

# ACTION ALERT

Winter 2009/2010

**Improperly Installed and Maintained Drop Inlet Protection has caused storm drain blockage, street flooding and traffic hazards.**



During last year's rainy season the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District observed numerous instances where contractor installed drop inlet protection failed and caused significant street flooding and subsequent traffic hazards. **The use of burlap bags, sand and pea gravel is ineffective and problematic. Laying straw wattles across the throat of an inlet is prohibited.**

Drop inlet protection is designed to filter out only small amounts of sediment and should not be used as the primary sediment control BMP on your construction site. **Erosion control BMPs should be implemented at the source of the sediment runoff problem to keep the sediment on site and off of the streets.**

There are many types of drop inlet (DI) protection available today. The Flood Control District strongly recommends the use of weighted straw wattles, silt sifters and high strength bags for protecting storm water drop inlets. DI protection must be installed seven feet ( $\pm$ ) from the mouth of the DI and secured in place to prevent blockage and movement during heavy storms. See back for detailed guidelines.



## Drop Inlet Inspection and Maintenance Must Be Documented

According to the State's construction storm water permit, you are required to inspect all storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs), including drop inlet protection, **before, during and after** all storm events. If inspection documentation is not kept on site, a notice of violation will be issued and your case may be referred to the Regional Water Quality Control Board for non-compliance. Under the Clean Water Act, permit holders are subject to fines up to **\$10,000 per day for each violation**. Also, City and County ordinances restrict the accumulation of debris and trash in the street and at the curb.

**Vendors of drop inlet protection are listed on the back of this announcement.**



**Fresno Metropolitan  
Flood Control District**

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This picture illustrates one possible DI installation using a weighted straw wattle and a silt sifter that could be used for protecting DIs in a tract development with or without occupied houses. Note that the DI protection is secured to prevent movement during heavy rains (contact the District for recommendations on securing DI protection), and is marked with traffic cones.

The following criteria will help to prevent unnecessary street flooding while keeping the construction site in compliance with storm water permit requirements. Remember, weighted straw wattles and silt sifters are the recommended DI protection.

Place drop inlet (DI) protection in the following manner:

1. 7' from DI opening and 7' of separation when used in a series.
2. Label all DI protection with construction site's storm water permit WDID number and name of contractor.
3. Street barricades are required to mark location of DI protection on streets with moderate traffic.
4. DI protection **should not** be installed on major arterial roads. To protect DIs on major roads, intercept the flow and place the protection in connector streets' gutters.
5. Drop inlet protection BMPs should always be used in combination with erosion and sediment control BMPs.
6. Inspect your site before, during and after rain events. Document your findings.

## Drop Inlet Protection Vendors

### Alert O Lite

2379 South G St.  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Ph. 486-4570

- Weighted straw wattles
- High strength bags for gravel
- Street barricades

### Horizon Irrigation

349 W Bedford Ave.  
Fresno CA. 93711  
Ph. 431-8007

- Silt Sifters
- High strength bags for gravel
- Weighted straw wattles

### Constar Supply

121 Sunnyside Ave  
Clovis, CA. 93611  
Ph. 297-6070

- Weighted straw wattles

### Rain for Rent

2474 W. Whitesbridge  
Fresno, CA. 93706  
Ph. 485-5610

- High strength bags for gravel



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