STORM DRAIN POLLUTORS MAY BE LIABLE FOR FINES OF UP TO $10,000 PER DAY!

POLLUTION PREVENTION—IT’S PART OF THE PLAN

Construction projects are required to implement year-round stormwater BMPs, as they apply to your project.

Runoff from streets and other paved areas is a major source of pollution to San Francisco Bay. Construction activities can directly affect the health of the Bay unless contractors and crews plan ahead to keep construction dirt, debris, and other pollutants out of storm drains and local creeks. Following these guidelines will ensure your compliance with City of Palo Alto Ordinance requirements.

MATERIALS & WASTE MANAGEMENT

Non-Hazardous Materials

- Drill and cover stockpiles of sand, dirt or other construction material with tarps when rain is forecast or when they are not in use.
- Use (but don’t sprinkle) reclaimed water for dust control.
- Ensure dust control water doesn’t leave site or discharge to storm drains.

Hazardous Materials

- Label all hazardous materials and hazardous waste (such as pesticides, paints, thinners, solvents, fuel, oil, and discarded electronics) in accordance with city, county, state and federal regulations.
- Store storm materials and wastes in water tight containers, store in appropriate secondary containment, and clean up in the event of any storm day or during heavy or rain showers.
- Follow manufacturer’s application instructions for hazardous materials and do not use more than necessary.
- Do not apply chemicals outdoors when rain is forecast or when the ground is wet.
- Arrange for appropriate disposal of all hazardous wastes.

Waste Management

- Cover and maintain dumpsters. Check frequently for leaks. Place dumpsters under roofs or cover with tarps or plastic sheeting secured around the outside of the dumpster. A plastic tarp is recommended to prevent leaks. Never clean out a dumpster by hosing it down on the construction site.
- Place portable toilets away from storm drains. Make sure they are in good working order. Check frequently for leaks.
- Dispose of all waste and demolition debris properly. Recycle materials and waste that can be recycled, including plastics, tare containers, metal, paper, glass, concrete, broken asphalt and concrete, wood, and clean vegetation.
- Dispose of liquid residuals from paints, thinners, solvents, cleaners, and other hazardous materials.
- Keep site clear of litter (e.g., lunch bags, cigarette butts).
- Prevent litter from uncontrolled areas by covering roads that are being transported to and from site.

Construction Entrances and Perimeter

- Establish and maintain effective perimeter controls and shall keep all construction entrances and exits to sufficiently control erosion and sediment discharges from sites and tracking off site.
- Sweep or vacuum any street tracking immediately and seal sediments using proper materials.
- Sweep down streets to clean up tracking.

EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT & SPILL CONTROL

Maintenance and Parking

- Designate an area of the construction site, well away from public access, where trucks can be hosed down to remove debris and fuel, oils, BMPs, for auto and equipment parking, and storage.
- Perform major maintenance, repair jobs, and vehicle and equipment washing off site.
- If refueling or vehicle maintenance must be done onsite, work in a berm area away from storm drains and over a drip pan or drop cloth big enough to collect fluids. Recycle or dispose of fluids as hazardous wastes.
- If vehicle or equipment cleaning must be done onsite, clean with water only in a berm area that will allow runoff to run into gutters, streets, storm drains, or sewer lines.
- Do not clean vehicle or equipment using soap, solvents, degreasers, or steam cleaning equipment, and do not use diesel oil to lubricate equipment or parts onsite.

Spill Prevention and Control

- Keep spill cleanup materials (e.g., sponges, absorbents and cat litter) available at the construction site at all times.
- Maintain all vehicles and heavy equipment. Inspect frequently for and repair leaks. Use drop pans to catch leaks until repairs are made.
- Clean up leaks, drip and oil spills immediately and dispose of cleanup materials properly.
- Use dry cleanup methods wherever possible (absorbent materials, cat litter and/or sponges).
- Sweep up spilled dry materials immediately. Never attempt to “wash them away” with water, or bury them.
- Clean up spills on dirt areas by digging up and properly disposing of contaminated soil.
- Report any hazardous spills immediately. Call City of Palo Alto Communications, (650) 329-2413. If the spill is entering a storm drain, a sewer, or any other body of water, you must report it to the State Office of Emergency Services, (800) 852-7550 (24 hours).

CONCRETE MANAGEMENT & DEWATERING

Concrete Management

- Store dry and wet materials under cover, protected from rainfall and runoff and away from storm drains or manholes. Store materials off the ground, on pallets. Protect dry materials from wind.
- Wash down exposed aggregate concrete only when the water will run into gutters, streets, storm drains, or sewer lines.
- Keep excavated soil on site and transfer it to dump trucks on site, not in the streets.

Contaminated Soils

- If any of the following conditions are observed, test for contamination and contact the Regional Water Quality Control Board:
  - Unusual soil conditions, discoloration, or odor.
  - Abandoned underground tanks.
  - Abandoned wells.
  - Buried tanks, sludge, or trash.
  - If the above conditions are observed, document any signs of potential contamination and keep them as they are not disturbed by construction activities.

Landscaping

- Protect stockpiled landscaping materials from wind and rain by storing them under tents all year round.
- Stack bagged material on pallets and under cover.
- Discourage application of any erodible landscape material within 2 days before a forecast rain event or during wet weather.

PAVING/ASPHALT WORK

Paving

- Avoid paving and seal coating in wet weather or when rain is forecast. Do not present materials that have not cycled from contacting stormwater runoff.
- Cover storm drain inlets and manholes when applying seal coat, slurry seal, fog seal, or similar materials.
- Collect and recycle or appropriately dispose of excess atrazine grass or sand. Do not sweep or wash it into gutters.

Sawcutting & Asphalt/Concrete Removal

- Protect storm drain inlets during saw cutting.
- If saw cut slurry enters a catch basin, clean it up immediately.
- Shovel or vacuum saw cut slurry deposits and remove from the site. When making saw cuts, use as little water as possible. Sweep up, and properly dispose of all materials.

PAINTING & PAINT REMOVAL

Painting Cleanup and Removal

- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter, storm drain, or down.
- For water-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible, and rinse into a drain that goes to the sanitary sewer. Never pour paint down a storm drain.
- For oil-based paints, paint out brushes to the extent possible and clean with thinners or solvents in a proper container. Filter and rinse thinners and solvents. Dispose of excess toxic materials as hazardous waste.
- Sweep up or collect paint chips and dust from non-hazardous materials, cat litter and/or rags). Dispose of cleanup materials properly.

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