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DISCLAIMER

This brochure has been developed to familiarize landowners with the permit process in their County and provide general guidance on getting started to permit 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 no regulatory nor permitting authority.



Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

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Guide to Stream/ Wetland Project Permitting for SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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



This brochure, along with CARCD's Guide to Stream Project Permitting in the State of California, provides you with general information about federal, state, and local permitting agencies. **ANALYZE YOUR PROJECT** to determine from which agencies you will likely need 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 Morro Bay or Salinas River watersheds, you may qualify for a streamlined permit process — Contact the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD (Salinas) 805.434.0396, Coastal San Luis Obispo County RCD (Morro) 805.772.4391 or Natural Resources Conservation Service (both) 805.434.0396 !

LOCAL PERMIT AGENCIES

SLO COUNTY PLANNING AND
BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT —
PERMIT CENTER

1035 Palm St, Room 310
San Luis Obispo, CA Phone 805.781.5600

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
- Involves instream dams or reservoirs
- Requires the removal of trees 8 inches in diameter 4 feet above ground level
- Requires grading of cumulatively more than 50 cubic yards of soil AND
- Excavates more than 2 feet depth OR
- Creates a cutslope greater than 5 ft in height & slope steeper than 1.5:1 OR
- Fill not intended for structures is more than 3 feet depth and does not obstruct or alter the drainage course

COUNTY ALTERNATIVE REVIEW

Agricultural projects in which the proposed grading is necessary and appropriate to support a recognized ag enterprise for the site and uses "Best Management Practices" may use an alternative review through the RCD.

STATE & FEDERAL PERMIT AGENCIES

REFER TO CARCD'S GUIDE FOR JURISDICTIONAL
DETAILS FOR THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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

CALIFORNIA DEPT OF FISH AND GAME

Central Coast Region 3
7329 Silverado Trail / P.O Box 47
Napa, CA 94558 Phone 707.944.5500
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/org/region3.html>

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

SW Field Office and Regional Headquarters
777 Sonoma Ave, Suite 325
Santa Rosa, CA 95404 Phone 707.575.6052
swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD —

Central Coast Region 3
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
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 916.341.5250
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/>

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Los Angeles District 911 Wilshire Blvd, 11 Flr LA, CA 90017 Phone 213.452.3425	San Francisco District 333 Market Street. San Francisco, CA 94102 Phone 415.977.8191
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<http://www.sprn.usace.army.mil/regulatory/>

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ventura Office 2493 Portola, Ste B Ventura, CA 93003 Phone 805.644.1766 ventura.fws.gov/	Sacramento Office 2800 Cottage Way, Rm W-2605 Sacramento, CA 95825 Phone 916.414.6600 sacramento.fws.gov/
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Addresses updated 4.19.06

	Agencies you may need to contact regarding your project							
Analyze your project by asking these questions below. Does 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
■ <i>Involve bank stabilization or bank erosion control?</i>	■	■		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
■ <i>Require the removal of trees or riparian vegetation?</i>	■			■	<input type="checkbox"/>			
■ <i>Involve planting riparian vegetation?</i>	■	■			<input type="checkbox"/>			
■ <i>Affect native plants, wildlife or fisheries?</i>	■	■			■			<input type="checkbox"/>
■ <i>Result in stormwater discharge into the creek?</i>	■	■		■				
■ <i>Divert or obstruct the natural flow; or change the natural bed or bank of the creek?</i>	■	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		<input type="checkbox"/>
■ <i>Involve repair, rehabilitation or replacement of any structure or fill adjacent to creek?</i>	■	■		■		■		
■ <i>Involve building any structure adjacent to the creek?</i>	■	■		■		■	■	
■ <i>Involve fish and wildlife enhancement, attraction or harvesting devices and activities?</i>	■	■			■			<input type="checkbox"/>
■ <i>Use or remove materials from a streambed (including but not limited to boulders, gravel, sand & wood debris)?</i>	■	■		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
■ <i>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?</i>	■	■		■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		<input type="checkbox"/>
■ <i>Involve the addition of any materials or fill to the stream?</i>	■	■		■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		<input type="checkbox"/>
■ <i>Involve grading or fill near the creek?</i>	■	■		■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		<input type="checkbox"/>
■ <i>Involve a bridge or culvert?</i>	■	■		■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		<input type="checkbox"/>
■ <i>Involve utility pipe lines?</i>	■	■		■		■		
■ <i>Involve a septic leach field near the creek?</i>	■			■				
■ <i>Require a water well near the creek?</i>	■	■		■	<input type="checkbox"/>			
■ <i>Involve work within historic or existing coastal wetlands?</i>	■	■		■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	■	
■ <i>Remove water from creek for storage or direct use on non- riparian land?</i>	■	■	■	■	<input type="checkbox"/>	■		
■ <i>Require that hazardous materials be generated and/or stored on site?</i>	■	■		■				

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 Morro Bay or Salinas River watersheds. 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 SLO, 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 Permit Center 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 exemption. If so, how does that work?