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US Army Corps of Engineers

Los Angeles District Website

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Application and Permit Process

The permitting process begins with requesting and receiving a geographic jurisdictional determination on the subject property, of your particular project(s), to determine if wetlands or other waters are present, and if the Corps regulates them. If a project will affect a jurisdictional wetland, or other water, then a permit from the Corps may be required.

Useful documents, links, and information about Jurisdictional Determinations, Pre-Application Meetings, Permit Exemptions, Nationwide Permits, Regional Permits, Individual Permits, and the South Pacific Division’s Permit Applications and Permit Resources are available on this page (see down below under Applicant and Permit Information section). Please [contact](#) us if you have questions about any aspect of the permitting process.

Permit Types and Program Overview

There are three basic types of permits: Standard Permits, General Permits and Letters of Permission (LOP).

- Standard Permits are a type of individual permit issued for projects that are likely to have more than a minimal individual or cumulative impact on aquatic resources, require a 30-day Public Notice period, and review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
 - LOPs are a type of individual permit issued through an abbreviated processing includes coordination with Federal and state fish and wildlife agencies, and a public interest evaluation, but without the publishing of an individual public notice.
 - General permits are a type of permit issued on a [Regional](#) or [Nationwide](#) basis for a category or categories of activities when: (1) those activities are substantially similar in nature and cause only minimal individual and cumulative environmental impacts; or (2) the general permit would result in avoiding unnecessary duplication of the regulatory control exercised by another Federal, state, or local agency provided it has been determined that the environmental consequences of the action are individually and cumulatively minor. Additional Information Regarding The Los Angeles District's General Permits can be found below.
- [Permit Program Overview \(Los Angeles District\)](#)
 - [Permit Requirements](#)
 - [Headquarters \(HQUSACE\) Regulatory Program](#)
 - [South Pacific Division Webpage](#)
 - [Regulatory Guidance Letters](#)

Application and Permit Information

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Arizona-Specific Information

- [Special Public Notice: Nationwide Permits for Arizona](#)
- [Colorado River Guidelines](#)
- [401 Water Quality Certification \(WQC\) for Arizona](#)
 - [Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division](#)
 - [ADEQ:eMaps](#)

Nationwide Permit Program (NWP) Information

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issues nationwide permits (NWP) to authorize activities under [Section 404 of the Clean Water Act](#) and [Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899](#) that will result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects. The NWP program is designed to provide timely authorizations for the regulated public while protecting the Nation’s aquatic resources. Information regarding historic nationwide permits can be found on the [U.S. Army Corps Headquarters webpage](#).

Details regarding the 2026 NWP program, including Los Angeles District Regional Conditions and the 401 water quality certification status of each NWP across state and tribal certifying authorities, are provided at: <https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/NWP-Reissuance/>.



Regional Determination (JD) is a two-step process of 1) identifying and locating the geographic boundaries of jurisdictional Waters of the United States (including wetlands) on a property and 2) determining whether those areas are regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Receiving a jurisdictional determination is recommended when planning a project.

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Please find additional information regarding jurisdictional delineations and determinations at the following links:

- [Regulatory Jurisdictional Overview](#)
- [Recommended Minimum Standards for Aquatic Resource Delineation Reports](#)
- [Guide for Recording Aquatic Resource Delineations Using Global Navigation Satellite Systems](#)
- [Wetland Delineations and Regional Supplements](#)
- [Regulatory Guidance Letter 16-01](#).

Information on the current definition of "waters of the United States" is provided at: <https://www.epa.gov/wotus/current-implementation-waters-united-states>. Additional updates on the "waters of the United States" definition may be found at: <https://www.usace.army.mil/missions/civil-works/regulatory-program-and-permits/>.

An AJD form is not publicly available at this time. The Corps' Jurisdictional Determination Request and Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Forms are available at the following links:

- [Jurisdictional Determination \(JD\) Request Form](#)
- [Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination \(PJD\) Form](#)

☐ Permit Application Forms (including ENG4345 and PCN Forms)

- [ENG Form 4345 - Application for Department of the Army Permit](#)
- [ENG Form 6082 - Nationwide Permit \(NWP\) Pre-Construction Notification Form](#)

NOTE: Internet Explorer is recommended for viewing the files at the above links. If you receive an error message regarding your PDF viewer, right click the link and select "Save Link As" to download the file. You may need to select "Enable All Features" to view the form in Adobe Acrobat.

☐ Pre-Application Meeting

A Pre-application meeting is an optional step in the permitting process. Pre-application meetings may be requested for any type of proposed project, but it is recommended for those projects that may be complex and/or potentially controversial.

Please use the following [contact](#) information to call and request a pre-application meeting with the Corps, or email us at Regulatory.SPL@usace.army.mil. All available project information may be submitted at the time of the request.

☐ Regional General Permits (RGPs)

Regional General Permits are **not** available for immediate use without contacting a representative of the Corps for specific project authorization. Many RGPs still require outside agency coordination and submittal of required information. A full list of our current RGPs can be found [here](#).

Regional General Permit (RGP) 63 Emergency Processing Procedures

- [RGP 63 Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations](#)
- [RGP 63 Arizona Section 401 Water Quality Certification \(Non-Tribal Land\)](#)
- [RGP 63 California Section 401 Water Quality Certification \(Non-Tribal Land\)](#)

☐ Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) Watersheds

The Regulatory Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District developed Special Area Management Plans (SAMPs) for the San Diego Creek and San Juan Creek/Western San Mateo Creek Watersheds in Orange County, Santa Margarita and San Jacinto Watersheds in Riverside County, and Otay Watershed in San Diego County. The purpose of the SAMPs was to develop and implement watershed-wide aquatic resource management plans and implementation programs, which include preservation, enhancement, and restoration of aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable and responsible economic development and activities within the watershed-wide study area. Seven studies completed by the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) used geospatial analysis of landscape-scale data to delineate aquatic resources using a unique planning level delineation procedure, generate a baseline assessment of riparian ecosystem integrity, and develop planning tools using the baseline assessment that identified riparian restoration opportunities within the Santa Margarita, San Jacinto, and Otay Watersheds. Final reports documenting the results of these analyses are provided below.

For more information about research and permitting requirements for the SAMP watersheds, [click here](#).

Compliance with Federal Environmental Statutes



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401 Water Quality Certification (WQC)

408 Permit Information

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Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)

The Federal Consistency Unit of the California Coastal Commission (CCC) implements the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 as it applies to federal activities, development projects, permits and licenses, and support to state and local governments. The federal government certified the California Coastal Management Program (CCMP) in 1977. The enforceable policies of that document are Chapter 3 of the California Coastal Act of 1976. All consistency documents are reviewed for consistency with these policies.

- CCC District Office Locations and Contact Information
- Federal Consistency Webpage
- California's South Coast Region Critical Coastal Areas Map

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

The purpose of the ESA is to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. It is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Additional information regarding the ESA can be found [here](#).

- Endangered Species Act of 1973
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) contact information: [Arizona](#), [Carlsbad](#), [Pacific Region](#), and [Ventura](#).
 - USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species (TESS) - search for listings by state, county, region, taxon; critical habitat information and more.
 - Environmental Online Conservation System (ECOS)
 - USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper
- National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region Webpage
 - NMFS Regional Contacts
 - Geospatial Fisheries Mapper

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

Essential Fish Habitat describes all waters and substrate necessary for fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity. All federal agencies whose work may affect fish habitats must consult with NOAA Fisheries. For more information, please visit NOAA's website [here](#).

- California Eelgrass Mitigation Policy (CEMP)

Additional information regarding California Eelgrass can be found [here](#).

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

Activities permitted under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, that may result in impacts to cultural resources listed on, or eligible for listing on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) (NRHP), are required to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA. Additional information and resources can be found [here](#).

Technical Information and Supplemental Decision Documents

Technical Information

- Recommended Minimum Standards for Aquatic Resource Delineation Reports
- Guide for Recording Aquatic Resource Delineations Using Global Navigation Satellite Systems
- ORM bulk upload template (updated 4/13/23)
- Special Public Notice: Updated Map and Drawing Standards for the South Pacific Division (SPD) Regulatory Program

Skip to main content (Press Enter).Standard Operating Procedure for Determination of Mitigation Ratios (QMS Procedure No. 12501)

- [South Pacific Division \(SPD\) Uniform Performance Standards for Compensatory Mitigation Requirements \(QMS Procedure No. 12505\)](#)
- [South Pacific Division \(SPD\) Public Notices and References](#)
- [California Wetland Plant List website](#)
- [Mitigation](#)
- [Section 401\(b\)\(1\) Guidelines and Regulatory Guidance Letters](#) (Provided by COE Headquarters)
- [Memoranda of Understanding and Agreement \(MOU/MOA\)](#) (Provided by COE Headquarters)
- [Statutes and applicable Code of Federal Regulations](#) (CFR) (Provided by COE Headquarters)
- [Corps of Engineers Regulations](#)
- [South Pacific Division Administrative Appeal Program](#)

Emergency Processing Procedures

The most common form of emergency permitting is through Regional General Permit (RGP) No. 63. The standard form for notifying the Corps of an emergency permit action is ENG Form 4345, which can be downloaded above. Information pertaining to applying for an emergency permit, including timing, contents of a notification, mitigation requirements, and more, are described within the following document:

[Regional General Permit 63 - Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations](#)

Please also refer to our latest [Special Public Notice on Emergency Processing Procedures](#), issued October 15, 2019.

Applicants for coverage under RGP 63 are also required to notify and comply with the 401 WQC requirements, linked below:

- [California Section 401 Water Quality Certification for RGP 63 on non-Tribal Land](#)
- [Arizona Section 401 Water Quality Certification for RGP 63 on non-Tribal Land](#)
- [EPA Water Quality Certification on Tribal lands](#)

Our Mission

Deliver vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our Nation, energize our economy, and reduce disaster risk.

About the Los Angeles District Website

The official public website of the Los Angeles District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For website corrections, write to publicaffairs.spl@usace.army.mil



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