



Waterbodies, Property and Permits

Planning to make modifications to your property, even minor ones? Have a waterbody on or nearby your property?

Even small changes in and around waterbodies can require a permit.

Multiple Federal, State, and Regional agencies have jurisdiction over projects undertaken near or within waterbodies. Use this guide to find out which agency to contact for your project. The County of San Diego wants to help you stay in compliance! **Follow these 3 steps to see if you need a permit before you start your project.**

1

Identify Your Waterbody.

If you think you may have one of these types of waterbodies on or near your property, you may need a permit to complete your project.

< ! > You may need to consult with a professional to determine if a waterbody is present.



WETLANDS — Areas that are covered with shallow water, sometimes only periodically, or has soil saturated with moisture.



WASHES | CREEKS | STREAMS — Areas where water either sometimes or always flows from one place to another.



BEDS | CHANNELS | BANKS — River/creek/stream channels, beds, and banks (terrain alongside the bed) are also part of the regulated waterbodies. Even if they are dry, you could still need a permit. Channels are natural or artificial open areas that connect two bodies of water and may have water flowing in them continuously or periodically.



LAKES | PONDS — A large body of water surrounded by land.

Steps **2** + **3** →

2 Determine Your Impact.

Certain activities may require a permit. If your project involves any of the following activities, and there is a waterbody on or near your property, contact the appropriate agency listed below to determine if a permit is needed.



DREDGING — The removal of silt and other material from the bottom of bodies of water.



FILL — Any material placed in waterbodies (or their channels/beds/banks). This includes, but is not limited to, rock, sand, soil, plastics, construction debris, pipes/culverts, and wood chips.



REMOVAL | CLEARING — Land clearing of vegetation or displacement of soil.



OTHER ACTIVITIES — Bank protection/stabilization, construction of road crossings, levee construction, and other mechanized activities.

3 Consult With The Appropriate Agencies.

There are different regulatory agencies responsible for issuing permits. Contact the agencies listed below before you begin a project to find out more. **You may have to contact multiple agencies on this list.** Make sure to have detailed information about your property handy before you call.

Contact The Agency Below If Your Project:

- ▶ **Involves a Waterbody in Any Capacity**—California Regional Water Quality Control Board (619) 521-3364 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/permits/
- ▶ **May Discharge Materials into Waters and/or Includes Dredging**—United States Army Corps of Engineers (760) 602-4829 | www.spl.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory/
- ▶ **May Impact Flow of Waters or Change Structure of the Waterbody**—California Department of Fish and Wildlife | (858) 467-4207 | www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA
- ▶ **Involves Grading or Clearing in Any Capacity (With or Without a Waterbody Present)**—San Diego County Planning & Development Services | (858) 694-2960 | www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds

