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City of Loveland
Public Works

This summer I had the opportunity to work for the City of Loveland's Public Works Department in their Storm Water Division. My internship experience has offered me great experience and knowledge in the field of stormwater. Along with the valuable experience gained at the city, I feel another valuable skill I was able to improve upon was my verbal and communication skills. Having to work closely with the public and fellow employee's, strong communications skills were an essential aspect of my duties.

My primary duties for the City of Loveland's Stormwater Division were to perform sediment and erosion control inspections of residential and commercial construction sites. A sediment/erosion inspection mainly consist of monitoring construction sites to ensure that polluted stormwater runoff was not leaving their property. The most critical concern that I addressed was to make certain that polluted stormwater runoff was not entering Waters of the United States or Water of the State.

There are two main ways that polluted stormwater runoff can infiltrate waterways: through the storm drains or from direct runoff into the waterways. My duties were to inspect sites to ensure that temporary Best Management Practices (BMP's) were properly installed and being maintained in order to ensure polluted stormwater runoff was not being discharge into these waterways. Minimizing the amount of polluted stormwater runoff can be done by incorporating sediment control and/or erosion control BMP's. Sediment control is any BMP that traps soil particles after they have been detached and moved by wind or water. Sediment control measures are usually passive systems that rely on filtering or settling the particles of the wind or water that is

transporting them. Erosion control is any BMP that protects the soil surface and prevents the soil particles from being detached by the actions of wind and water. During the inspection process I would put more emphases on erosion control rather than sediment control because it keeps the soil in place and enhances protection of the site resources. When possible, erosion control measures should be used as the primary protection with sediment control as the secondary control method. Along with sediment/erosion control inspections were the duties of enforcement. The first step of enforcement was to verbally address any issues with the public and give them a time frame to address the issues. The next step of enforcement was to draft a letter compiled of the issues that had not been addressed from the verbal agreement. The drafted letter would list any issues that still needed to be addressed and a deadline of when they needed to be addressed. If any issues had not been addressed by the deadline in the letter then the City of Loveland could issue an Immediate Stop Work Order. A Stop Work Order is where no construction activity can be performed until all the issues in the letter have been addressed.

The time I spent working for the City of Loveland has been very valuable. I am very thankful for the internship opportunity that Colorado State University and the City of Loveland provided me. One recommendation that CSU could improve the internship program is to increase student's awareness of it. I was informed of the program very late in the semester and it put me in a tough situation with other internship opportunities. I also think that it would be a good idea to set up the interview process earlier in the semester. Thanks again for the great opportunity!