

Standard Operating Guideline – Vegetation & Weed Control

Standard Operating Guideline (SOG)

Title: **VEGETATION AND WEED CONTROL**

District Name: _____

Date Prepared: _____ Date Revised: _____

OBJECTIVE:

- Ensuring effective system-wide preventive and predictive maintenance actions
- Ensure periodic task accomplishment
- Identify potential/actual system problems
- Ensure legal, safe, and consistent handling of hazardous materials
- Maintain canal/ditch water delivery
- Protection of adjacent property
- Minimize evapotranspiration

RATIONALE / PURPOSE:

- Ensure mission capability
- Ensure system reliability
- Develop predictive maintenance programs
- Determine capital improvement budgeting
- Develop loss trend analysis
- Reduce property, liability, and injury/illness loss exposures
- Reduce revenue loss and/or O&M cost
- Ensure compliance with applicable governmental regulations

METHODS / PROCEDURES:

(Note: Listed procedures are intended as guidelines only, and may not be applicable for all Districts or situations).

General

- Reform ditch banks periodically to reduce rodents and weeds.
- Clear debris from bottom or it will make a dam.
- Eradicate weeds to observe bank conditions.
- Remove trees as soon as possible to avoid root intrusion in canal bank.

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- Mow ditch banks/levees (as opposed to weed spraying). Some vegetation helps with erosion control.
- Where applicable keep grasses cut low instead of bare earth, to allow more percolation and soil stability.
- Where allowable, keep native undisturbed ground with weeds that tend to maintain soil stability. Also, these areas usually have less tumble weeds, which are more of a nuisance.
- Use post and pre-emergent weed spraying to control weeds.
- Pre-emergent effectively depends on rain to set in the ground. Water trucks may need to be used where feasible.
- Only persons properly trained or under direction of certified applicators (QAC) may perform herbicide applications.
- All personnel involved in herbicide application, must have a complete understanding of the application amounts and locations.
- When transporting herbicides to and from application site, use the most direct travel route and avoid populated areas, if possible. Note: any amount of product 1000-lbs. and over requires a Haz-Mat endorsement.
- Ensure all unauthorized and/or non-essential personnel are not in the immediate area of application.
- Confine the spray to the target weeds. Avoid overspray and drift to other crops, people, animals, and waterways. Be cognizant of wind speed and direction.
- Only use herbicide products and procedures appropriate for the application.
- Properly maintain and calibrate spray equipment according to manufacturers' specifications.

Inspection

- Inspect banks and levees regularly for weed growth.
- Do complete inspection at end of season, and set priorities for maintenance before next water season.

Clean-up Procedures

- Dispose of any spilled product according to product label and applicable regulations.
- The completely empty product containers will be disposed of in accordance with the product label.

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- Keep appropriate spill cleanup/containment equipment available as necessary.
- Personnel and equipment clean up shall be in accordance with the product label, MSDS, and other applicable regulations.
- Store herbicides/pesticides in a locked and posted area.
- Triple rinse and properly dispose of all empty containers (as indicated on labels and/or MSDS). Do not reuse.

Usage Reporting

- Maintain records of product used and storage inventory.
- Properly fill out Daily Weed Report and/or Transfer Slip (including product and amount used, location, and time of day).
- Submit usage reports to appropriate agencies as may be required.

INCIDENT RESPONSE: [See Canal Failure Response SOG](#)

- Call 911 for major exposures or injuries.
- Administer CPR and first aid.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

An effective maintenance program can help prevent damage to property, environment, and injury to the public and employees by:

- Preclude system and equipment damage
- Preclude property and environmental damage
- Facilitate operations and maintenance personnel safety

Identification of safe work practices among employees should include:

- Hazardous material handling
 - o First Aid/CPR procedures and supplies
 - o Poison Control Procedures
 - o Eyewash and decontamination supplies
 - o Spill and containment equipment
- Fall protection

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- Read MSDS before starting the job. Have a copy of MSDS and label in vehicle for emergencies.
- Follow established safe handling and operations procedures (as specified on MSDS and informational sheet/label).
- Wear all safety equipment (as specified on MSDS and informational sheet/label). Use rubber gloves when handling bait, coveralls, dust cover, measuring cup, and funnel as appropriate.
- Keep all poison in a closed container.
- Before smoking or eating, wash hands with detergent and water.
- Only trained personnel shall handle hazardous materials.
- Watch your step on uneven ground.
- Watch out for snakes.
- Have contact information and communication means available onsite.

COST/ BENEFIT:

- Reduce revenue losses
- Avoid costly liability, property, and injury/illness losses
- Preventive maintenance and loss trend data would reduce facility, equipment, system failures.

INSPECTION FORMS / CHECKLISTS / DOCUMENTATION:

- Training Record
- Daily Weed Control Report
- Pesticide Safety Training Record

REFERENCES:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Levee Owner's Manual for Non Federal Flood Control Works, March 2006, Section 2.6.
www.usace.army.mil/emergency/pages/home.aspx
- California Department of Pesticide Regulation forms:
<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pur/forms/purforms.htm>