSC SWPPP template must be used. The template can be found at: http://ppc.ucsc.edu/standards/swppptemplate/

All construction projects disturbing more than 50 cubic yards of dirt but less than 1 acre will have an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP). The ESCP must use all applicable Best Management Practices from Appendix E.

Appendix E: http://ppc.ucsc.edu/standards/appendicies/E/

Inspections

Contractor required inspections will be conducted by a Qualified SWPPP Practitioner at a minimum weekly, PRIOR to anticipated storm events AND AFTER storm events. DURING extended storm events inspections must be made during each 24-hour period. An example of an inspection form can be found in the SWPPP template.

BMPs must be inspected to insure they are functioning as designed and free from debris or silt. Once a BMP has become damaged it is no longer effective in preventing sediments and other contaminants from entering storm drains. Therefore, it is important to make frequent inspections of construction sites.

In addition to the General Construction Permit required inspections performed by the Contractor, the University will conduct inspections at least once a month for all projects during the rainy season. During the non-rainy season University inspections will occur once for projects disturbing more than 50 cubic yards of dirt and once every two months for projects over an acre.

Goals of these inspections are:

- To evaluate if Best Management Practices are properly installed and functioning in accordance with the terms of the General Permit;
- If current Best Management Practices are not properly installed or functioning, conduct maintenance and/or install additional controls within 72 hours of identification;
- To determine whether non-visible pollutants are present and are causing or contributing to exceedance of water quality objectives.

When a BMP is not functioning as designed, the Contractor should modify or change BMPs in consultation with the Qualified SWPPP Developer.

If the Contractor fails to fully implement his/her inspection obligation the Contractor is violating federal and state law as well as the contract with the University.