



A STORMWATER COMPLIANCE NEWSLETTER

TALK ON WATER

August 2015

4 Habits of Successful QSP Inspectors



1. Obtain a water-proof camera.

Very important to take pictures of deficiencies while it is raining.

2. **Keep excellent records.** Keep track of every qualifying rain event.

3. If no water sampling is required because of no discharge or the qualifying rain event occurred outside of normal business hours, **write this** on the inspection report. You'll need to know why a sample wasn't taken when the annual report is filed.

4. **Vary your inspection times** to see how the site looks at different times of the day and week. Example, perform an inspection on a Friday before work is ending to see if the contractor is cleaning up the site before the weekend.

By the Numbers

NAL's

Numeric Action Levels

A numeric threshold against which correction action must be taken.

- **>250 NTUs=**
Turbidity NALs
- **6.5-8.5...pH**
values outside of this range indicate NALs

Upcoming Classes 2015



QSP Training

August 27th / 28th
October 29th / 30th
December 17th / 18th

PDH Classes

July 15th
September 16th
November 11th

In the News



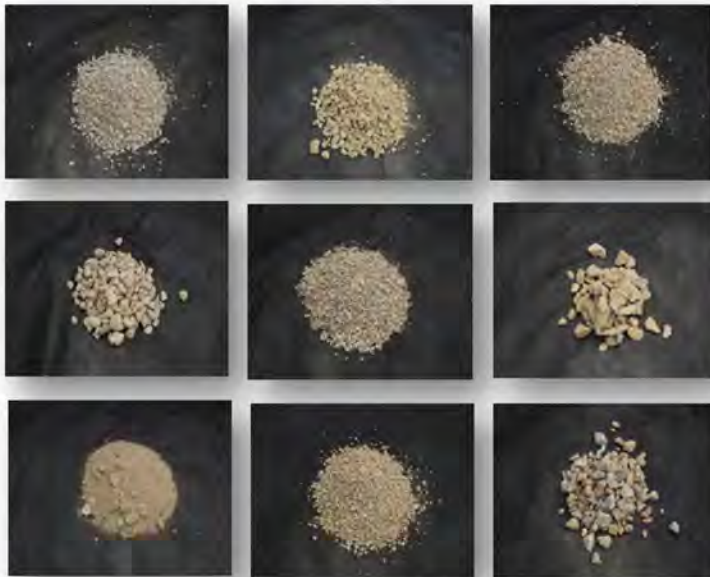
"Why Did L.A. Drop 96 Million 'Shade Balls' Into Its Water?"

In the midst of our devastating drought, some interesting tech is getting deployed. Will El Nino bring more innovation with BMPs?

[Read More on pg 8](#)

BUYING BMP's

What's in your Bag?



Not all bags are created equal, make sure you are not adding pollutants by using a reputable source for your bags. [Read More on pg 5](#)

Conference Dates

CASQA Annual Conference
Monterey, CA October 19th-21st, 2015

<https://www.casqa.org/events/casqa-calendar?month=2015-10>

IECA 2016

San Antonio , TX, February 16-19, 2016

<http://www.ieca.org/conference/annual/ec.asp>

Stay Connected



Forward to a Friend

Get Help With

[SWPPP Prep/Revision](#)
[QSP/QSD Training](#)
[PDH Classes](#)
[QSP Inspection Services](#)
[SMART Filing](#)

Join My Mailing List

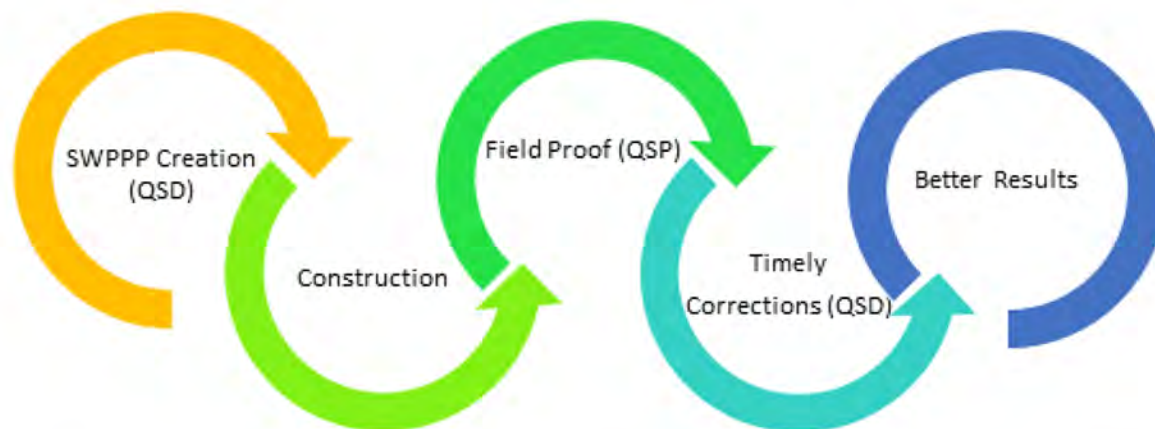
BMP of the Month

Housekeeping



The 2nd biggest red flag for your job site is housekeeping...[Read More on pg 6](#)

Doing it Right



One of the foundational elements of the California CGP is the feedback loop between the trained QSD-Designer and the trained QSP-Inspector.

[Read More on pg. 7](#)

The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly Photo Contest

Provide CAL-Storm Compliance with an original Good, Bad, or Ugly site photo to enter. Monthly winners will receive a *FREE* PDH class and have their submissions appear in an upcoming newsletter!

Contest Rules: Photos cannot be used that do not protect contractor or site personnel anonymity.

Please send submissions, with signed release, to info@calstormcompliance.com



JUNE/JULY WINNER : Alan Parks

From Our Solutions Center

No matter what type of stormwater compliance services you may need, Cal-Storm Compliance, Inc. can guide you through your options and provide quality, cost-effective solutions.

Sincerely,

The CAL-Storm Team
(949) 354-5530

CAL-Storm Compliance, Inc.
info@calstormcompliance.com

BUYING BMP'S

WHAT'S IN YOUR BAG?

- 1.) **Sand,**
Sandbags...keeping water in, or out
- 2.) **Gravel, Birdseye**
Gravel Bags... Slows the water down and allows the sediment to settle out, at least in theory
- 3.) **¾" Rock, ¾" Rock**
bags...Allows water to flow through bags and gives the appearance of compliance.



NOT ALL BAGS ARE CREATED EQUAL, MAKE SURE
THAT YOU ARE NOT ADDING POLLUTANTS BY USING NOT USING
REPUTABLE SOURCE FOR YOUR BAGS.

MATERIAL OPTIONS

1. Burlap, old school, biodegradable
2. Polypropylene, most common, make sure you order 2000 hr.+
3. Monofilament, best for long term projects up to 2 years in the sun

THINGS TO KNOW

Q1: How much should a bag weigh?

A1: 32 lbs. +/-

Q2: What are standard bags usually made of?

A2: Polypropylene, so what is the UV rating in hours?

Q3: How many bags do I need to buy?

A3: Linear distance x number of courses + 10%, e.g.,
1000' x 2 bags high + 10% = 2200 bags total

BMP OF THE MONTH

HOUSEKEEPING

The 2nd biggest red flag on any job site is housekeeping, the 1st being track-out.

What do we mean by housekeeping?

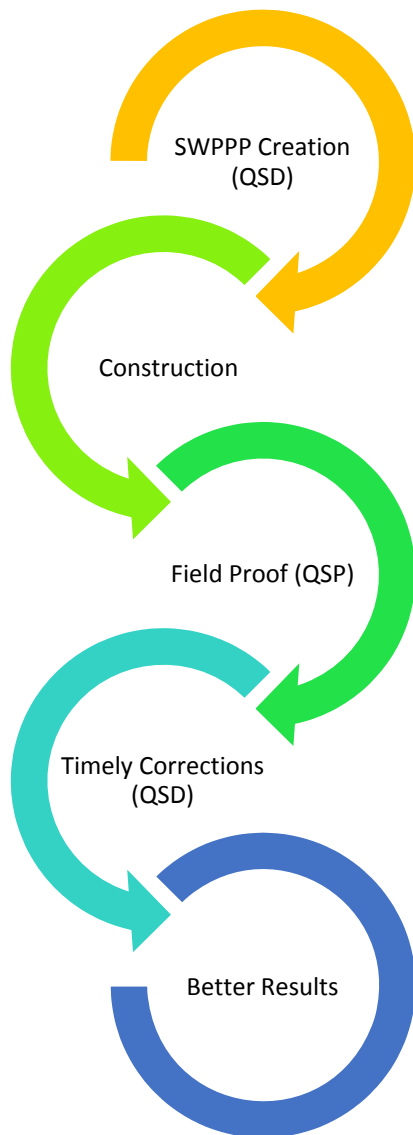
1. Site trash disposition
2. Concrete Washout condition
3. Site materials
4. BMP condition
5. Entrance/Exit condition



Housekeeping is one of those basic issues like track-out that attracts the wrong kind of attention if not maintained. Construction is Controlled Chaos at the best of times and housekeeping shows how your site is judged by both employees, owners and agencies.

From a storm water compliance perspective, housekeeping is one of the biggies, as it is a clear indication of whether you really understand the why behind the requirements, and what your job says about you. A poorly maintained site poses a significant risk of a pollutant discharge as shown above...it rained heavily the next day.

DOING IT RIGHT



One of the foundational elements of the California CGP is the feedback loop between the trained QSD-Designer and the trained QSP-Inspector. The goal is to ensure that the site is compliant and that any issues identified can be effectively corrected in a timely manner. The QSD designs the SWPPP and the QSP provides feedback on what is working or not working in the design so updates or amendments to the SWPPP BMPs can be made quickly. Many years of experience has shown us that field proofing BMPs is a best practice that ensures timely and effective solution to real-time pollutant issues.



http://news.nationalgeographic.com/content/news/en_US/2015/08/150812-shade-balls-los-angeles-California-drought-water-environment.html

Why Did L.A. Drop 96 Million 'Shade Balls' Into Its Water?

The plastic balls, which can save water and protect water quality, are an attempt to cope with California's severe drought.

By **Brian Clark Howard**, National Geographic

PUBLISHED AUGUST 12, 2015

Los Angeles has turned its main reservoir into a giant ball pit.

City officials hope millions of "shade balls" released into the Los Angeles Reservoir will save water in the midst of the worst drought in California history.

On Monday Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti supervised the latest onslaught of 4-inch black plastic balls, bringing the total count to 96 million in the 175-acre reservoir. Located in Sylmar,

the reservoir holds up to 3.3 billion gallons, enough to supply the city with drinking water for up to three weeks.

The city says the balls will shade and cool the water, reducing evaporation from the reservoir and making it less susceptible to algae, bacterial growth, and chemical reactions that can produce harmful substances.

The effort by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) “is emblematic of the kind of creative thinking we need to meet [the drought’s] challenges,” Garcetti said in a statement. (See “When the Snows Fail.”)

The balls cost 36 cents each, for a total of \$34.5 million. The utility has been testing the concept since 2008, reporting that shade balls reduce evaporation by 85 to 90 percent. That should equate to saving nearly 300 million gallons a year, enough to provide drinking water for 8,100 people, said Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitchell Englander.

The balls also inhibit microorganism growth, reducing the treatment the water must undergo through other means. That could save the city \$250 million over time, said Garcetti.

Made of black polyethylene, shade balls are filled with water so they don’t blow away. A coating resists ultraviolet light and degradation. The manufacturers (XavierC, Artisan Screen Process, and Orange Products) say the balls should last about 25 years.

Ed Osann, a senior policy analyst at the Natural Resources

Defense Council, told Bloomberg that the shade balls probably won't release any toxic materials into the water supply. (NRDC has not yet responded to a request for comment.)

Genesis of an Idea

The Los Angeles utility is the first to use shade balls on a large scale. The idea came from now-retired LADWP biologist Brian White, who was inspired by the “bird balls” used to deter birds in ponds along runways.

In addition to the Los Angeles Reservoir, shade balls previously have been deployed on the Upper Stone, Elysian, and Ivanhoe reservoirs. The Las Virgenes Water District is also using them on its reservoir north of the city.

The shade balls are one way Los Angeles has cut its water use by 15 percent in the past two years, in addition to restrictions on irrigation and other measures. (See five things you should know about California's drought.)

Follow Brian Clark Howard on Twitter and Google+.



© 1996-2015 National Geographic Society.