

Vegetated Buffer Strip Inspection and Maintenance Checklist

Property Address: _____

Property Owner: _____

Treatment Measure No.: _____

Date of Inspection: _____

Type of Inspection: Monthly Pre-Wet Season
 After heavy runoff (1" or greater)
 End of Wet Season Other: _____

Inspector(s): _____

Defect	Conditions When Maintenance Is Needed	Maintenance Needed? (Y/N)	Comments (Describe maintenance completed and if needed maintenance was not conducted, note when it will be done)	Results Expected When Maintenance Is Performed
1. Sediment Accumulation on Vegetation	Sediment accumulating near culverts and/or in channels builds up to 75 millimeters (3 inches) at any spot, or it covers vegetation			Remove accumulated sediment deposits. When finished, buffer strip should be level from side to side and drain freely toward outlet. There should be no areas of standing water once inflow has ceased. Dispose of sediment properly.
2. Standing Water	Water stands in the buffer strip between storms and does not drain within five days after rainfall.			There should be no areas of standing water once inflow has ceased. Any of the following may apply: sediment or trash blockages removed, improved grade from head to foot of buffer strip, removed clogged check dams, added underdrains or converted to a wet buffer strip.
3. Flow spreader (if any)	Flow spreader uneven or clogged such that flows are not uniformly distributed through entire buffer strip width.			Spreader leveled and cleaned so that flows are spread evenly over entire buffer strip width.
4. Constant Baseflow	When small quantities of water continually flow through the buffer strip, even when it has been dry for weeks, and an eroded, muddy channel has formed in the buffer strip bottom.			No eroded, muddy channel on the bottom. A low-flow pea-gravel drain may be added the length of the buffer strip.
5. Poor Vegetation Coverage	When planted vegetation is sparse or bare or eroded, patches occur in more than 10% of the buffer strip bottom. Replace dead, diseased or sparse vegetation with the same vegetation or vegetation with similar growth requirements.			Vegetation coverage in more than 90% of the buffer strip bottom. Determine why growth of planted vegetation is poor and correct that condition. Replant with plugs of vegetation from the upper slope: plant in the buffer strip bottom at 8-inch intervals, or reseed into loosened, fertile soil.

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6. Vegetation	When the planted vegetation becomes excessively tall; when nuisance weeds and other vegetation start to take over. Treat vegetation using preventative and low-toxic methods.			Vegetation mowed per specifications or maintenance plan, or nuisance vegetation removed so that flow is not impeded. Vegetation should never be mowed lower than the design flow depth. Remove clippings from the buffer strip and dispose appropriately.
7. Excessive Shading	Growth of planted vegetation is poor because sunlight does not reach buffer strip.			Healthy growth of planted vegetation. If possible, trim back over-hanging limbs and remove brushy vegetation on adjacent slopes.
8. Inlet/Outlet	Inlet/outlet areas clogged with sediment and/or debris.			Material removed so that there is no clogging or blockage in the inlet and outlet areas.
9. Trash and Debris Accumulation	Trash and debris accumulated in the buffer strip.			Trash and debris removed from buffer strip. Dispose of trash and debris properly.
10. Erosion/ Scouring	Eroded or scoured buffer strip bottom due to flow channelization, or higher flows.			No erosion or scouring in buffer strip bottom. For ruts or bare areas less than 12 inches wide, repair the damaged area by filling with crushed gravel. If bare areas are large, generally greater than 12 inches wide, the buffer strip should be re-graded and re-seeded. For smaller bare areas, overseed when bare spots are evident, or take plugs of grass from the upper slope and plant in the buffer strip bottom at 8-inch intervals.
11. Mosquito Breeding	Standing water in ruts, holes, or areas of erosion shows evidence of mosquito breeding.			Contact Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District for assistance: 23187 Connecticut St. Hayward CA 94545 Phone 510-783-7744
12. Miscellaneous	Any condition not covered above that needs attention in order for the vegetated buffer strip to function as designed.			Meet the design specifications.