

Source: Caltrans Construction Site Best Management Practices Manual, 2003.

**Description** Structures that prevent erosion by intercepting, diverting, and conveying surface run-on (storm water entering the site) to a stabilized area or other sediment trapping device.

- Applications**
- Drainage areas smaller than 5 acres.
  - Direct runoff around unstable or disturbed areas to a stabilized water course, drainage pipe, or channel.
  - Divert runoff to sediment basins or sediment traps.
  - Intercept runoff at point of concentration.
  - Supplement other sediment control measures.
  - Intercept and divert runoff to prevent sheet flow over sloped surfaces.
  - Convey surface runoff down sloping land.

- Installation and Implementation Requirements**
- Firmly compact to minimize erosion and prevent unequal settling.
  - Drain to a stabilized outlet.
  - Drain sediment laden runoff to a sediment trapping device.
  - Ensure continuous, positive grade along swale or ditch to prevent ponding of runoff.
  - Stabilize earth drains or swales with vegetation, chemicals, or other physical devices.
  - Conform to predevelopment drainage patterns and capacities.
  - The design of swales or ditches shall be submitted to the HWY-OM Engineer or Hydraulic Section staff for review. The review will evaluate structural stability and drainage capacity.

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# Temporary Drains and Swales

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## Installation and Implementation Requirements (Continued)

- Design flow and safety factor shall be determined by an evaluation of risks associated with overtopping, flow backups, or washout of structures.
- Evaluate potential run-on from off-site properties.
- Flow velocity limit shall be determined by on-site soil type and drainage flow patterns.
- Establish minimum flow velocity requiring lining (rip-rap, geotextile filter fabric, vegetation, concrete) for earthen diversion devices. Refer to Highways Division's *Hawaii Statewide Uniform Design Manual for Streets and Highways*.
- Incorporate an emergency overflow section or bypass area into the design for storms exceeding the design storm.

## Limitations

- Unsuitable for use as a sediment trapping device.
- Use of additional sediment and erosion control devices may be required to prevent scour and erosion in recently graded swales and ditches.
- Select size and location to prevent unintended consequences such as erosion along steep and unlined ditches and ponding within the travelway or material storage areas. Alteration of existing waterways and clearing of existing vegetation are subject to permit requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state or local agencies.
- Ditches and swales may require check dams or lining to prevent erosion.

## Inspections and Maintenance

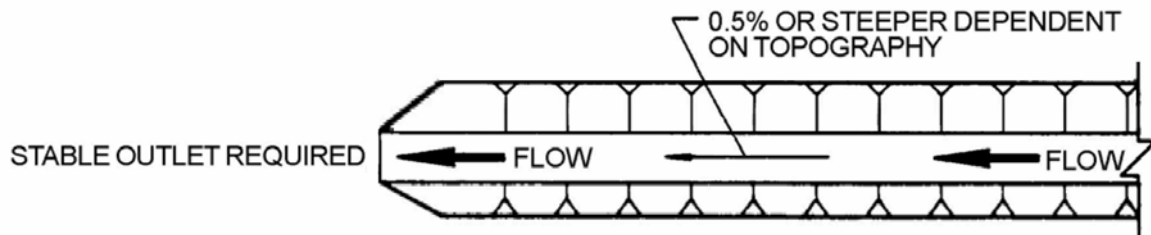
- Remove temporary swales and ditches after stabilization of the surrounding drainage area or completion of construction.
- Inspect swales and ditches weekly during dry periods as well as within 24 hours of any rainfall of 0.5 inch or greater which occurs in a 24-hour period and daily during periods of prolonged rainfall. Inspections shall include the following:
  - Check for erosion along channel linings, embankments, or beds of ditches. Restore all bare areas with the appropriate lining material;
  - Remove accumulated sediment and debris; and
  - Inspect embankments, compacted fills, and earthen channel sidewalls for cracks, washouts, animal habitation, exposed materials and other signs of potential failure. Restore areas with the appropriate materials. Coordinate restoration with the HWY-OM Engineer or Material Testing and Research Section as necessary. The Hydraulic Section shall also be consulted for problems associated with structural design or runoff flow patterns.

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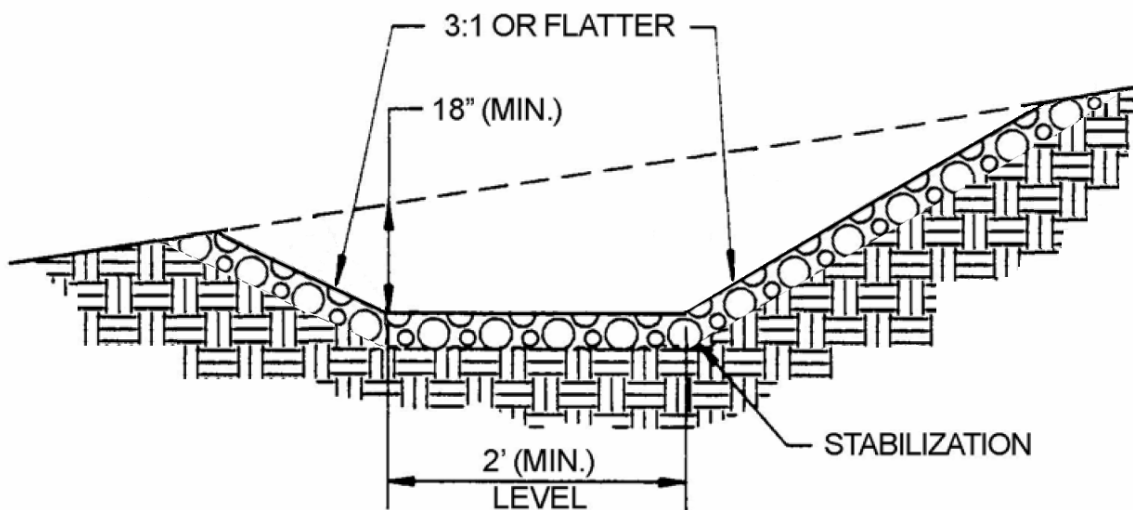
## Temporary Drains and Swales

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**PLAN**  
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**SECTION**  
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### TEMPORARY DRAINAGE SWALE

Source: CCH Best Management Practices Manual for Construction Sites in Honolulu, 1999.