



DESIGN BULLETIN

Division of Transportation Development
Environmental Programs Branch

Changes to the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) Templates

2021 Number 1, Page 1 of 3

Date: March 22, 2021

Changes to the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) Templates

Purpose

The purpose of this Design Bulletin is to outline changes to the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) Templates based on the February 1, 2021 permit modification. This Design Bulletin is intended for SWMP Administrators, SWMP Reviewers, Design Engineers, and all personnel working on projects that have a Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) Stormwater Construction Permit (SCP).

This Design Bulletin pertains to all projects with a CDPS-SCP. These projects are required to follow the requirements of the modified CDPS-SCP and use the updated SWMP Template. Projects in construction should follow the guidance outlined in the Construction Bulletin 2021 Number 2.

A CDPS General Permit COR400000 - CDPS-SCP modification took effect on February 1, 2021. CDOT has updated the SWMP Templates to meet the permit modification. Refer to the Construction Bulletin 2021 Number 2 for additional information.

Changes to the SWMP Templates

CDOT updated the SWMP Templates to comply with the minor changes in the CDPS-SCP. A summary of the changes includes:

Section 1E. Existing Soil Data. The summary of Existing Soil Data now requires documentation of the data source and the description of soil's erodibility and erosion potential. Documentation sources may include Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil data, geotechnical reports, and County Soil Conservation maps.

Section 1F. Existing Vegetation, Including percent of Vegetative Cover. Documentation of the method used to determine Percent of Vegetative Cover is now required. It is recommended to use the vegetative survey transect method. This method is located on the CDOT Landscape Architecture website. An Adequate Reference Site may be required if the project is on a previously disturbed site that has not reached final stabilization with native vegetation.

Stabilization Requirements, from Permit Modification B1. III. b:

“Final Stabilization must be implemented for all construction sites covered under the permit. Final stabilization is reached when construction and permanent stabilization methods are complete. Vegetative cover as permanent stabilization method must meet the following criteria:

- a. Evenly distributed perennial vegetation,*
- b. Coverage, at minimum, equal to 70 percent of what would have been provided by native vegetation in a local, undisturbed area or adequate reference site.”*



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Adequate Reference Site, from CDPHE Final Revegetation guidance:

“If information directly related to the pre-disturbance or pre-existing natural vegetation for a site is not known, the permittee may utilize an “Adequate Reference Site” to account for urban areas that may not have a nearby undisturbed area to reference. An Adequate Reference Site should be one that can be demonstrated to naturally support a plant community similar in composition to the permitted site. While the distance to the reference site is not limited by the permit geographical and ecological considerations should be made to ensure that the reference site could be reasonably expected to support a plant community that is similar in nature to the permitted site prior to any land disturbance. An adequate reference site should have similar soil types, climate, nutrients and precipitation of the construction site.”

Vegetative survey transects and Adequate Reference Sites should be taken within the CDOT ROW. Additional guidance will be provided on evenly distributed perennial vegetation and adequate reference sites in the near future.

Section 1I Allowable Non-Stormwater Discharges. The permit clarifies that discharges to the ground of concrete washout water associated with the washing of concrete tools and concrete mixer chutes are allowed. Discharges of concrete washout water must not leave the site as surface runoff or reach receiving waters. Concrete on-site waste disposal is not authorized by the permit except in accordance with Part I.B.1.a.ii (b).

Discharges from diversions of state waters within the permitted site are an allowable stormwater discharge.

Section 1K Alternative Diversion Criteria. When an alternative diversion method is used, it must be approved by the Division, if applicable. The Contractor is to provide a method statement based on data provided by the Hydraulic Engineer.

Section 1L Alternative Temporary Stabilization Schedule. The SWMP Administrator is to provide a description of the alternative temporary stabilization schedule, if applicable, and identify all the locations where the alternative schedule is applicable on the site map.

Section 2B Flow Arrows. Flow arrows need to include “run-on” water.

Section 2K Locations where alternative temporary stabilization schedules apply. If applicable, add the alternative temporary stabilization schedules.

Section 5B Other CDPS Permits. SWMP Administrator is to list CDPS permits associated with the permitted site and activities.

Section 9A Seeding Plan. A change unrelated to the permit modification is references to the seed calculator were removed from the SMWP Templates and the seed calculator was removed from the Landscape Architecture website. For assistance in developing a seed mix for CDOT projects, please work with CDOT region environmental specialist, biologist, wetland specialist or landscape architect.



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Section 9H Location and Description of Planned Permanent Control Measures. The SWMP must include if permanent water quality is required and provide a location and description. Include references to plan sheets and reports containing permanent water quality design details and data.

Changes to Section 13A.3 Threatened and Endangered Species (unrelated to the permit changes). This section was updated to clarify that only sensitive habitats should be identified on the Site Maps with a note and call out areas to be protected with orange construction fencing to avoid disturbances during construction. Do not list or identify Threatened and Endangered Species on Site Maps or other plan sheets.

Reference Documents

Permit and Modification Fact Sheet #1:

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/cor400000-stormwater-discharge>

[Permit SWMP Guidance:](#)

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/wq-construction-compliance-assistance-and-guidance>

Guidance on Existing Vegetation and Final Stabilization:

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/wq-construction-compliance-assistance-and-guidance>

CDOT SWMP Templates:

<https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/landscape-architecture/swmp/stormwater-management-plan-swmp>

Vegetation Transect Procedure

<https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/landscape-architecture/swmp/stormwater-management-plan-swmp>

Updated Procedural Directive 403.1 “Landscaping with Colorado Native Plant Species and Managing the Colorado Pollinator Highway”

<https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/landscape-architecture/swmp/swmp-references/handouts/additional-references/cdot-procedural-directive-503-1-landscaping-with-colorado-native-plant-species-and-managing-the-colorado-pollinator-hwy.pdf>

[Construction Bulletin 2021-2 - Stormwater Construction Permit Modifications](#)

[All Design Bulletins](#)

Please contact [Pamela Cornelisse](#), Landscape Architect Section Manager, with any questions or comments.