



County of San Diego, Planning & Development Services
CLEARING FOR A WELL/AGRICULTURAL CLEARING
ZONING DIVISION

Please ask yourself, are you planning to drill for a well to establish a new agricultural business on your vacant property?



- Are you planning to apply for an electric meter permit for irrigation purposes, or for raising of livestock on your vacant property? This would **require approval** of an Administrative Permit for agricultural clearing;
- Are you planning to clear for a new agricultural business or 20 new trees? This would **require approval** of an Administrative Permit for agricultural clearing;
- Are you planning to build a new house, accessory structure, or do you want to establish a new agricultural use? Clearing for a new accessory structure, or residence pursuant to an approved building or grading permit is **allowed by right** (with limitations);

Applicants are cautioned NOT to clear or grade land for agricultural purposes or any land development unless the appropriate permits have been issued. Clearing of a vacant property to be performed in preparation for an agricultural use or raising of livestock shall not be undertaken until an AD Permit for agricultural clearing has been issued.

County Board of Supervisors' Ordinance No. 10179 ([Grading Ordinance](#)) may require an Administrative Permit (AD Permit) for agricultural clearing of land to protect the County's native vegetation as wildlife habitat, scenery, and for erosion control. San Diego County is known nationwide for the tremendous diversity of its plants and animals and for the number of species that would be considered rare or endangered.

Even though your property may be zoned agricultural, limitations may have been placed to prevent clearing that destroys sensitive habitat and other biological resources prior to the issuance of land development permits; see SEC. 87.506 of Grading Ordinance.

An AD Permit for agricultural clearing is not required if the project is:

1. Clearing for fire protection within 100 feet of an existing house.
2. Conducting very limited clearing for landscaping, surveying, geotechnical exploration, percolation tests, or wells (however, clearing for an agricultural use may require approval of an AD Permit for agricultural clearing).

If you have any questions regarding your AG-project, AG grading or clearing requirements, your well, or livestock, please contact our Agricultural Liaison Specialist Chloe Hird via email at Chloe.Hird@sdcounty.ca.gov, or via Phone at (858) 495-5201. This will afford you the opportunity to discuss with Chloe the "ins and outs" of your AG project and receive general information of the feasibility of the project right up front before you make any major investment in time and money. Please have the APN # handy when you contact our agricultural liaison specialist.