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DISCLAIMER

This brochure has been developed to familiarize landowners with the permit process in their County and provide general guidance as to how to get started permitting a stream or wetland project. Regulations and their interpretation are subject to change, and it is the responsibility of the landowner to verify with the regulatory agencies whether permits are required. The RCD and NRCS are available to assist you with this process, but have not regulatory nor permitting authority.



Resource Conservation District of Monterey County

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Guide to Stream/ Wetland Project Permitting for MONTEREY COUNTY

A local companion to CARCD's "Guide to Stream Project Permitting for the State of California"



Creek restoration project in north Monterey County

This brochure, along with CARCD's Guide to Stream Project Permitting in the State of California, provides you with general information about local, state and federal permitting agencies. Analyze your project to determine from which permitting agency you may need to obtain a permit.

WHAT IS A STREAM OR WETLAND?

Each permit agency's jurisdiction is distinct. Generally speaking, an area is considered a stream or wetland by at least one agency if it: Is a solid or dashed blue line on USGS topo map; Has a distinct bed and bank; Flows intermittently, seasonally, or year-round; Contains wetland or water-loving plant species; Has hydric soils.

PERMIT COORDINATION

If your project falls within the Salinas River OR Elkhorn Slough watersheds, you may qualify for a streamlined permitting process — Contact the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County or Natural Resources Conservation Service for information at 831.424.1036 ext.3!

LOCAL PERMIT AGENCIES

MONTEREY COUNTY PLANNING AND BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

240 Church Street Phone 831.755.5025
Salinas, CA 93902 Fax 831.755.5487

YOUR CONSERVATION PROJECT MAY
NEED COUNTY PERMITTING IF IT:

- Is within the Coastal Zone
- Is immediately adjacent to coastal waters, canals, inlets, beaches or peninsulas
- Requires the removal of native trees 6 inches in diameter two feet above ground level
- Requires grading of more than 100 cubic yards of soil
- Grading affects a drainage course OR creates a slope greater than 2:1 OR creates a cut slope higher than 5 feet
- Requires any amount of grading on slopes greater than 30 % (25% in North County)
- Involves building, grading or land clearing that may generate erosion that is at risk of leaving the property — an erosion control plan will be needed

STATE & FEDERAL PERMIT AGENCIES

REFER TO CARCD'S GUIDE FOR JURIS-
DICTIONAL DETAILS OF THE AGENCIES
BELOW

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Central Coast District
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-4508
Ph 831.427.4863 www.coastal.ca.gov/

CALIFORNIA DEPT OF FISH AND GAME

Central Coast Region 3 — Monterey Office
20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940 Phone 831.649.2870
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/org/region3.html>

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Regional Headquarters
501 W. Ocean Blvd, Suite 4200
Long Beach, CA 90802
Ph 562.980.4000 <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL

BOARD — Central Coast Region 3
81 Higuera Street, Suite 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5427
Phone 805.549.3147 Fax 805.549.0397
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3>

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

— Division of Water Rights
1001 I Street, 14th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone 916.341.5300
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/>

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

San Francisco District
333 Market Street
San Francisco, CA Phone 415.977.8462
<http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/regulatory/>

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003 Phone 805.644.1766
<http://ventura.fws.gov/>

Analyze your project by asking these questions below. Does Your Project:	Agencies you may need to contact regarding your project							
	City/County Planning Dept. & CEQA Review	California Department of Fish & Game	State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Quality/Division of Water Rights	Regional Water Quality Control Board	National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Army Corps of Engineers	California Coastal Commission	US Fish & Wildlife
■ Involve bank stabilization or bank erosion control?	■	■		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
■ Require the removal of trees or riparian vegetation?	■			■	<input type="checkbox"/>			
■ Involve planting riparian vegetation?	■	■			<input type="checkbox"/>			
■ Affect native plants, wildlife or fisheries?	■	■			■			<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Result in stormwater discharge into the creek?	■	■		■				
■ Divert or obstruct the natural flow; or change the natural bed or bank of the creek?	■	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Involve repair, rehabilitation or replacement of any structure or fill adjacent to creek?	■	■		■		■		
■ Involve building any structure adjacent to the creek?	■	■		■		■	■	
■ Involve fish and wildlife enhancement, attraction or harvesting devices and activities?	■	■			■			<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Use or remove materials from a streambed (including but not limited to boulders, gravel, sand & wood debris)?	■	■		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Require the disposal or deposition of debris, waste, or any material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement with a possibility that such material could pass into the stream?	■	■		■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Involve the addition of any materials or fill to the stream?	■	■		■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Involve grading or fill near the creek?	■	■		■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Involve a bridge or culvert?	■	■		■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Involve utility pipe lines?	■	■		■		■		
■ Involve a septic leach field near the creek?	■			■				
■ Require a water well near the creek?	■	■		■	<input type="checkbox"/>			
■ Involve work within historic or existing coastal wetlands?	■	■		■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	
■ Remove water from creek for storage or direct use on non-riparian land?	■	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		
■ Require that hazardous materials be generated and/or stored on site?	■	■		■				
■ Involve a land disturbance of five acres or more?	■	■	■	■				

WHERE TO BEGIN?

Step 1 — Analyze your environmental enhancement project using the chart to the left or contact the RCD or NRCS to assess its potential permit needs.

Step 2 — Does your enhancement project fall within the Salinas River or Elkhorn Slough watershed. If yes, contact the RCD or NRCS to assess if your environmental enhancement project qualifies for this "one stop shopping" Permit Coordination Program.

Step 3 — If your project may need permitting yet does not qualify for the coordinated permit program, whether you are unclear or even certain that a grading permit is required by the County of Monterey, your County Planning Department is the best place to start.

Step 4 — Prepare drawings, a parcel map, photos, and civil drawings (if available) defining the scope of your work. Schedule an intake meeting with a planner.

Step 5 — Meet with an intake planner at the Planning Department and have them screen your project for compliance with the County Ordinance. ASK the intake planner the following questions:
 A) What type of permits or agencies will need to review my project? How many permits will I need?
 B) What is the time frame for processing this scope of work?
 C) What are the permitting costs?
 D) Will I need a civil engineer to draw the plans?
 E) Will I need a soils engineer involved with this project and to what level?

Step 6 — If you are doing agricultural grading, ask the intake planner if your project is eligible for an alternative review process or is exempt. If so, how does that work?