

Winterization Protocols for Statewide Cannabis Order North Coast Region

Winterization must be completed by the onset of the winter period (**November 15** – April 1). Maintenance of all erosion protection and sediment capture measures is required year-round. Proactive monitoring allows for identification of problem areas or underperforming erosion or sediment control measures. Verification of the effectiveness of all erosion prevention and sediment capture measures is required as part of winterization activities.

Winterization Measures for ALL SITES:

- Cannabis cultivators shall implement all applicable Erosion Control and Soil Disposal and Spoils Management Requirements in addition to the Winterization Requirements below by the onset of the winter period (November 15).
- Cannabis cultivators shall block or otherwise close any temporary access roads to all motorized vehicles no later than the onset of the winter period each year.
- Cannabis cultivators shall not operate heavy equipment of any kind at the cannabis cultivation site during the winter period, unless authorized for emergency repairs contained in an enforcement order issued by the State Water Board, Regional Water Board, or other agency having jurisdiction.
- Cannabis cultivators shall apply linear sediment controls (e.g., silt fences, wattles, etc.) along the toe of the slope, face of the slope, and at the grade breaks of exposed slopes to comply with sheet flow length at the frequency specified below.

Slope (percent)	Sheet Flow Length Not to Exceed (feet)
0 – 25	20
25 – 50	15
>50	10

- Cannabis cultivators shall maintain all culverts, drop inlets, trash racks and similar devices to ensure they are not blocked by debris or sediment. The outflow of culverts shall be inspected to ensure erosion is not undermining the culvert. Culverts shall be inspected prior to the onset of fall and winter precipitation and following precipitation events that produce at least 0.5 inch/day or 1.0 inch/7 days of precipitation to determine if maintenance or cleaning is required.
- Cannabis cultivators shall stabilize all disturbed areas and construction entrances and exits to control erosion and sediment discharges from land disturbance.
- Cannabis cultivators shall cover and berm all loose stockpiled construction materials (e.g., soil, spoils, aggregate, etc.) that are not actively (scheduled for use within 48 hours) being used as needed to prevent erosion by storm water. The cannabis cultivator shall have adequate cover and berm materials available onsite if the weather forecast indicates a probability of precipitation.
- Cannabis cultivators shall apply erosion repair and control measures to the bare ground (e.g., cultivation area, access paths, etc.) to prevent discharge of sediment to waters of the state.
- **All sites shall report winterization procedures implemented, any outstanding measures, and the schedule for completion, within the Facility Status section of their Annual Report, due every year on March 1st.**

Additional Monitoring for Moderate and High Risk Sites:

The following monitoring and reporting activities are required on a monthly basis, including during the winter period (November 15 – April 1):

Observations	Description
Surface Water Runoff	Report any conditions of surface water runoff, including location, duration, source of runoff (irrigation water, storm water, etc.)
Soil Erosion Control	Report any indications of soil erosion (e.g., gullyng, turbid water discharge, landslide, etc.)
Sediment Capture	Report the status of sediment capture measures (e.g., silt fence, fiber rolls, settling basin, etc.)
Erosion/Sediment Capture Maintenance	Report maintenance activities to maintain the effectiveness of erosion control and sediment capture measures (e.g., reinstallation of straw mulch, hydroseeding, tarp placement, removal or stabilization of sediment captured, removal of settled sediment in a basin, etc.)
Stabilization of Disturbed Areas	Dischargers characterized as high risk (with any portion of the disturbed area within the setbacks), shall provide a status report describing activities performed to stabilize the disturbed area within the setback
Material(s) Storage Erosion/Spills Prevention	Report materials delivered or stored at the site that could degrade water quality if discharged off-site (e.g., potting soil, manure, chemical fertilizer, gasoline, herbicides, pesticides, etc.)
Holding Tank, Septic Tank, or Chemical Toilet Servicing	Septic Tank, or Chemical Toilet Servicing Report the dates, activity, and name of the servicing company for servicing holding tanks or chemical toilets

The following monitoring and reporting activities are required on a monthly basis for **ALL MONTHS** until winterization procedures are completed:

Constituent	Frequency
Turbidity	Once per calendar month when precipitation exceeds 0.25 in/day or when storm water runoff from the site is generated
pH	Once per calendar month when precipitation amount is forecast to exceed 0.25 in/day

See Attachment B of the Statewide Cannabis Order WQ 2017-0023-DWQ for details on sampling procedures

- **Although monitoring is required on a monthly basis, reporting of monthly observations shall be included in the Annual Report, due every year on March 1st.**
- Additional details on the components of the Site Management Plan involving winterization plans may be found in Attachment D of the Statewide Cannabis Order WQ 2017-0023-DWQ.