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Biofiltration

BMP MAINTENANCE FACT SHEET FOR STRUCTURAL BMP BF-1 BIOFILTRATION

Biofiltration facilities are vegetated surface water systems that filter water through vegetation, and soil or engineered media prior to discharge via underdrain or overflow to the downstream conveyance system. Biofiltration facilities have limited or no infiltration. They are typically designed to provide enough hydraulic head to move flows through the underdrain connection to the storm drain system. Typical biofiltration components include:

- Inflow distribution mechanisms (e.g., perimeter flow spreader or filter strips)
- Energy dissipation mechanism for concentrated inflows (e.g., splash blocks or riprap)
- Shallow surface ponding for captured flows
- Side slope and basin bottom vegetation selected based on climate and ponding depth
- Non-floating mulch layer
- Media layer (planting mix or engineered media) capable of supporting vegetation growth
- Filter course layer consisting of aggregate to prevent the migration of fines into uncompacted native soils or the aggregate storage layer
- Aggregate storage layer with underdrain(s)
- Impermeable liner or uncompacted native soils at the bottom of the facility
- Overflow structure

Normal Expected Maintenance

Biofiltration requires routine maintenance to: remove accumulated materials such as sediment, trash or debris; maintain vegetation health; maintain infiltration capacity of the media layer; replenish mulch; and maintain integrity of side slopes, inlets, energy dissipators, and outlets. A summary table of standard inspection and maintenance indicators is provided within this Fact Sheet.

Non-Standard Maintenance or BMP Failure

If any of the following scenarios are observed, the BMP is not performing as intended to protect downstream waterways from pollution and/or erosion. Corrective maintenance, increased inspection and maintenance, BMP replacement, or a different BMP type will be required.

- The BMP is not drained between storm events. Surface ponding longer than approximately 24 hours following a storm event may be detrimental to vegetation health, and surface ponding longer than approximately 96 hours following a storm event poses a risk of vector (mosquito) breeding. Poor drainage can result from clogging of the media layer, filter course, aggregate storage layer, underdrain, or outlet structure. The specific cause of the drainage issue must be determined and corrected.
- Sediment, trash, or debris accumulation greater than 25% of the surface ponding volume within one month. This means the load from the tributary drainage area is too high, reducing BMP function or clogging the BMP. This would require pretreatment measures within the tributary area draining to the BMP to intercept the materials. Pretreatment components, especially for sediment, will extend the life of components that are more expensive to replace such as media, filter course, and aggregate layers.
- Erosion due to concentrated storm water runoff flow that is not readily corrected by adding erosion control blankets, adding stone at flow entry points, or minor re-grading to restore proper drainage according to the original plan. If the issue is not corrected by restoring the BMP to the original plan and grade, the [City Engineer] shall be contacted prior to any additional repairs or reconstruction.

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Other Special Considerations

Biofiltration is a vegetated structural BMP. Vegetated structural BMPs that are constructed in the vicinity of, or connected to, an existing jurisdictional water or wetland could inadvertently result in creation of expanded waters or wetlands. As such, vegetated structural BMPs have the potential to come under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, SDRWQCB, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This could result in the need for specific resource agency permits and costly mitigation to perform maintenance of the structural BMP. Along with proper placement of a structural BMP, **routine maintenance is key to preventing this scenario.**

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SUMMARY OF STANDARD INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE FOR BF-1 BIOFILTRATION

The property owner is responsible to ensure inspection, operation and maintenance of permanent BMPs on their property unless responsibility has been formally transferred to an agency, community facilities district, homeowners association, property owners association, or other special district.

Maintenance frequencies listed in this table are average/typical frequencies. Actual maintenance needs are site-specific, and maintenance may be required more frequently. Maintenance must be performed whenever needed, based on maintenance indicators presented in this table. The BMP owner is responsible for conducting regular inspections to see when maintenance is needed based on the maintenance indicators. During the first year of operation of a structural BMP, inspection is recommended at least once prior to August 31 and then monthly from September through May. Inspection during a storm event is also recommended. After the initial period of frequent inspections, the minimum inspection and maintenance frequency can be determined based on the results of the first year inspections.

Threshold/Indicator	Maintenance Action	Typical Maintenance Frequency
Accumulation of sediment, litter, or debris	Remove and properly dispose of accumulated materials, without damage to the vegetation or compaction of the media layer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect monthly. If the BMP is 25% full* or more in one month, increase inspection frequency to monthly plus after every 0.1-inch or larger storm event. • Remove any accumulated materials found at each inspection.
Obstructed inlet or outlet structure	Clear blockage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect monthly and after every 0.5-inch or larger storm event. • Remove any accumulated materials found at each inspection.
Damage to structural components such as weirs, inlet or outlet structures	Repair or replace as applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect annually. • Maintenance when needed.
Poor vegetation establishment	Re-seed, re-plant, or re-establish vegetation per original plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect monthly. • Maintenance when needed.
Dead or diseased vegetation	Remove dead or diseased vegetation, re-seed, re-plant, or re-establish vegetation per original plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect monthly. • Maintenance when needed.
Overgrown vegetation	Mow or trim as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect monthly. • Maintenance when needed.
2/3 of mulch has decomposed, or mulch has been removed	Remove decomposed fraction and top off with fresh mulch to a total depth of 3 inches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect monthly. • Replenish mulch annually, or more frequently when needed based on inspection.

*"25% full" is defined as ¼ of the depth from the design bottom elevation to the crest of the outflow structure (e.g., if the height to the outflow opening is 12 inches from the bottom elevation, then the materials must be removed when there is 3 inches of accumulation – this should be marked on the outflow structure).

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SUMMARY OF STANDARD INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE FOR BF-1 BIOFILTRATION (Continued from previous page)		
Threshold/Indicator	Maintenance Action	Typical Maintenance Frequency
Erosion due to concentrated irrigation flow	Repair/re-seed/re-plant eroded areas and adjust the irrigation system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect monthly. • Maintenance when needed.
Erosion due to concentrated storm water runoff flow	Repair/re-seed/re-plant eroded areas, and make appropriate corrective measures such as adding erosion control blankets, adding stone at flow entry points, or minor re-grading to restore proper drainage according to the original plan. If the issue is not corrected by restoring the BMP to the original plan and grade, the [City Engineer] shall be contacted prior to any additional repairs or reconstruction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect after every 0.5-inch or larger storm event. If erosion due to storm water flow has been observed, increase inspection frequency to after every 0.1-inch or larger storm event. • Maintenance when needed. If the issue is not corrected by restoring the BMP to the original plan and grade, the [City Engineer] shall be contacted prior to any additional repairs or reconstruction.
<p>Standing water in BMP for longer than 24 hours following a storm event</p> <p>Surface ponding longer than approximately 24 hours following a storm event may be detrimental to vegetation health</p>	Make appropriate corrective measures such as adjusting irrigation system, removing obstructions of debris or invasive vegetation, clearing underdrains, or repairing/replacing clogged or compacted soils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect monthly and after every 0.5-inch or larger storm event. If standing water is observed, increase inspection frequency to after every 0.1-inch or larger storm event. • Maintenance when needed.
<p>Presence of mosquitos/larvae</p> <p>For images of egg rafts, larva, pupa, and adult mosquitos, see http://www.mosquito.org/biology</p>	<p>If mosquitos/larvae are observed: first, immediately remove any standing water by dispersing to nearby landscaping; second, make corrective measures as applicable to restore BMP drainage to prevent standing water.</p> <p>If mosquitos persist following corrective measures to remove standing water, or if the BMP design does not meet the 96-hour drawdown criteria due to release rates controlled by an orifice installed on the underdrain, the [City Engineer] shall be contacted to determine a solution. A different BMP type, or a Vector Management Plan prepared with concurrence from the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health, may be required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect monthly and after every 0.5-inch or larger storm event. If mosquitos are observed, increase inspection frequency to after every 0.1-inch or larger storm event. • Maintenance when needed.
Underdrain clogged	Clear blockage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect if standing water is observed for longer than 24-96 hours following a storm event. • Maintenance when needed.

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References

American Mosquito Control Association.

<http://www.mosquito.org/>

California Storm Water Quality Association (CASQA). 2003. Municipal BMP Handbook.

<https://www.casqa.org/resources/bmp-handbooks/municipal-bmp-handbook>

County of San Diego. 2014. Low Impact Development Handbook.

<http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/susmp/lid.html>

San Diego County Copermittees. 2016. Model BMP Design Manual, Appendix E, Fact Sheet BF-1.

http://www.projectcleanwater.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=250&Itemid=220

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Date:	Inspector:	BMP ID No.:
Permit No.:	APN(s):	
Property / Development Name:		Responsible Party Name and Phone Number:
Property Address of BMP:		Responsible Party Address:

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST FOR BF-1 BIOFILTRATION PAGE 1 of 5			
Threshold/Indicator	Maintenance Recommendation	Date	Description of Maintenance Conducted
Accumulation of sediment, litter, or debris Maintenance Needed? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove and properly dispose of accumulated materials, without damage to the vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> If sediment, litter, or debris accumulation exceeds 25% of the surface ponding volume within one month (25% full*), add a forebay or other pre-treatment measures within the tributary area draining to the BMP to intercept the materials. <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Comments:		
Poor vegetation establishment Maintenance Needed? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Re-seed, re-plant, or re-establish vegetation per original plans <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Comments:		

*"25% full" is defined as ¼ of the depth from the design bottom elevation to the crest of the outflow structure (e.g., if the height to the outflow opening is 12 inches from the bottom elevation, then the materials must be removed when there is 3 inches of accumulation – this should be marked on the outflow structure).

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Date:	Inspector:	BMP ID No.:
Permit No.:	APN(s):	

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST FOR BF-1 BIOFILTRATION PAGE 2 of 5			
Threshold/Indicator	Maintenance Recommendation	Date	Description of Maintenance Conducted
Dead or diseased vegetation Maintenance Needed? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove dead or diseased vegetation, re-seed, re-plant, or re-establish vegetation per original plans <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Comments:		
Overgrown vegetation Maintenance Needed? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Mow or trim as appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Comments:		
2/3 of mulch has decomposed, or mulch has been removed Maintenance Needed? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Remove decomposed fraction and top off with fresh mulch to a total depth of 3 inches <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Comments:		

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Date:	Inspector:	BMP ID No.:
Permit No.:	APN(s):	

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST FOR BF-1 BIOFILTRATION PAGE 3 of 5			
Threshold/Indicator	Maintenance Recommendation	Date	Description of Maintenance Conducted
Erosion due to concentrated irrigation flow Maintenance Needed? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Repair/re-seed/re-plant eroded areas and adjust the irrigation system <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Comments:		
Erosion due to concentrated storm water runoff flow Maintenance Needed? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Repair/re-seed/re-plant eroded areas, and make appropriate corrective measures such as adding erosion control blankets, adding stone at flow entry points, or minor re-grading to restore proper drainage according to the original plan <input type="checkbox"/> If the issue is not corrected by restoring the BMP to the original plan and grade, the [City Engineer] shall be contacted prior to any additional repairs or reconstruction <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Comments:		

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Date:	Inspector:	BMP ID No.:
Permit No.:	APN(s):	

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST FOR BF-1 BIOFILTRATION PAGE 4 of 5			
Threshold/Indicator	Maintenance Recommendation	Date	Description of Maintenance Conducted
Obstructed inlet or outlet structure Maintenance Needed? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear blockage <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Comments:		
Underdrain clogged (inspect underdrain if standing water is observed for longer than 24-96 hours following a storm event) Maintenance Needed? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear blockage <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Comments:		
Damage to structural components such as weirs, inlet or outlet structures Maintenance Needed? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Repair or replace as applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Other / Comments:		

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Date:	Inspector:	BMP ID No.:
Permit No.:	APN(s):	

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST FOR BF-1 BIOFILTRATION PAGE 5 of 5			
Threshold/Indicator	Maintenance Recommendation	Date	Description of Maintenance Conducted
<p>Standing water in BMP for longer than 24-96 hours following a storm event*</p> <p>Surface ponding longer than approximately 24 hours following a storm event may be detrimental to vegetation health</p> <p>Maintenance Needed?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Make appropriate corrective measures such as adjusting irrigation system, removing obstructions of debris or invasive vegetation, clearing underdrains, or repairing/replacing clogged or compacted soils</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other / Comments:</p>		
<p>Presence of mosquitos/larvae</p> <p>For images of egg rafts, larva, pupa, and adult mosquitos, see http://www.mosquito.org/biology</p> <p>Maintenance Needed?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Apply corrective measures to remove standing water in BMP when standing water occurs for longer than 24-96 hours following a storm event.**</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other / Comments:</p>		

*Surface ponding longer than approximately 24 hours following a storm event may be detrimental to vegetation health, and surface ponding longer than approximately 96 hours following a storm event poses a risk of vector (mosquito) breeding. Poor drainage can result from clogging of the media layer, filter course, aggregate storage layer, underdrain, or outlet structure. The specific cause of the drainage issue must be determined and corrected.

**If mosquitos persist following corrective measures to remove standing water, or if the BMP design does not meet the 96-hour drawdown criteria due to release rates controlled by an orifice installed on the underdrain, the [City Engineer] shall be contacted to determine a solution. A different BMP type, or a Vector Management Plan prepared with concurrence from the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health, may be required.