

# Earth-Moving Activities

## Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry

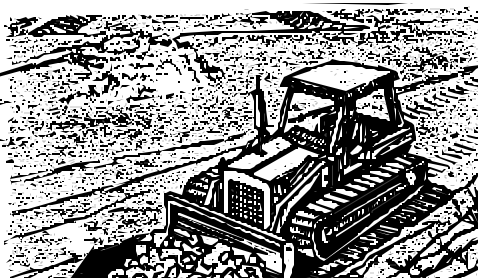
### Storm Drain Pollution from Earth-Moving Activities

Soil excavation and grading operations loosen large amounts of soil that can flow or blow into storm drains if handled improperly. Soil erodes due to a combination of decreased soil stability, increased runoff, and increased flow velocity. Some of the most effective erosion control practices reduce the amount of runoff crossing a site *and* slow the flow with check dams or roughened ground surfaces.

### Storm Drain Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us

In San Mateo County, storm drains flow directly to local creeks, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean with no treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near polluted streams or wetlands. Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers; and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

All of the cities in San Mateo County have joined together with San Mateo County and the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) to educate local



residents and businesses and fight storm drain pollution. We hope you will join us, by using the practices described in this pamphlet.

### Who should use this brochure?

- ◆ Bulldozer, back hoe, and grading machine operators
- ◆ Dump truck drivers
- ◆ Site supervisors
- ◆ General contractors
- ◆ Home builders
- ◆ Developers

### What Can You Do?

#### *During Construction*

- ◆ Remove existing vegetation only when absolutely necessary.
- ◆ Seed or plant *temporary* vegetation for erosion control on slopes or where construction is not immediately planned.
- ◆ Protect downslope drainage courses, streams, and storm drains with hay bales, temporary drainage swales, silt fences, berms or storm drain inlet filters.
- ◆ Use check dams or ditches to divert runoff around excavations and graded areas.
- ◆ Cover stockpiles and excavated soil with secured tarps or plastic sheeting.

#### *General Business Practices*

- ◆ Schedule excavation and grading work for dry weather.
- ◆ Perform major equipment repairs away from the job site.
- ◆ When refueling or vehicle/equipment maintenance must be done on site, work within a completely bermed area away from storm drains.
- ◆ Do not use diesel oil to lubricate or clean equipment or parts.

***Watch for soil and ponded groundwater that may be contaminated.***

If any of these conditions are observed, test for contamination and contact the Regional Water Quality Control Board at 510-622-2300:

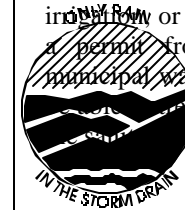
- \_ Unusual soil conditions, discoloration, or odor
- \_ Abandoned underground tanks
- \_ Abandoned wells
- \_ Buried barrels, debris, or trash

San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution  
Prevention Program (STOPPP)  
555 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

STOPPP gratefully acknowledges the Santa Clara Valley Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program

### Dewatering Operations

With a permit from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, you may be able to recycle/reuse pumped groundwater from dewatering operations for landscape irrigation or discharge it to storm drains. With a permit from the municipality and/or the municipal wastewater treatment plant, you may discharge groundwater and discharge it to sewer.



for the original concept and text of this brochure.