

# El Niño Stormwater Prep Checklist

## *for commercial + residential properties*

### INLETS, CATCH BASINS & TRENCH DRAINS

- Inspect the area surrounding curb and grate inlets, paying special attention to trash, debris, leaves, sediment buildup or other items that could block the flow of water into the inlet. Blockages should be removed and disposed of properly.
- If possible, look into curb and grate inlets to bottom of catch basin. Buildup of trash, debris, leaves and sediment could block water flow into stormwater pipes. Action: If catch basins contain high volume of standing water or trash, debris and sediment, contact Seventy1 Environmental for cleanout service.  
*Caution: Do not attempt to open manhole without proper equipment and training.*
- Inspect the area surrounding trench drains, which are often found at the entrances to parking structures or in loading docks. Clear away any trash, debris, leaves, sediment or other items that could block the flow of water into the drain.
- Look inside of the trench drain below the grate. Excessive sediment or vegetation should be removed.
- Look at the natural environment surrounding all inlets, noting ground cover and vegetation, which heavy rain could push towards the inlet and block water flow. [Leaves, dirt, palm fronds, branches, etc.] In some cases, sandbags may be needed to prevent soil from entering storm drain.

### ROOF DRAINS & DOWNSPOUTS

- Roof and roof drains should be clear of leaves, grit and sediment. Downspouts should be clear of blockages. Areas in landscaping where downspouts drain should be able to accommodate rainwater.

### CULVERTS AND CHANNELS

- Inspect concrete stormwater culverts and channels, usually located on hillsides or in landscaping. These channels direct rainwater and should be free of debris, trash and sediment.

### SWALES & DETENTION BASINS

- Inspect vegetated swales for sediment accumulation, especially at the mouth, which could potentially block the flow of water into the swale. Note vegetation condition.
- Inspect inlet and outlet pipes in detention basins. Both should be cleared of any major obstructions like trash, rocks, sediment, debris and vegetation.

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## HILLSIDES & SLOPES

- Contact an erosion control professional for properties with hillsides and slopes posing concerns.
- Install sandbags in areas that are susceptible to erosion or massive water runoff.

## TREATMENT CONTROL BMPs (TCBMPs)

If you have Treatment Control BMPs on your property, it is recommended that these devices be inspected and cleaned prior to and/or during the winter months.

- Schedule additional cleaning service of Filtration Inserts, Downspout Filters and Trench Drain Filters with your stormwater vendor.
- Schedule additional inspection of stormwater vaults to determine sediment and water levels as an indicator of service needs.

## SPECIAL CONCERNS

Inspect loading docks and ensure there is a place for water to go. Drains in loading docks should be completely cleared of all debris and sediment.

Note the grading of paved surfaces to determine where water flows and collects. Low areas without drains are high flood risk areas, and should be monitored.

**Would you prefer to leave the inspection to a stormwater professional?**  
We can help.

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