

Waterway Debris Removal Checklist

FEMA-DR-4683-4699-CA – 2023 California Winter Storms



This checklist summarizes select requirements for waterway debris removal projects. **This checklist is not exhaustive, and Applicants are encouraged to further review the [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide \(PAPPG\)](#) and to consult with their Program Delivery Task Force Leader and Program Delivery Manager to determine what additional requirements, if any, apply to their project(s).** The use of this checklist is optional.

Eligible Scope of Work¹

At least one must apply:

Navigable Waterways only:

- Debris obstructs passage of vessels (eligible to a maximum depth of 2 feet below the low-tide draft of the largest vessel that utilized the waterway prior to the incident)

Non-navigable Waterways, Including Flood Control Works and Natural Waterways only:

- Debris obstructs, or could obstruct, intake structures;
- Debris could cause damage to structures, such as bridges and culverts; or
- Debris is causing, or could cause, flooding to improved public or private property during the occurrence of a 5-year flood.

Other Federal Agency Jurisdiction²

All must apply:

- Waterway is not a federally maintained navigable waterway
- Waterway is not a stream for which NRCS's Emergency Watershed Protection Program is also funding debris removal
- Waterway is not a flood control work under the specific authority of NRCS's Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program, regardless of whether NRCS provides funding

Pre-Disaster Capacity (For Engineered Channels, Basins, and Reservoirs)³

Both must apply:

- Applicant can document the pre-disaster capacity of the facility
- Applicant can document that it maintains the facility on a regular schedule

¹ PAPPG, page 104

² PAPPG, page 104

³ PAPPG, page 171

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Environmental and Historic Preservation (also see Cal OES EHP's [Environmental and Historic Preservation Questionnaire](#))

Permits that may apply:

- US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, if work affects Waters of the US
- Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401 Permit, if work involves any discharge to waters
- California Fish and Wildlife Section 1610 Permit, if work involves streambed alteration
- California Fish and Wildlife Section California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit, if work has potential to harm a State-listed species
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board approval, if work is in specific areas
- California Coastal Commission approval, if work is within the Coastal Management Zone

Consultation that may be required:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service, if work has potential to harm a Federally-listed species
- National Marine Fisheries Service, if work will affect a Federally listed endangered species, marine mammals, or essential fish habitat
- State Historic Preservation Officer, if work involves new ground disturbance
- Federally-recognized Native American Tribes, if work involves new ground disturbance

Permits that may be needed for temporary debris management sites:

- Regional Water Quality Control Board Industrial General Permit and/or Disaster-Related Waste Notice of Intent, as applicable
- Local Enforcement Agency temporary transfer station permit
- Local land use permitting

Procurement (also see [Procurement Disaster Assistance Team Field Manual](#))

All must apply:

For all contracts:

- Procurement complies with Federal Procurement Under Grant Standards (see 2 CFR Part 200)
- Procurement complies with the Applicant's own procurement ordinance or policy, including any requirements that are more stringent than Federal Procurement Under Grant Standards⁴
- Procurement includes all required FEMA contract provisions⁵

⁴ Procurement Disaster Assistance Team Field Manual (PDAT Manual), page 15

⁵ PDAT Manual, page 80

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- Applicant takes all applicable socioeconomic affirmative steps⁶
- Unit rate or lump sum compensation method is used, unless time-and-materials is the only suitable option and a not-to-exceed ceiling is included⁷
- Procurement requires a 5% bid bond, 100% performance bond, and 100% payment bond

For contracts up to \$250,000 only:

- Small purchase (informal) procurement method may be used, with quotes from an adequate number of sources.⁸ However, if a local procurement policy is more stringent than FEMA's procurement policy, the local policy should be implemented.

For contracts over \$250,000:

- Either the sealed bid or proposal procurement method is allowable⁹
- Prepositioned contract may be used, if procured in compliance with Federal requirements¹⁰
- Independent estimate prepared prior to receiving bids or proposals¹¹

Debris Monitoring (also see [Public Assistance Debris Monitoring Guide](#))

Required monitoring documentation for all projects:

- Location of debris (coordinates)¹²
- Location of temporary debris management sites and permanent disposal sites¹³
- Documentation that debris is the Applicant's legal responsibility, the immediate threat posed by the debris, and that the debris was deposited by the incident (not pre-existing)¹⁴

Additional monitoring required for all contracted projects:

- Onsite monitoring by the Applicant's staff or a third party debris monitoring contractor¹⁵
- Quantities of debris removed, reduced, disposed, and recycled (by type) with load tickets to support quantities¹⁶

⁶ PDAT Manual, page 59

⁷ PDAT Manual, page 28

⁸ PDAT Manual, page 44

⁹ PDAT Manual, page 45

¹⁰ PDAT Manual, page 103

¹¹ PDAT Manual, page 69

¹² PAPPG, page 100

¹³ PAPPG, page 100

¹⁴ PAPPG, page 100

¹⁵ PAPPG, page 107

¹⁶ PAPPG, page 107