LAND USE
NEAR STREAMS

GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Ref: SH-24

Revised: 9/14/2010
Brief Summary of Guidelines and Standards for Land Use near Streams

When should I use the Guidelines?

The Streamside Protection Area shall include all properties abutting or in proximity to a stream, including all properties located within 50 feet from the top of the bank. This area identifies stream resources which may require attention. Single-family units on parcels of 10,000 square feet or less and not requiring permit approval are exempt from these guidelines. When the project is located on a Water District property or a Water District right-of-way refer the project to the Water District for a separate permit.

The “top of bank” designates a stream boundary where a majority of normal discharges and channel forming activities takes place. The top of bank boundary will contain the active channel, active floodplain, and their associated banks. The top of bank of streams with levees will be delineated on the inner edge of the levee.

Link to Guidelines and other Creekside Info for the Property Owner:
http://www.valleywater.org/Programs/CreeksidePropertyProgram.aspx

What use activities are exempt?

1. Any single-family development (on a parcel of 10,000 square feet or less) not requiring permit approval
2. Less than three cubic yards of earthwork
3. Interior building construction and alterations
4. Erection of storage buildings not greater than 120 square feet
5. Replacement of sewer or water laterals
6. Re-roofing
7. Wood fences of six feet in height or less
8. Exterior decks less than or equal to 30 inches above grade

What types of additional materials are required for submittals?

1. Typical photos of the project site:
   a. Top of bank
   b. The appearance and upland
   c. Existing structures and improvements
   d. Stream(s) on or adjacent to the site
   e. Other conditions such as wetlands, streamside slopes, erosion conditions, etc.

2. Information to be included on plans for streamside development.
I. BACKGROUND
The following set of Proposed Guidelines and Standards (G&S’s) was developed by the Santa Clara Valley Water Resources Protection Collaborative (Collaborative) to address land use near streams and protect surface and groundwater quality and quantity in Santa Clara County. A primary objective of the Collaborative is to develop and implement a consistent set of G&S’s to enhance water and watershed resource protection through local agency land use planning and permitting.

The G&S’s are designed to compliment existing regulations, such as the City/County/SCVWD, NPDES provisions, which address some related water quality issues. It is assumed that each jurisdiction will also continue to follow other existing regulations that protect streams and/or surface water quality. The G&S’s are also complimented by a set of Design Guides that provide more detail on the G&S’s as well as a set of Model Enhanced Practices, which outline additional voluntary protective measures for jurisdictions and property owners. These two documents can be found in Chapters 4 and 7 respectively of this User Manual.

II. IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL LINKAGES BETWEEN STREAMS AND ADJACENT LAND
It is important to note that while many of the G&S’s focus on in-stream activities, there is a significant physical linkage between the in-stream and near-stream biological communities that is critical to protect and restore where possible. The riparian systems that border many streams in Santa Clara County provide important habitat for aquatic invertebrates, fish, amphibians, birds and mammals. A number of species are dependent on a healthy riparian system to survive.

Although the G&S’s that follow include some measures to protect this habitat, property owners are also expected to comply with the existing guidelines of State and Federal agencies, which are specifically designed to protect these biological resources. To assist property owners, the G&S’s and corresponding User Manual reference those activities for which State and Federal agencies should be consulted.

III. HOW THE GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS ARE TO BE USED
The G&S’s are intended to be used for the purposes of development review of proposed land use activities for new development, major redevelopment and where appropriate, single family units. In developing the G&S’s, the Collaborative has considered how to make the G&S’s realistic, implementable, and easy to administer. In addition, the Collaborative has considered how to ensure that single family property owners would not be unduly burdened by extensive or expensive reporting requirements.
It is also assumed that when a local permitting agency has in place regulations, standards or guidelines, which are stricter than the Proposed G&S’s, such regulations, standards or guidelines will remain in force and continue to be implemented after the adoption of final G&S’s.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS
Each city/County will need to undertake a process to determine how it will adopt and implement the Guidelines and Standards and related Implementing Tools and then confirm this decision with SCVWD.

Some of the Proposed G&S’s may need to be altered during the adoption/implementation process and it may be necessary and appropriate for each local jurisdiction to adopt modified standards or approaches to implementation as long as the modified standard or approach is consistent with the agreed upon objectives for Guidelines and Standards for Land Use Near Streams. In addition, the maintenance and enforcement issues need to be further developed to determine cost sharing and responsible party.

V. COOPERATION BETWEEN PERMITTING AGENCIES
In those cases, where one agency has permitting authority for an activity that affects another agency’s property or jurisdiction, such as a bridge, the lead permitting agency will consult with the other agency, in a timely manner, when reviewing or developing that project. The cities/County will also coordinate with decision-makers of public agencies not subject to local planning laws to inform them of the intent behind the G&S’s.

VI. NEED FOR PUBLIC OUTREACH
The final set of G&S’s will be implemented through the District and each jurisdiction’s permit and planning processes combined with a concerted public outreach and education effort. It is also understood that these G&S’s may vary depending on property ownership and the existing site characteristics and that the County and the cities will need to balance the goals of the G&S’s with other municipal, County and Water District goals in making land use planning decisions.

V. LIST OF ACTIVITY HEADINGS
I. Riparian Corridor Protection
II. Bank Stability/Streambed Conditions
III. Encroachments between the Top of Bank
IV. Erosion Prevention and Repair
V. Grading
VI. Outfalls, Pump Stations and Site Drainage
VII. Channelization
VIII. Utility Encroachments
IX. Trail Construction
X. Septic Systems
XI. Trash Control and Removal
XII. Protection of Water Quality
XIII. Groundwater Protection
XIV. Flood Protection
3B. GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR LAND USE NEAR STREAMS

I. Riparian Corridor Protection
Applicability of the Following Riparian Corridor Protection G&S’s: The following guidelines and standards related to planting and removal of plants in this section are applicable in conjunction with a development proposal where SCVWD/city/county reviews landscaping plans.

I.A.1 Protection of the Riparian Zone
Enforce existing City/County/SCVWD general plans, policies, or ordinances related to riparian areas, water quality and source water protection.

I.A.2 Protection of the Riparian Zone
Develop criteria to determine allowable uses within riparian corridor and develop measures to protect existing riparian areas.

I.A.3 Protection of the Riparian Zone
Adopt, as appropriate, riparian corridor buffers consistent with onsite biotic conditions, which may be determined by a qualified professional to protect existing riparian habitat. Sensitive habitat areas should be identified and assigned appropriate buffers.

I.A.4 Environmental and Water Quality
Supplement CEQA guidance and checklist to include environmental impacts relative to temperature and water quality for aquatic life.

I.B. Native Plant Removal
Native riparian vegetation is not allowed to be removed unless there is a threat to public health and safety including an imminent danger of induced flooding and/or a biologist/arborist confirms that it will improve the stream ecology or habitat. If vegetation is proposed for removal in conjunction with a development project, mitigation will be provided as defined through the CEQA process and as agreed to by the local agencies and appropriate regulatory agencies.

I.C. Planting
Non-native species are not allowed to be planted between top of banks, or within an existing riparian corridor unless approved by appropriate state and federal regulatory agencies. Non-native invasive species are not allowed to be planted adjacent to an existing riparian corridor. Recommend watershed specific natives for major development restoration landscaping.

I.C2. Planting of Invasive Species
Encourage removal of and do not plant invasive species.

I.C3. Planting Within Tops of Banks
Planting appropriate vegetation between top of banks as an alternative to hardscape bank protection to promote bank stability, improve habitat, and provide other water quality benefits is encouraged if it does not reduce channel capacity significantly below design flows.

I.C4. Planting on Levees
No trees may be planted on a levee unless additional fill is placed against the levee.
I.C5. Planting Next to Water Supply Pipelines
Trees must not be planted within easement or right-of-way of SCVWD water supply pipelines or the minimum required by other jurisdictions, as appropriate.

I.D. Irrigation
Irrigation runoff must not be allowed to cause erosion. If within outboard levee slope, irrigation must be bubbler or drip-type systems, and must be used for establishment purposes only. No main lines may be installed in levees.

I.D2. Irrigation and Planting
Follow efficient water use landscape ordinance requirements for drought tolerant plants and water conservation.

I.E. Pesticide and Herbicide Use
Use of pesticides and delineation of responsibility for maintenance on District property or easements shall be conducted as defined by current practice.

I.F. Post-Construction Water Quality
Include post construction water quality mitigation measures in proposed development conditions.

I.G. Land Uses Next to Riparian Corridors/Streams:
Avoid locating loading docks, trash enclosures, chemical storage areas and stationary noise producing mechanical equipment next to streams and riparian corridors.

Refrain from locating new paved areas, active recreational areas, agricultural growing areas and grazing activities within riparian corridors.

I.H. Light
Avoid bright colors and glossy or glare producing building finishes on structures facing the stream or riparian areas. Avoid nighttime lighting in riparian corridors, direct lighting away from riparian corridor and maximize distance of lighting from riparian corridor.

I.I. Monitoring
For projects subject to mitigation/monitoring requirements, riparian plantings for mitigation and bank repair/protection projects will be monitored to ensure successful establishment.

I.J. Protection of Fish and Aquatic Life
Preserve in and near-stream riparian vegetation whose canopies provide shade and nutrients for aquatic life.

I.J2. Protection of Fish and Aquatic Life
Protect/maintain stream characteristics suitable for fish habitat, including riffles, pools, gravel beds, stable undercut banks, overhanging vegetation & in-stream woody debris.
II. BANK STABILITY/STREAMBED CONDITIONS

II.A Slope Stability Requirements for New and Major Redevelopment

Background: Slope stability requirements for watercourses will be determined based on geomorphic and hydrologic conditions, the bank’s physical characteristics, such as composition and height, the potential for instability or erosion, other environmental considerations, structure loading and flood potential as determined by the applicant’s engineer. Construction activities proposed below the top of bank and/or in the riparian corridor are subject to review and permit authorization from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Department of Fish and Game, and in most cases, the US Army Corps of Engineers and their Federal consulting agencies.

II.B Bank Stability for Structures Built Near Streams

Establish a bank stability requirement or trigger that applies to construction of new roads, parking lots, pools, and structures subject to the UBC. The bank stability requirement or trigger should be measured from top of bank and should be based upon stream characteristics including protection of existing riparian vegetation, natural or modified streams banks, and condition of bank.

For all new development and major redevelopment, the slope stability trigger will be set to be the greater of:

1) 2 to 1 structural slope stability requirement or trigger (This is measured using a hypothetical 2 horizontal to 1 vertical line projected from the toe of bank to a point where it intersects the adjacent ground.) The protection area should allow for construction access and access around the structure. For banks of larger streams, or for streams that are deeply incised or have highly erodable banks, a permitting agency may need to increase the protection area or trigger area in order to protect water quality and other resources.

2) 20 feet from top of bank or property line

For construction proposed within the protection area or trigger area, the applicant would need to:

(1) conduct a stability analysis by stream type and demonstrate that development would not require introduction of hardscape in order to maintain active floodplain or active channel slope

(2) show how maintenance or repair of the stream could be provided

II.B.2 Bank Stability for Structures Built Near Streams

Supplement CEQA guidance and checklist to include stream stability impacts from and to proposed development project.
II.C. Flood Protection for Structures Built Near Streams
Structures will meet FEMA requirements if within a special flood hazard area. Refer to SCVWD Watershed Stewardship Plans and verify with SCVWD the status of any planned or anticipated flood protection projects and their right of way requirements. SCVWD may request dedication of land rights for flood protection or maintenance access in conjunction with new or redevelopment projects.

For levee sections, recommend 18 to 25 foot building setback from toe of levee.

EXCEPTION: Exceptions are allowed as consistent with City or County flood hazard ordinances.

II.D. Slope Stability Requirements for Single Family Units
The Purpose of Slope Stability Requirement For Single Family Units: Structures built near streams may negatively affect streams and streamside resources as well as the structure itself. Some potential issues include:

1. Adverse effects on streamside slopes, including effects on slope stability and erosion, and related hazards to structures built on streamside properties
2. Adverse effects on flood control facilities and related infrastructure
3. Adverse effects on local drainage facilities and related infrastructure
4. Adverse effects on riparian corridors and associated vegetation and related erosion impacts
5. Adverse effects to streams, including the effects of downslope sedimentation and altered stream hydrology, and related impacts to water quality in streams
6. The structure itself can be undermined over time as the streambank erodes due to the dynamic nature of the stream resulting in health and safety hazards

The following Slope Stability Requirements are intended to serve
as development standards, that when used, will help enable the location of structures on streamside properties in a manner that avoids or minimizes impacts to streams, streamside natural resources, flood control facilities, local infrastructure and the structure itself.

**Slope Stability Requirements as a ‘Geotechnical Trigger’ for Permit Review**

If a structure is proposed to be located closer to the Top of Bank than indicated by the following Slope Stability Requirements, this may serve as a trigger for local permitting agencies to require site-specific technical information related to precise slope conditions. If a property owner is proposing to place structures closer to a streamside slope than allowed by the Slope Stability Requirements, the permitting agency should require further study of on-site geotechnical soil and slope stability conditions. The purpose of the study is to determine:

1. whether or not the location of a proposed structure may threaten bank stability, and
2. whether or not the bank instability may threaten structures and/or potentially cause a health and safety hazard.

For banks of larger streams, or for streams that are deeply incised or have highly erodable banks, a permitting agency may need to require on-site geotechnical analyses even if the Slope Stability Requirement are met.
II. E. Slope Stability Protection Area for Single-Family Units

The “Slope Stability Protection Area” is an area between a structure and the stream. In some cases, a range of numbers is indicated. The assumption is that each local jurisdiction will select one of the numbers based on their existing priorities, permitting processes, and on-site conditions. It is also assumed that the channel depth of most streams in urban Santa Clara County is 10 feet deep or less. For streams, deeper than 10 feet, there should be a 2 to 1 protection area as measured from the toe of the bank.

**Stability Protection Area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream with Little or No Hardening</th>
<th>Structurally Engineered System</th>
<th>Ephemeral Stream</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size of Protection Area (as measured from Top of Bank)</td>
<td>25 – 20 ft.</td>
<td>15 ft.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Potential Additions to the Slope

A. For a large lot (greater than 10,000 sq. ft), add 5 feet.

B. For a large home in which the FAR triggers a discretionary review, work with applicant to ensure that impacts such as drainage are redirected away from a stream and pursue opportunities to increase the slope stability protection area to better protect the stream (and home) from impacts. For example, consider decreasing the required front yard setback in order to accommodate an increased rear yard setback/slope stability area.

---

1 Single Family Unit refers to both (a) new single family units on existing lots of record and (b) new single family remodels/rebuilds as defined by local regulations/policy/guidelines.

2 In addition to protecting this area, BMP’s should be used that are reflective of Guidelines and Standards, for activities adjacent to these areas where discretionary review is used (i.e. redirecting drainage away from the stream and no removal of native riparian plants).

3 A “structurally engineered system” is designed to provide slope stability. It may be a concrete-lined channel (U-frame or trapezoidal) or a stream substantially modified with riprap, gabions, structurally engineered sacked concrete, etc.

4 Area measured for Slope Stability Requirement to be measured based on location of Top of Bank, whether stream is on or off of property.
III. ENCROACHMENTS BETWEEN THE TOP OF BANK

Related Resource Agency Permits: In addition to the G&S’s below, any construction activities proposed below the top of bank are subject to review and permit authorization from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game, and in most cases, the US Army Corps of Engineers and their Federal consulting agencies. Applicants may choose to complete a JARPA (Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application) if permits are required from more than one Resource Agency.

III.A Overhang Top of Bank
1. Decks, pathways, buildings or any other structures (excluding road crossings, outfalls, and bank protection structures) may not overhang or encroach beyond or within the top of bank.

2. When illegal structures are identified, which cause public health and safety problems and/or damage to stream resources, appropriate jurisdiction should take actions to have them removed or modified.

III.B1. Design/Construction Related to Encroachment between the Top of Bank
The construction of clear span structures is preferred for new and replacement bridges. Bridge piers may be allowed if length of span makes clear span infeasible as determined by the local jurisdiction.

III.B2. Design/Construction Related to Encroachments between the Top of Bank
If a structure must be placed in the active channel due to structural requirements, feasibility, or otherwise, a geomorphic, biological impacts, and/or hydraulic analysis will be required and will be reviewed by SCVWD and other state and federal agencies. For construction of new bridges, loss of riparian, or aquatic habitat beneath the bridge should be mitigated and located as close to the new bridge as possible.

III.B3. Design/Construction Related to Encroachments between the Top of Bank
Have footings and pile caps that are designed based on channel scour to prevent erosion. The appropriate foundation depth should be determined by a licensed engineer and should be at minimum three (3) feet below active channel invert.

If depth of waterway allows, clearance under the bridge should be a minimum 12 feet for maintenance access or access to the stream should be provided from road.

III.B4. Design/Construction Related to Encroachment between the Top of Bank
Structures must not reduce the active channel or active floodplains’ conveyance area or redirect flow to the detriment of another bank or the river bed. Designs in SCVWD jurisdictional areas must be capable of conveying 100-year design flow and meet SCVWD’s freeboard requirements explained in Design Guides.
**III.B5. Design/Construction Related to Encroachments between the Top of Bank**

Encroachments in active channels and active floodplains must provide for fish passage and not impact aquatic life.

**EXCEPTION:** Consideration of exceptions for fisheries impacts must be coordinated with NMFS, USFWS, CDFG, RWQCB and would require biological impacts analysis as well as a Streambed Alternation Agreement.

**III.C. Water Rights Related to Encroachments between the Top of Bank**

SCVWD permits required for diversion of surface water (removal of water from stream) in areas where District releases water to stream. Construction-related water diversions must also conform to DFG water diversion guidelines, and are subject to a biological assessment.

**EXCEPTION:** Stream owners may have riparian rights to water in stream. Owners must file statements with State Water Resources Control Board.
Related Resource Agency Permits: In addition to the G&S’s below, any activity that may impact a watercourse requires at minimum notification to the Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game, and in most cases, the US Army Corps of Engineers and their Federal consulting agencies. Applicants may choose to complete a JARPA (Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application) if permits are required from more than one Resource Agency.

IV. EROSION PREVENTION AND REPAIR

IV.A. Erosion Repair

IV.A. 1. Root cause of erosion
Where known, the root cause and extent of any erosion must be identified, described and reported to the appropriate agency or agencies prior to any attempts to repair erosion site.

IV.A. 2. Remediation of erosion
Property owner to remediate source of erosion if onsite.

IV.A. 3. Evaluation of effects of adjacent properties
All repair project proposals should include an evaluation for the potential impacts on both downstream and upstream banks.

IV.A. 4. Evaluation of impacts on channel dynamics
If erosion protection extends into active channel, evaluate post construction erosion potential due to change in stream dynamics caused by design.

IV.A. 5. Hydraulic analysis
If the repair method reduces stream cross-section or increases stream roughness, a hydraulic analysis is required to demonstrate no increase in flood elevations.

IV.A. 6. Construction on slopes
For construction on slope greater than 5%, require implementation of erosion and sediment control measures. (See the “Erosion and Sediment Control Field Manual” developed by the Water Quality Control Board.)

IV.B. Project Design/Construction

IV.B. 1. Use of Soft Erosion Repair Techniques
Design of erosion protection must utilize the softest possible method appropriate for the stream characteristics; use of hardscape materials or retaining walls within the banks of the watercourse should be avoided.

IV.B. 2. Use of Hardscape/Retaining Walls
If hardscape or a retaining wall is to be used, it must be demonstrated that (1) all softer methods have been evaluated, (2) the proposed method will reduce erosion and (3) the proposed method will not cause erosion or negatively impact proper stream function in other areas.

IV.B. 3. Use of Hardscape/Retaining Walls
If used, hardscape elements will require project proponents to mitigate impacts by planting appropriate native riparian vegetation onsite or at another suitable location. Mitigation requirements will need approval by regulatory agencies.
V.A. Drainage Related to Grading
Grading must address drainage. Drainage that avoids the need for outfalls, or reduces the size and/or number or outfalls is encouraged.

V.B. Construction Related to Grading
Grading adjacent to streams must be in compliance with NPDES general permit, where applicable, and must at a minimum provide for buffer areas and vegetated swales between the stream and graded areas.

In compliance with the statewide General Permit for Construction, grading activities that disturb one acre or more of land require the project proponent to prepare and have on site a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

EXCEPTION: Exceptions are allowed per each municipality’s drainage ordinance and NPDES permits. Exceptions from swale and BMP’s are allowed if there are other run-off controls in place.

V.B.2. Construction Related to Grading
Recommend that fill be placed adjacent to dry side of the levee to minimize the levee height unless it causes drainage problems, disturbs wetlands, creates safety concerns, or impacts aesthetics of property.

V.B.3. Construction Related to Grading
Modifications to levees are allowed if a slope stability analysis is performed and any structure that provides support to the levee is designed with long-term life span (50-100 years).
EXCEPTION: Exceptions are allowed (although discouraged) to cuts in levees if for a temporary purpose and repair is completed by the beginning of October and a performance bond is used to assure completion.

V.B.4. Construction Related to Grading
Grading adjacent to drinking water reservoirs (Calero, Anderson, Lexington, Coyote, Almaden) must be acceptable to the District, which may require water quality monitoring depending on project's potential for adverse impacts. Consider protective measures in source water protection zones and sensitive areas of reservoir watersheds. Erosion and sediment control measures are required to prevent sediment contribution from the construction area to the reservoir.

VI. OUTFALLS, PUMP STATIONS AND SITE DRAINAGE

VI.A.1 Site Drainage
Runoff must not be directed across stream watershed boundaries as a result of grading or through storm drain system design.

VI.A.2 Site Drainage
Direct site drainage through vegetated areas or stilling basins prior to discharge or collection in storm drain system.

VI.A.3 Site Drainage
No concentrated overbank drainage is allowed (e.g. roof overhangs or downspouts). If overbank drainage will occur, use vegetative buffer strips or direct drainage to landscaped areas.

VI.B.1 Outfalls
Prefer that there are no new outfalls, however, if there is no way to avoid new outfalls then the following applies:

1. Minimize the number of outfalls.
2. New channel outfalls must conform to the local municipality’s drainage master plan.
3. Slope protection for outfalls must meet SCVWD minimum engineering standards using softer slope protection methods if possible (see Standard Details and Specifications). Outfalls should not overhang the bank or bed as this can lead to excessive channel erosion.
4. Minimum diameter is 12 inches and discharge must be oriented downstream and pipe invert should be at least 2 feet above the stream bottom in areas where sediment deposition is anticipated.
5. Flap gates will be installed when 100-year water surface is above adjacent ground at inlet. Outfalls with flap gates require dormers or
similar designs to isolate the flap gate and keep them out of flow area (see Standard Details and Specifications).

6. Outfalls on federal projects (Coyote Creek downstream of Montague Expressway, Guadalupe River downstream of Blossom Hill, Llagas Creek downstream of Buena Vista, and Uvas Creek downstream of Santa Teresa) must be submitted to SCVWD to coordinate federal review and approval.

7. In conjunction with new or redevelopment, abandoned outfall pipes and slope protection must be removed and the stream bank restored to similar condition existing upstream and downstream of site.

8. Permits are needed from Dept of Fish and Game, U.S. Army Corps, and RWQCB. See Standard Details and Specifications.

VI.B.2. Outfalls
Discharge must not pollute receiving water or cause channel erosion. Non storm water discharges not already subject to existing NPDES requirement will be subject to approval and permit from RWQCB.

VI.C1. Storm Drainage Pump Stations
Limit pump discharges to the extent feasible during peak flows to minimize potential impacts from flooding. When a development requires a storm drain pump station that discharges to a stream, require discharge management plan that addresses pump operation during high water (flood) events.

VII. CHANNELIZATION

Related Resource Agency Permits: In addition to the G&S’s below, these activities may require notification to Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game (i.e. Streambed Alteration Agreement), and in most cases, the US Army Corps of Engineers and their Federal consulting agencies. Applicants may choose to complete a JARPA (Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application) if permits are required from more than one Resource Agency.

VII.A. Undergrounding Creeks
1. Streams must not be buried or put into culverts.

2. The exception for culverts only is for road crossings though they should be clear-span whenever possible. If culverts are used they must carry the bankfull flow, accommodate a modified floodplain drainage and where feasible accommodate a 100-year flow rate. This is accomplished with multi-stage culverts with cross-sections designed to carry different flows.

3. Regional debris or sediment basins that will be owned or maintained by SCVWD must be designed for 50-year sediment capacity.

4. Filling creeks to accommodate grading and construction for developments is not permissible until impact avoidance and minimization efforts are maximized. In the event that impacts are determined to be unavoidable, adequate mitigation must be proposed.
5. CEQA document must be prepared to provide mitigation for impacts of burying stream and appropriate regulatory agency permits, such as a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) must be obtained. The city/county storm drain system, whether in pipes or roadside ditches, is not included in this standard.

VII.B. Open Channel Modification
1. The design must consider stream dynamics and induced flooding. A hydraulic analysis acceptable to SCVWD will be required.
2. Recommend restoration of natural stream processes if possible.
3. Impacts to habitat must be avoided or mitigated.
4. Stream conveyance area must be designed for 100-year design flow with freeboard, if along a SCVWD jurisdictional area.
5. SCVWD may request dedication of right-of-way for stream modification projects, including an 18-22 foot wide maintenance area.
6. Notify and secure appropriate state and regulatory permits, such as a SAA.

**EXCEPTION:** If active channel and floodplain will not contain the design 100-year flow, then the design can be based on existing capacity with the allowance for providing additional active floodplain width in the future to contain the design 100-year flow. Streams to be dedicated to SCVWD must include an 18-22 foot wide maintenance area. In addition, flood capacity less than the 100-year flow is acceptable if the community in the flood zone is willing to accept less protection and ongoing flood insurance requirements.

---

**VIII. UTILITY ENCROACHMENTS**

**Related Resource Agency Permits:** In addition to the G&S’s below, utility encroachments may require notification to Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game (i.e. Streambed Alteration Agreement), and in most cases, the US Army Corps of Engineers and their Federal consulting agencies. Applicants may choose to complete a JARPA (Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application) if permits are required from more than one Resource Agency.

**VIII.A. Longitudinal (parallel) encroachments.**
Longitudinal (parallel) encroachments are not allowed in SCVWD right-of-way.

**EXCEPTION:** Longitudinal encroachments are discouraged and may only be considered with demonstration that all other Alterations have been considered, there is a benefit to SCVWD and future removal will not be necessary considering SCVWD interests. No water pipelines may be installed within a levee.

**VIII.B. Utilities Crossings**
1. Utility pipes or conduits must go under the stream or be in or attached to the downstream face of a bridge and must go under any levees. Provide locations for future utility crossings in design of new or replacement bridges.
2. Any utilities under the stream must be concrete encased or placed in sleeve.
3. Borings must be 5 feet below lined channels and 8 feet below unlined channels. Recommend under-channel utilities be installed by directional bore.
4. For cut and cover, clearance must be a minimum of three (3) feet and based on scour depth. Replacement of fill in levees is subject to SCVWD specifications.

5. Any aerial utility crossings (e.g. PG&E and phone lines) meet minimum OSHA vertical clearance criteria. (22 feet for non-power lines, 26 feet for power lines less than 600 volts, 30 feet for power lines from 600 to 50,000 volts) to allow safe use of maintenance equipment.

6. Crossings of treated (potable and recycled) water pipelines must meet Department of Health Services clearance requirements. (see Standard Details and Specifications for standards for crossings of SCVWD pipelines and City/County requirements for other pipeline clearances)

7. Directional drilling projects using bentonite or other lubricants to go beneath or near streams and aquatic habitats will require development of a fracout prevention and response plan describing how water quality will be protected in the event of fracout.

**EXCEPTIONS:**
If not feasible to go under or attach to the downstream face of bridge, the utility crossing may be located on the upstream face of bridge if the design would not catch debris, would be capable of surviving impacts from floating debris in high flow, and would not hinder emergency debris removal or maintenance operations.

---

**IX. TRAIL CONSTRUCTION**

**Related Resource Agency Permits:** In addition to the G&S’s below, trail construction may require notification to Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game (i.e. Streambed Alteration Agreement), and in most cases, the US Army Corps of Engineers and their Federal consulting agencies. Applicants may choose to complete a JARPA (Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application) if permits are required from more than one Resource Agency.

**IX.A. Design/Construction Related to Trail Construction**

Joint Use Pedestrian/Bicycle Paths are encouraged along creeks. Trails must be located so as to avoid impacts to the stream and riparian areas. Paved multi use trails should be placed so as to maximize distance from stream and riparian areas. Construction must not require deep excavation within tree root zones.

**EXCEPTION:** Exceptions may be allowed if impacts are addressed and determined to be unavoidable in a CEQA document and approved by appropriate regulatory agencies.
IX.A2. Design/Construction Related to Trail Construction
Design must be consistent with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department’s Interjurisdictional Trail Guidelines. Night lighting of trails along riparian corridors should be avoided.

EXCEPTION: Exceptions may be allowed if impacts are addressed and mitigated in a CEQA document and approved by appropriate regulatory agencies.

IX.A3. Design/Construction Related to Trail Construction
Memorial plaques along trail corridors on SCVWD right of way are subject to jurisdiction review and approval. With appropriate planning and community contribution, a memorial area recognizing community members will be considered.

IX.B. Trails on District right of way require an agreement that defines maintenance, management, and liability responsibilities of facilities.

X. SEPTIC SYSTEMS
X.A. Design Of Septic Systems
Follow requirements of RWQCB or Santa Clara County as applicable including: Leach field setback 100’ from top of bank, 50’ from swale, 200’ from high water mark of reservoir, prohibited in 10 year floodplain or areas observed to flood from field observations. Consult with SCVWD to determine whether land feature is an active floodplain or swale and assist in determining high water marks at reservoirs.

EXCEPTION: Exceptions or variances are allowed per RWQCB or Santa Clara County requirements. Please note that since 10-year floodplain maps do not exist, any area of historical flooding should be assumed to be in the 10-year floodplain.

XI. TRASH CONTROL AND REMOVAL
XI.A. Location of Trash Bins
Locate trash bins away from streams and follow other measures outlined in NPDES guidance.

XII. PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY
XII.A. Water Quality

1. Cities, County, and SCVWD should comply with applicable provisions of NPDES stormwater permits. Implement Infiltration Guidelines in the SCVRPPP C.3 handbook, where appropriate.

2. Retention ponds and infiltration trenches that do not meet guidelines will be reviewed by SCVWD and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

XIII. GROUNDWATER PROTECTION
XIII.A. Groundwater
Require groundwater resource assessments when potential for significant groundwater supply or groundwater quality impacts. The changes in land use where these impacts may be significant are anticipated to be subject to CEQA.
XIII.A2 Groundwater
To protect Santa Clara County groundwater recharge areas, new high risk activities defined by Department of Health Services (DHS) should be prohibited in well head protection areas as designated on District GIS Maps. Manage (limit, monitor and implement best management practices) existing high risk activities in recharge areas of basin.

XIII.A3. Groundwater
The owners must show any existing wells on the plans. The wells must be properly registered with the SCVWD and either be maintained or destroyed in accordance with SCVWD standards.

XIV. FLOOD PROTECTION
XIV.A. Flooding Protection
1. For development within special flood hazard zones A, AE, AH, AO, the project must comply with FEMA requirements as implemented by the City or County.

2. Consider when and how to recommend increased levels of protection as described in Dept of Water Resources Model Floodplain Ordinance, recommendations of California Floodplain Management Task Force (Dec 2002), and FEMA’s Community Rating System Program.

EXCEPTION: Exceptions or variances allowed per City or County Ordinances, Policies, or other implementation documents.

XIV.A2. Flooding Protection
In zone A (areas where base flood elevations have not been determined) require a hydraulic analysis to determine the base flood elevation for subdivisions greater than 5 acres or 50 lots whichever is lesser. For other construction and substantial improvements, utilize any other available base flood elevation data as criteria for meeting NFIP requirements.

XIV.A3. Flooding Protection
If a proposed project will result in a significant increase in land use density (i.e. an agricultural area changes to residential or industrial), the local jurisdiction should work cooperatively with SCVWD to determine (1) what information is needed on a project specific basis to evaluate potential increases in flood flows and (2) what mitigation measures can be implemented to mitigate for impacts to flood conveyance capacity and/or flood protection.

Detention basins may be used to mitigate the impact, but they must be properly designed and maintained. Design should be in concert with hydromodification facilities and consider regional solutions.
XIV.A4. Flood Protection
For major developments near
streams subject to CEQA review that
are compatible with the General
Plan utilized for developing District
hydrology and FEMA floodmaps,
development must not, increase site
runoff so as to increase depth (0.1 foot
increase in water surface) or lateral
extent of flooding or increase discharge
in local streams as outlined in the
storm water permit for the SCVURPPP.

A hydraulic analysis prepared by
registered civil engineer demonstrating
that any flood impacts will not be
created is required.

---

1 The District’s hydrology and design flood flow rates were developed in the late 1970’s using the land use designations shown on General Plans in place at that time. These flow rates have recently been updated, but the impact has not yet been analyzed. In general, the changes in land use that could significantly impact runoff quantities are typically those outside the urban service area, in south county and those developments where the change in land use will be subject to CEQA review. The impacts to be addressed are to flood conveyance facilities designed using 1978 (or prior) flow rates and built to provide 100 year flood protection and impacts to flood prone areas which were also determined using the 1978 flow rates.
# GENERAL GUIDANCE

## RESOURCE AGENCY REFERRALS FOR STREAMSIDE DEVELOPMENT

The table below was developed in consultation with the resource agencies listed. It is intended to meet the needs of single-family homeowners. Its purpose is to help streamside property owners identify which governmental agencies they should contact regarding permitting when planning a construction project along a stream. It focuses on seven key project characteristics that may involve resource agency permitting.

A checked box in the table below indicates that the agency should be contacted, although in many cases this is conditional (see the text accompanying the checks). A checked box does not necessarily indicate that a permit will definitely be required.

Your construction project may have other characteristics in addition to those described below that also require permits from resource agencies. For larger and more complex construction projects, additional information is available from the “Creek/Wetland Permitting Guide” located on the JARPA (Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application) website at [http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/projects/JARPA/Crkstop.pdf](http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/projects/JARPA/Crkstop.pdf). Please direct further questions to the resource agencies themselves.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Characteristic</th>
<th>SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Planting vegetation for bank stabilization or erosion control</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Installing hardscape (i.e., rocks, concrete blocks, granite, etc.) for bank stabilization or erosion control</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Diverting or obstructing flow of the creek</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Removing riparian and/or wetland vegetation</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Repairing or replacing any structure adjacent to the creek or wetlands</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Building a structure adjacent to the creek or wetlands</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Removing downed or dead trees from a creek or creek bank</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For modifications on District-owned properties, facilities, or easements

---

Discussed and revised by Outreach Work Team at October 20, 2006 meeting
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Characteristic</th>
<th>Resource Agency</th>
<th>1. Planting vegetation for bank stabilization or erosion control</th>
<th>2. Installing hardscape (i.e., rocks, concrete blocks, grout, etc.) for bank stabilization or erosion control</th>
<th>3. Diverting or obstructing flow of the creek</th>
<th>4. Removing riparian and/or wetlands trees or vegetation</th>
<th>5. Repairing or replacing any structure adjacent to the creek or wetlands</th>
<th>6. Building a structure adjacent to the creek or wetlands</th>
<th>7. Removing downed or dead trees from a creek or creek bank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|                       | **CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**  
San Francisco Bay Region  
1515 Clay St., Suite 1400,  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 622-2300  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay)  
Central Coast Region  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
(805) 549-3458  
(805) 549-3147  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast)  
**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
Central Coast Region  
7329 Silverado Trail  
Napa, CA 94558  
P.O. Box 47  
Yountville, CA 94599  
(707) 944-5500  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/region3.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/region3.html) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Depends on whether a determination has been made that the activity could have an impact on water quality or beneficial uses | Depends on impacts to water quality from turbidity, wildlife habitat, and channel stability |

Special attention when listed or special status species are involved*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Characteristic</th>
<th>Resource Agency (descriptions of agencies are below)</th>
<th>1. Planting vegetation for bank stabilization or erosion control</th>
<th>2. Installing hardscape (i.e., rocks, concrete blocks, gunite, etc.) for bank stabilization or erosion control</th>
<th>3. Diverting or obstructing flow of the creek</th>
<th>4. Removing riparian and/or wetlands trees or vegetation</th>
<th>5. Repairing or replacing any structure adjacent to the creek or wetlands</th>
<th>6. Building a structure adjacent to the creek or wetlands</th>
<th>7. Removing downed or dead trees from a creek or creek bank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS</strong>&lt;br&gt;San Francisco District&lt;br&gt;333 Market Street&lt;br&gt;San Francisco, CA 94105-2197&lt;br&gt;(415) 977-8604&lt;br&gt;www.spn.usace.army.mil/</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Permit required for fill below &quot;ordinary high water&quot;; for homeowner projects this would most likely be in the form of a Nationwide Permit, and if any federally listed species are present, the Corps would consult with USFWS and/or NOAA Fisheries Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office&lt;br&gt;2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605&lt;br&gt;Sacramento, California 95825&lt;br&gt;(916) 414-6600&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/">http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Permit may be required. Involvement would be triggered by the lead federal or state agency (per Federal Endangered Species Act and Essential Fish Habitat designations), only if the project affects a federally listed species*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Southwest Regional Office&lt;br&gt;Santa Rosa Area Office&lt;br&gt;777 Sonoma Avenue&lt;br&gt;Santa Rosa, CA 95404&lt;br&gt;(707) 575-6050&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/srowhcd.htm">http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/srowhcd.htm</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Permit may be required. Involvement would be triggered by the federal lead agency (per Federal Endangered Species Act and Essential Fish Habitat designations)*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION</strong>&lt;br&gt;50 California Street, Suite 2600&lt;br&gt;San Francisco CA 94111&lt;br&gt;(415) 352-3600&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/">http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission jurisdiction is not expected to occur in most streamside projects.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In the vicinity of streams and freshwater wetlands, the most frequently encountered listed or special status species include: steelhead, chinook salmon, the California red-legged frog, and the California tiger salamander. For bay lands, the most frequently encountered listed or special status species include: the California clapper rail, and the salt marsh harvest mouse. For a more detailed catalog of listed and special status species for animals, see: [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/pdfs/TEAnimals.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/pdfs/TEAnimals.pdf). For a listed and special status species plants, go to: [INSERT SANTA CLARA COUNTY HCP LINK AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE]