

Post Bond Fire

Procedures For

Emergency Work in Creeks, Rivers and Flood Control Channels

Updated December 22, 2020

This document provides useful information and links to assist the public in ensuring regulatory compliance if the need arises to conduct emergency repairs, debris or blockage removal within Waters of the US or State.

What Work Requires Approval:

Emergency Work in creeks, rivers and flood control channels typically requires approvals from three state and federal agencies, per federal or state law. These agencies are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In an emergency it is much preferred to submit emergency notifications prior to commencing work; however, you can proceed unilaterally if you are confident that a delay would, with certainty, result in additional damage and you have left a message with the Corps (Regulatory Division (213) 452-3425 and at the contacts provided below.

The work should be the minimum necessary to prevent further damage to property, infrastructure or risk to life. Work should be completed in the shortest time possible and minimize the impacts to the environment.

The following guidelines should be followed:

1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Requirements:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers defines an emergency situation as one where there “there is a clear, sudden, unexpected, and imminent threat to life or property demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property or essential public services (i.e., a situation that could potentially result in an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken immediately). The emergency procedures for the Corps for work in flood control channels, rivers, and creeks are contained in RGP 63 can be found [here](#).

The emergency information required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers includes the following information:

- Name, address, and telephone number of the applicant and the designated point of contact
- Project Location
- Brief Project Description and Need

- Description of the Emergency Repair Methods
- Existing Site Conditions and Anticipated Environmental Impacts
- Attachments: Photographs of the emergency situation, location map and exhibit(s)

The Corps notification, with the information above, should be signed, scanned, and then emailed to Eric Sweeney at Eric.R.Sweeney@usace.army.mil

2. State Water Board Requirements:

An “[Emergency Notification Form](#) for Regional General Permit 63 for Repair and Protection Activities in emergency Situations (RGP 63)” is prepared, signed sent to the State Water Resources Control Board (see link to details). For further information on receiving an emergency CWA 401 [Certification](#), please review the link for the Certification program or contact Jason Bill at (951) 782-3295 jason.bill@waterboards.ca.gov

3. California Department of Fish and Wildlife Requirements:

[Fish and Game Code section 1610](#) exempts certain types of emergency work from the notification requirements in section 1602. Although notification is not required before beginning the emergency work, CDFW must be notified in writing within 14 days after the work begins.

This requirement is met by completing the Notify for Emergency Work opportunity in the [EPIMS Permitting Portal](#). For further information and advice contact Jennifer Turner Jennifer.Turner@wildlife.ca.gov

4. A **Completion Report** is required to be submitted to the agencies at the end of the work. Please refer to the respective agency’s’ guidance for reporting requirements.

5. Fees

There may be fees associated with securing the emergency approvals. Members of the public should consult with the respective agency’s web sites for further details.

For technical assistance or questions, you may contact:

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