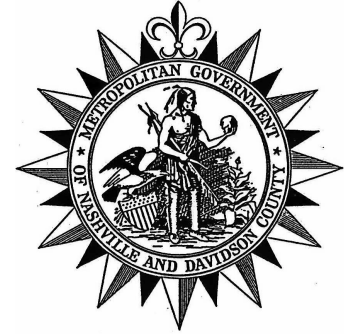
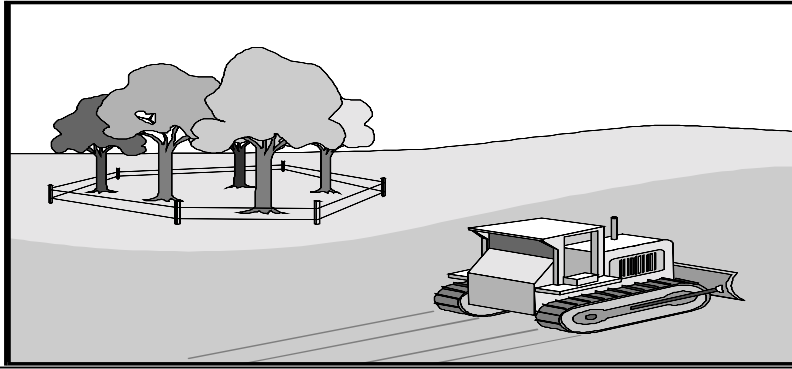


**ACTIVITY:** Top Soiling

TCP – 07

**Targeted Constituents**

● Significant Benefit

▸ Partial Benefit

○ Low or Unknown Benefit

▸ Sediment

○ Heavy Metals

○ Floatable Materials

○ Oxygen Demanding Substances

○ Nutrients

○ Toxic Materials

○ Oil &amp; Grease

○ Bacteria &amp; Viruses

● Construction Wastes

**Implementation Requirements**

● High

▸ Medium

○ Low

○ Capital Costs

○ O &amp; M Costs

○ Maintenance

○ Suitability for Slopes &gt;5%

○ Training

**Description**

Topsoil from the construction site should be preserved and used to enhance the final site stabilization with vegetative cover. This management practice is to be done in support of temporary or permanent seeding and in conjunction with erosion source control practices such as silt fences, mulching, etc. This management practice is likely to create a significant reduction in construction wastes and a partial reduction in sediment.

**Suitable Application**

- Where earth disturbing activities expose subsoil layers that are poorly suited to support vegetative growth.
- Preservation and reuse of native topsoils helps improve the success rate of new vegetation.

**Approach**

- Materials cleared during construction can be economically reused as compost on site.
- Prior to stripping away topsoil, make certain that all downslope sediment control practices are in place and operational.
- Strip topsoil only from those areas that will be disturbed by excavation, filling, road building, or compaction by equipment. Normally, 4 to 6 inches (10.2 to 15.2 cm) are stripped for topsoil use.
- Locate topsoil stockpiles where they will not erode, block drainage, or interfere with work on the site. Use appropriate measure to ensure any eroded material is contained such as silt fences, straw bales, temporary seeding, mats, etc.
- Before topsoil is applied to the site, disk the subsoil to insure topsoil bonding. Apply a minimum of 4 inches (10.2 cm) of topsoil evenly.

**Maintenance**

- If site is excavated down to rock, such as sandstone or shale, 8 to 12 inches (20.3 to 30.5 cm) of topsoil is recommended for good plant growth.
- Inspect areas of newly applied topsoil frequently until vegetation is reestablished so that erosion and damage or vegetation failure can be quickly remedied.

**Limitations**

- Topsoil can wash away if erosion control practices are not provided.
- Topsoil should not be applied to slopes steeper than 2:1 (H:V) to avoid slippage.

**Primary References**

*Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks*, CDM et.al. for the California Department of Transportation, 1997.

*Soil Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Reducing Nonpoint Source Water Pollution on Construction Sites*, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, August 1998.

**Inspection Checklist**

- If the soil does not have temporary seeding, mulch, or netting, is it stockpiled in an area served by sediment control practices such as silt fencing, straw bales, brush or rock filters, or other equivalent effective management practice.