



San Francisco Bay Area

Creek and Riparian Area Permitting Guide

If you are doing work in or near a stream channel or stream banks, you must notify Bay Area permitting agencies of the work to prevent fines and to ensure best management practices (BMPs). The permit process is an educational tool for BMPs as well as an above-the-board notification of the work you will be doing. The three main permitting agencies are:

- Department of Fish and Game
- SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Depending on where the work area is located and the nature of the work you may have to notify additional agencies. Your city will also need to be notified about your project. When planning to do light soil bioengineering work, call the Department of Fish and Game first to check if your project needs a permit.

In general, a permit will be required for any work that will 1) substantially obstruct or divert the natural flow of a river, stream, or lake; 2) substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake; or 3) deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it can pass into a river, stream, or lake. Fish and Game Code section 1602 applies to all perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral rivers, streams, and lakes in the state. If you are not certain that your proposed activity requires notification, the DFG recommends that you notify.

The Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application

The JARPA permit is a form that allows you to apply jointly (using one application) to many different permitting agencies depending on which agencies need to be notified of your work. It is the easiest way to apply for your work permits because it simplifies the process and reduces the time spent on permitting. Just check off which agencies you want to notify on the list and your JARPA permit application will be sent to all of them.

Download JARPA at:

www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/sfep/projects/JARPA/JARPA.html

Fees

Using JARPA, fees may be assessed for each of the different agencies depending on the type of work. Generally, DFG is \$154 for any project costing under \$25,000; RWQCB, \$500; Army Corps of Engineers, \$10.

Does Your Project:	City/Co. Planning & Building/CEQA Reviews	Regional Water Quality Control Board	California Dept. of Fish and Game	California Coastal Comm.	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Involve creek bank stabilization or erosion control?	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Require the removal of riparian or other wetland vegetation?	✓	✓	✓			✓
Involve planting riparian or wetland vegetation?	✓	✓	✓			✓
Affect native plants, wildlife or fisheries?	✓	✓	✓			✓
Result in stormwater discharge into a creek or wetland?	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Divert or obstruct the natural flow; or change the natural bed or bank of a creek or wetland?	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Involve building any structure adjacent to a creek or wetland?	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Involve fish and wildlife enhancement, attraction or harvesting devices or activities?	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Use materials from a streambed (including but not limited to boulders, rocks, gravel, sand and wood debris)?	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
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 a creek or wetland?	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Involve the removal of any materials from, or add fill to, a creek or wetland?	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Involve grading or fill near a creek or wetland?	✓	✓	✓			✓
Involve a bridge or culvert?	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Involve utility pipe lines?	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Involve a septic leach field near a creek or wetland?	✓	✓	✓			
Require a water well near a creek or wetland?	✓		✓			
Involve work within historic or existing coastal wetlands?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Remove water from creek for storage or direct use on non-riparian land?	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Require that hazardous materials be generated and/or stored on site?	✓	✓	✓			

AGENCY	ADDRESS	WEB	PHONE
California Coastal Commission	45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000 San Francisco 94105-2219	http://coastal.ca.gov	415.904.5260
California Dept. of Fish and Game	7329 Silverado Trail Napa 94599	http://www.dfg.ca.gov/org/region3.html	707.944.5500
San Francisco Bay Conservation And Development Commission	50 California Street, Suite 2600 San Francisco 94111	http://www.bcdc.ca.gov	415.395.3600
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board	1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400 Oakland 94612	http://swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2	510.622.2300
State Lands Commission	100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South Sacramento 95825		916.574.1862
State Water Resources Control Board	1001 I Street Sacramento 95815		916.341.5486
US Army Corps of Engineers	333 Market Street San Francisco 94105-2197	http://www.spn.usace.army.mil	415.977.8461
US Coast Guard	Coast Guard Island Alameda 94501	http://www.uscg.mil	510.437.3073
US EPA Region 9	75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco 94105	http://www.epa.gov/region9/	415.744.1500
US Fish and Wildlife Service	3310 El Camino, Suite 130 Sacramento 95821	http://www.usfws.gov	916.979.2710
US National Marine Fisheries Service – SF Bay Region	777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325 Santa Rosa 95404		707.578.7513

Permitting Agency Figure

