

Introduction

This document provides highway and road departments with direction on preferred BMPs for use in the Lake Tahoe Basin and encourages projects be designed for maximum water quality benefits, specifically the reduction of fine particulate material and dissolved nutrients. While some design suggestions have been made, the author(s) have not attempted to provide detailed specifications. Comprehensive construction guidelines have been referenced where appropriate.

Although the author(s) have made every effort to cover known BMP methods and incorporate new techniques, technologies, and design suggestions, this document should not be considered all-inclusive. Innovative products and techniques approved by permitting agencies are encouraged if they have the potential to successfully treat the constituents of concern (dissolved nutrients and fine sediment).

Much of the material presented in the following chapters has been collected from existing BMP manuals, particularly the 1988 TRPA Handbook of Best Management Practices. The most notable improvement of this document is the inclusion of Field Experience. The author(s) believe this portion of the document is extremely valuable, as it offers first hand knowledge of BMP implementation in the Tahoe Basin.

A chapter on New Technologies has also been included in an effort to encourage the use of new and innovative ideas for storm water treatment.

Another goal of this document is to offer useful information regarding the permitting process in the Tahoe Basin. By clarifying agency requirements, we hope to accelerate the implementation of BMP projects. Although each project has site-specific factors that must be reviewed, if the project has been planned and designed in accordance with this document, the project should receive a quick turn-around from the permitting agencies. To ensure consistency among project applications, a checklist of suggested inclusions has been provided in Appendix I.

We want to stress that this guidance handbook has been designed to be a “living document,” open to improvement and revision as updated information becomes available. At present, the Field Experience section described above is limited; additional input is encouraged and appreciated. The New Technologies chapter will undoubtedly grow and change as different products become available. Other committees are in the process of writing additional sections, including detailed maintenance guidelines and a handbook of monitoring protocols. These documents will be included in future editions. The BMP guidelines described in this document are not fixed. As new research and project experience develops over time, this document will serve as a repository for that information. The author(s) appreciate suggestions for improvement and any additional field experience that the reader may have to offer.

Please direct your questions and comments
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