

This brochure was developed by the Resource Conservation Districts of San Benito and Monterey Counties with assistance from NRCS. Funding for its development was provided in part from the California Department of Conservation's Watershed Coordinator Program Grants Numbers 3000-513 and 3000-510.

Revised JULY 22, 2002

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.

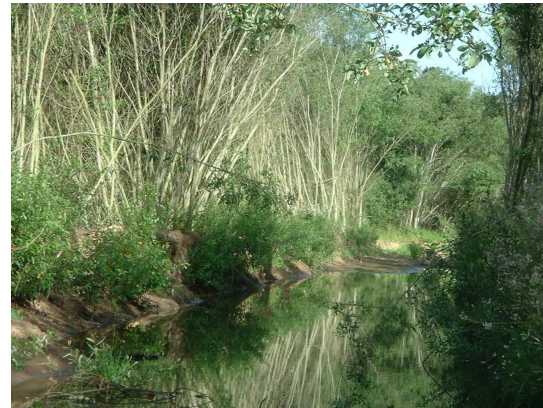


San Benito
Resource Conservation District
2337 Technology Parkway, Ste C
Hollister, CA 95023

Phone: 831-637-4360 ext. 101
Fax: (831) 636-7643

Guide to Stream/ Wetland Project Permitting for SAN BENITO 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 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.

LOCAL PERMIT AGENCIES

SAN BENITO COUNTY
BUILDING INSPECTION AND
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
3220 SOUTHSIDE RD HOLLISTER, CA. 95023
PH: 831.637.5313 FX: 831.637.9015

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER
DISTRICT (Pacheco & Santa Clara Conduits Only)
Phone 408.265.2600
www.valleywater.org

YOUR CONSERVATION PROJECT MAY NEED COUNTY PERMITTING IF IT:

- Alters more than 50 cubic yards of soil
- Alters a natural drainage course
- Is in any waterway, floodplain, or wetland
- Occurs within the riparian corridor
- Occurs within 50 feet (measured horizontally) from the top of the bank of a stream, creek, river or within 50 feet of a wetland or body of water
- Is in official map area of geologic hazard
- Is in an area of recent landslides
- Is in an area exceeding 30% in slope, measured both horizontally and vertically OR includes slopes of over 30%
- Includes slopes of over 10% with severe erosion hazards
- Exceeds County excavation and embankment limits (County grading ordinance 708)
- Requires engineering
- May become a hazard to life/limb, endangers property, or adversely affects the safety, use or stability of a public way or drainage channel

Some routine agricultural activities are exempt from permitting. Refer to the County grading ordinance for details.

STATE & FEDERAL PERMIT AGENCIES

REFER TO CARCD'S GUIDE FOR JURISDICTIONAL DETAILS OF THE AGENCIES BELOW

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
Southwest Regional Headquarters
777 Sonoma Ave, Room 325
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Phone 707-575-6052
<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD — Central Coast Region 3
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
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 916.341.5250
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/>

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
San Francisco District
333 Market Street, room 923
San Francisco, CA Phone 415.977.8191
<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/>

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	Water/Irrigation Flood control District	California Department of Fish & Game	State Water Resources Control Board Divison of Water Quality/Division of Water Rights	Regional Water Quality Control Board	National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Army Corps of Engineers	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 — If your project may need permitting, whether you are unclear or even certain that a permit is required by the County of San Benito, your County Planning Department is the best place to start.

Step 3 — 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 4 — Meet with an intake planner at the San Benito County 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 5 — If you are doing agricultural grading, ask the intake planner if your project is eligible for an exemption or alternative review process*. If so, how does that work?

*Note: If your county does not have an alternative review process, your local RCD or NRCS may be working with the county to develop that program. It never hurts to ask.