

Stormwater Facility Operation and Maintenance Fact Sheet

► **BIORETENTION FACILITIES**

These facilities remove pollutants primarily by filtering runoff slowly through aerobic, biologically active soil. Routine maintenance is needed to ensure that flow is unobstructed, that erosion is prevented, and that soils are held together by plant roots and are biologically active. Typical maintenance consists of the following:

- Inspect **inlets** for channels, exposure of soils, or other evidence of erosion. Clear any obstructions and remove any accumulation of sediment. Examine rock or other material used as a splash pad and replenish if necessary.
- Inspect **outlets** for erosion or plugging.
- Inspect **side slopes** for evidence of instability or erosion and correct as necessary.
- Observe the surface of bioretention facility soil for uniform **percolation** throughout. If portions of the bioretention facility do not drain within 24 hours after the end of a storm, the soil should be tilled and replanted. Remove any debris or accumulations of sediment.
- Confirm that **check dams** and **flow spreaders** are in place and level and that rivulets and channelization are effectively prevented.
- Examine the **vegetation** to ensure that it is healthy and dense enough to provide filtering and to protect soils from erosion. Replenish mulch as necessary, remove fallen leaves and debris, prune large shrubs or trees, and mow turf areas. When mowing, remove no more than $\frac{1}{3}$ height of grasses. Confirm that irrigation is adequate and not excessive and that sprays do not directly enter overflow grates. Replace dead plants and remove noxious and invasive vegetation.
- Abate any potential **vectors** by filling holes in the ground in and around the bioretention facility and by insuring that there are no areas where water stands longer than 48 hours following a storm. If mosquito larvae are present and persistent, contact the San Diego County Vector Control Program for information and advice. Mosquito larvicides should be applied only when absolutely necessary and then only by a licensed individual or contractor.