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Earth Day 1997

Hyundai wins environmental award

The Eugene plant has
been recognized for its
efforts to prevent erosion

By Jennifer Schmitt
Community Editor

When Hyundai began construction on their Eugene plant, they had to find a way to prevent soil erosion during construction.

After failing to stop soil erosion at the site and being fined, Hyundai developed an award-winning plan to keep soil and sediment erosion to a minimum on construction sites.

The International Erosion Control Association recently awarded Hyundai with the 1997 Excellence in Design Award for their erosion control plan, according to a press release. The award is given annually to companies that produce plans com-

bining technology with minimal environmental impacts.

The association is a non-profit organization whose members focus on prevention and control of erosion.

Heavy rains and flooding in February of 1996 proved to be the downfall of Hyundai's first erosion-control plan.

"Construction began in December 1995 and that following February was when we had the major flooding around here," said Dan Steinberg, Hyundai spokesman.

"Because of all the rain too much soil was leaving the site. That's when they were fined."

Hyundai then launched a plan to bring the levels of soil erosion below the levels allowed by Environmental Control, Steinberg said.

The plan, which cost more than \$1 million to implement, included diverting runoff water

from exposed areas.

In some areas grass and mature trees were planted to hold the soil, while in other areas straw matrices were laid down on exposed areas of soil, Steinberg said.

"If you go up to the site, there are trees all along the perimeter," he said. "It has more of a campus look to it."

Special filtration systems were installed and storm water detention ponds were created to deal with the rain runoff.

Since the new plan was implemented Hyundai has not exceeded erosion limits set by Environmental Control.

The goal of the project was to reduce soil erosion, and it has been a success, Steinberg said. According to a press release, the project allowed local contractors and agencies to see how a wide range of erosion control methods work.

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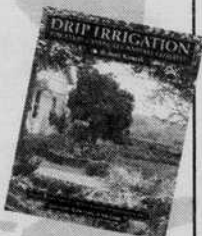
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