



Fact Sheet

NORTH BAY WILDFIRES POST-FIRE PERMITTING FOR EMERGENCY PROJECTS

The **San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board** and its staff are committed to working closely with the affected communities to recover from the recent devastating fires.

This document is intended to provide guidance to landowners seeking to conduct emergency repairs to property and infrastructure. It includes important information on SF Bay Water Board requirements and answers to frequently asked questions.

Portions of the wildfires were located within the boundaries of the North Coast Water Board and the San Francisco Bay Water Board. Please determine where your project area is located and which Regional Water Quality Control Board has jurisdiction over activities by finding the project location on the [Regional Board map](#).

Types of Emergency Projects

Emergency projects may be necessary to repair, reduce, or prevent further impacts to property, infrastructure, or streams. Some examples of projects may include, but are not necessarily limited to: erosion control, removal of debris, replacement of road infrastructure and stream crossings, bank stabilization, and creek-side replanting.

Please contact the San Francisco Bay Water Board if you intend to conduct emergency repairs in areas that may be jurisdictional waters, which include stream channels and banks, riparian habitat, and wetlands or for activities that may impact jurisdictional waters of the U.S. and the State.

Governor Brown's Emergency Proclamation

California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued a Proclamation of a State Emergency (Emergency Proclamation) in response to the wildfires on October 9, 2017. The Emergency Proclamation suspends *some* state agency requirements for activities related to safety, cleanup, and restoration projects within the wildlife affected areas. The Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) or California Natural Resources Agency determines if proposed activities are eligible to be conducted under the suspension. Proposed projects submitted to the San Francisco Bay Water Board will be processed as outlined below.

Steps to Getting a Permit or Authorization for Emergency Projects

1. Contact the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) – We recommend that applicants provide the Corps - San Francisco District with notification requesting authorization to conduct work under the Corps Regional General Permit 5 (RGP 5) for Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations. More information on the Corps requirements for notification can be found

at: http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Portals/68/docs/regulatory/Emergency%20Permits/RGP5_2014.pdf. Notification should be sent to the Corps North Branch Chief, Holly Costa via email to holly.n.costa@usace.army.mil or mail to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
San Francisco District
Regulatory Division, CESPEN-R
1455 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94103-1398

2. Contact the San Francisco Bay Water Board - Please provide a copy of your Corps notification to the Water Board (see contacts below) with the following information:

1. The name, address, and contact information (phone and email) of the applicant and any designated point of contact.
2. The location of the proposed project in detail, including identification of any wetlands or waters of the U.S. and State affected. The map should have enough detail to clearly indicate the location and extent of the project as well as detailed directions to the site.
3. A detailed description of the project purpose and need.
4. A detailed description of existing site conditions and anticipated impacts resulting from the project (e.g. size of area where fill will be placed, amount of fill material placed, vegetation removal, habitat loss, etc.).
5. A detailed description of the proposed work and methods used to implement the project, including any plans, drawings, or specifications showing the details of construction, and area to be impacted.

For projects in Sonoma County, please email notifications to Nicole Fairley at nicole.fairley@waterboards.ca.gov.

For projects in Napa County, please email notifications to Agnes Farres at agnes.farres@waterboards.ca.gov.

Notifications can also be mailed to the San Francisco Bay Water Board office at the following address:

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attn: General Certification for Emergency Projects
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

3. Contact Other Agencies, as needed. Some emergency projects may require permitting by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and local agencies, (e.g., Napa or Sonoma County, Cities of Napa or Sonoma) with jurisdiction in the affected areas. Prior to initiating any emergency projects, please also contact these agencies to determine what requirements may apply.

(This Fact Sheet was last updated on Dec. 4, 2017)