

SEMSWA Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control (GESC) Manual Permitting Matrix (adopted 2019, revised 2025)

	Description	Example Projects	Plan/ Permit ¹
Exempt Activities	Construction Activities ² with no earthwork or land disturbance; projects that are exempted by law, such as agriculture; construction activities with a R-Factor waiver. Activities that include routine maintenance to maintain original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of the facility ³ .	Mowing, cemetery graves, weed control, irrigation, routine maintenance of roads and parking lots with no land disturbance, agricultural activities.	NO/NO
Low Risk Process	Construction Activities ² disturbing less than 1 acre and not part of a larger common plan of development or sale that disturbs 1 acre or more, not expected to contribute sediment to the stormwater system with low potential of causing a water quality impact and/or a violation of a water quality standard. Does not include Construction Activities that have the potential to adversely impact drainage patterns or result in sedimentation of the stormwater system. These projects have the lowest risk to stormwater quality and can be self-regulating via Fact Sheets ⁴ .	Single family homes, utility boring, residential additions, building additions, park and green space projects, residential solar panel installation, building demolition, sidewalks, monument signage, pipe relining.	NO ⁴ /NO
Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Permit	Construction Activities ² disturbing less than 1 acre and not part of a larger common plan of development or sale that disturbs 1 acre or more and meets one or more of the following conditions: • requires a Land use review process; • includes post-construction water quality; • includes public storm infrastructure, projects with impacts to floodplain; • linear transportation and utility projects that don't qualify for a Low Risk Permit.	Road widening project, small commercial infill projects, improvements to public infrastructure, scrape and redevelop projects, park and green space projects, commercial solar panel installation.	YES*/YES *Sketch plan should meet requirements outlined in the GESC Manual
Grading, Erosion, and Sediment Control (GESC) Permit	All Construction Activities ² equal to or greater than 1 acre of disturbance, or less than 1 acre if part of a larger common plan of development or sale, unless otherwise excluded. Construction affecting drainage patterns, floodplain, or environmentally sensitive areas, even if less than 1 acre of disturbance and not part of a larger common plan of development or sale.	New building construction, residential subdivision development, mass grading projects, roadway expansion, stream stabilization.	YES/YES

¹ This is only for the GESC Permit; other permits may be necessary and/or required.

² Construction activity refers to ground surface disturbing and associated activities, which include, but are not limited to, clearing, grading, excavation, demolition, installation of new or improved haul roads and access roads, staging areas, stockpiling of fill materials, and borrow areas.

³ Activities to conduct repairs that are not part of regular maintenance and activities that are for replacement are considered construction activities and are not considered routine maintenance.

⁴ See SEMSWA Fact Sheets at www.semswa.org. For Low Risk sites within the Cherry Creek Basin, the SEMSWA Fact Sheet suffice as an erosion and sediment control plan.