STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN (SWPPP)

The Colston Company, a California Corporation is your consultant of choice when in need of the foremost SWPPP designer in Northern California. No one combines the arts and sciences of civil engineering, landscape construction, erosion & sediment control technology and project schedule like the Colston Company. Our SWPPP designs and consulting experiences includes dozens of California construction sites, including housing & commercial developments.

DO I NEED A SWPPP?

Phase II of the NPDES Clean Water Act requires a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for any project that disturbs ONE ACRE of soil or more. Once construction plans have been reviewed and approved, a "Notice of Intent" (NOI) is required by law before construction can begin. The NOI provide basic information about the site's drainage characteristics and is a signed promise by the property owner to design and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. The SWPPP once filed must be maintained on the job site until the owner files a "Notice of Termination" (NOT), which states that the individual or entity no longer has interest in the property or the project is complete.

The SWPPP must be adhered to at all times and any modifications due to changes in construction sequence, weather, or new information, must be documented. In addition, there are certain fundamental requirements common to all SWPPPs such as training, key personnel identification, emergency response measures, and regular or special site inspections and maintenance of "Best Management Practices" (BMPs).

If your project meets the above criteria, you must have a SWPPP. Should you choose not to have a SWPPP you risk fines to the tune of ($10,000 per day per violation) and the possibility of having the site shut down.

WHAT IS THE TIMING AND COST OF A SWPPP?

The Colston Company can provide you with a proposal for any project within 48 hours. We typically can produce a SWPPP binder, NOI and drawings within one to two weeks. We can also expedite the preparation process in emergency cases for an additional fee.

Project characteristics (i.e., size, drainage conditions, proposed use) will dictate fees to be charged for the preparation of a SWPPP. For example, a SWPPP for a small 5 to 10 acre subdivision would cost approximately $1,500. For a free estimate on your project please contact The Colston Company.

HOW DO I OBTAIN A SWPPP & PROPOSAL?

For more information or a quote on Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans please email Chris Colston at chris@thecolstoncompany.com. Please provide us with the owners & contractor’s information, site address, total acreage, acreage to be disturbed and the nature of the construction activity (demolition, build, drainage, residential or commercial etc.) and an electronic copy in AutoCAD format of the site plan. If you need a quote immediately call (209) 485-1572.
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The civil plans have a SWPPP; do I still need to have one?
Per the EPA and the NPDES, the civil sheet is not a SWPPP. There still needs to be a binder created that can be viewed by an inspector.

What is a BMP?
BMP stands for Best Management Practice. This is either a device or a practice that helps manage storm water and the pollutants that it carries. Silt fence is a BMP, but so is covering your dumpster. Anything that helps control pollution.

Who is liable should I be inspected and found out of compliance?
If you are the contractor or the owner, you are both liable! The owner and the contractor should each have a SWPPP or a shared SWPPP. This document outlines who is responsible for what portion of the SWPPP, but both entities are operating under the same permit.

But what if my subcontractors are damaging my BMP’s and allowing pollutants to leave the site?
If caught, the subcontractors can be fined, but as the owner/operator, you are responsible for instructing your subcontractors and monitoring their activities. The project is operated and controlled by you, leaving you the responsible party.

Can I just install silt fence around the site and be done with it?
There are so many different ways to control erosion and sediment loss. That is why you should consult with The Colston Company for your storm water management needs. Sometimes silt fence is enough, sometimes it isn’t even necessary! Let our expertise work for you.

What should I do if I am inspected?
- First, smile and provide your SWPPP binder, your inspections and your erosion control plan to the inspector.
- Second, call The Colston Company at 209-485-1572
- Third, take good notes when talking with the inspector.
- Take action immediately! If the inspector tells you to put up silt fence, call your silt fence provider ASAP!
- Thank the inspector; remember they are just doing their job, just like you. They don’t want to fine you or shut you down; they just want you in compliance. By making it difficult on the inspector, you just make it difficult on yourself.

So why should I be concerned with storm water management?
There are several reasons, but first and foremost, the surface waters of the United States need to be kept clean for us, your children and your grandchildren! Construction sites are one of the largest sources of pollution. When sediment leaves the site, it takes other pollutants with it, such as fuel, oil, fertilizer and other chemicals. This gets in the water, kills our fish and makes the water unusable. Not to mention the additional costs to the taxpayer, for cleaning out the storm sewer system or dredging the lakes, streams, rivers and ponds in our cities. Keep the water clean!

Project References:
Golden Valley Engineering, Jim Xu; Owner (209) 722-3200
Modern Steel Structures, Bill Coppedge, Owner (209) 537-8985
Mill Creek Development, Trevor Smith, President (209) 948-1401
Ranchwood Homes/Contractors, Jerry Ruiz, Development (209) 726-7800

PLEASE VISIT US AT
WWW.THECOLSTONCOMPANY.COM
TO SEE WHAT ADDITIONAL SERVICES WE MAY BE ABLE TO OFFER YOU