



County of San Diego – Watershed Protection Program

Structural BMP Photo Guidance

Now that you have finished inspecting and maintaining your structural BMPs, it's time to take some photos! Before you get started, here are some tips for taking useful photos of your BMPs. Following these guidelines will make it more likely that your BMP passes review, and less likely that you'll need take more photos.

Tips for All BMP Types

- Make sure all BMP components are visible in your photos. It may be necessary to take more than one photograph for each BMP.
- If you have multiple BMPs, it helps to assign them an identification number. You can use the "Record ID" listed on your Maintenance Verification Letter. The Record ID will always follow this format: DPW20##-WPTCBMP-#####.

Tips for Specific BMP Types

Below are some additional tips for specific groups of BMPs, along with example photographs.

Drain Inserts (And Most Below-Ground BMPs)

If your drain insert is installed within a catch basin, remove the catch basin grate before taking the photo. This will allow the County inspector to see the inside of the filter unit, including the basket and any filter media. Make sure to reset the grate after taking the photo.



- Grate removed. **Good job!** ✓
- Filter components visible ✓
- Location of BMP not clear. **Need additional photo** ✘



- Location of BMP clear. **Good job!** ✓



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- Grate removed. **Good job!** ✓
- Filter components not visible. **Need additional photo** ✘



- Filter components visible. **Good job!** ✓

Above-Ground BMPs

For vegetated BMPs and other above-ground BMPs, capture the BMP in its entirety. This may take several photos to accomplish. Make sure to include inlet and outlet points, the flow path through the BMP, and adjacent slopes.



- Portion of BMP is not visible in photo. **Need additional photo** ✘
- Outlet and flow path are not visible ✘



- Entire BMP is visible. **Good job!** ✓
- Inlet, flow path, and outlet are visible ✓



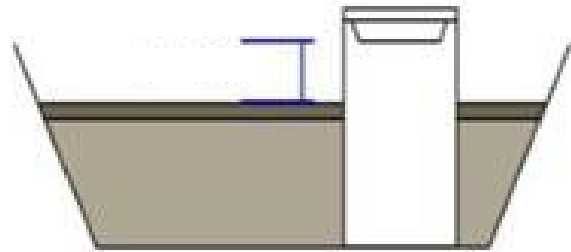
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BMPs With Raised Outlet Structures

If your BMP has a raised outlet structure, make sure to note the BMP’s “ponding depth”. This can be done with a measuring tape. Measure the vertical distance between the BMP floor and the entrance to the raised outlet structure. Snap a picture while the measuring tape is in position and send it in.



- BMP with a raised outlet structure. Ponding depth measurement not clear. **Need additional photo ✘**



- The above image illustrates a BMP’s ponding depth. Send in a photo of the ponding depth measurement being taken with a measuring tape. **Good job! ✔**