



# Stream Erosion



Streambank erosion occurs when heavy rainstorms increase their volume and velocity beyond the stream's capacity. This results in floods that transport sediments, soils, and uprooted vegetation downstream impacting adjacent property owners.

To recover the lost property by grading and/or filling adjacent to rivers and streams, permission is needed from federal, state, and local agencies. These include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and local agencies (e.g., county, city, or special district). The federal and state agency's California offices and contact information, among others, is contained in the Environmental Directory and their role in assisting property owners is summarized below:

- **USACE**, administers the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 and the Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10. Often, land recovery (e.g., grade/fill) is permissible if the loss of land resulted directly from the storm event. Contact the USACE after the storm event and before beginning work. Inquiries for the California USACE office can be made by email to: [cespk-regulatory-info@usace.army.mil](mailto:cespk-regulatory-info@usace.army.mil).
- **RWQCB**, is a division of the State Water Resources Control Board and is responsible for issuing CWA Section 401, Water Quality Certifications that are consistent with the state Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act for projects that may affect waters of the State (WOTS). Inquiries for the RWQCB can be made by phone to: (916) 341-5900.
- **CDFW**, is responsible for administering the California Fish and Game Code Section 1602 which requires that a property owner obtain a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement before starting any repairs that will affect a stream or lake bed, which includes "dry" and wet stream channels, subsurface streams, and floodplains of waterbodies. Inquiries for the CDFW can be made by email to: [lsa@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:lsa@wildlife.ca.gov).



## Additional Resources

### Websites:

<http://www.spd.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/>

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA>

<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/>  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)



Landowners may be subject to local agency regulations. Contact your local government agency to learn what permits are required.

## Questions?



### Contact:

Environmental  
Historic  
Preservation team:

[recoveryehp@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:recoveryehp@caloes.ca.gov)

