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https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/LSA/Agreement-Types#622084586-emergency-work

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LAKE *and* STREAMBED ALTERATION

INFORMATION ON NOTIFICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY WORK

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (CDFW)

CDFW Regions, and Lakes and Streambed Alterations (LSA) Program

INTRODUCTION

CDFW is responsible for administering requirements related to lake and streambed alterations (LSA) under Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq.

When immediate emergency work that substantially alters the bed, bank, or channel of any river, stream, or lake is necessary to protect life or property, a Notification for Emergency Work is required (Fish and Game Code §1610)[1]. This flyer is a reminder for the responsible party or their agent to submit the Notification for Emergency Work to CDFW within 14 days of beginning the work.

The LSA Program's web page provides information and contacts to help work through the Notification process (scan the QR code on the back). The CDFW assigned LSA staff will review the Notification and may provide further guidance for the work.

[1]"Emergency" is defined in Public Resources Code section 21060.3 and means "a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services. 'Emergency' includes such occurrences as fire, flood, earthquake, or other soil or geologic movements, as well as such occurrences as riot, accident, or sabotage."

GENERAL PROCESS

The responsible party for the emergency work or their agent, as the Applicant, must first create an Environmental Permit Information Management System (EPIMS) account. Account creation only takes ~5 minutes. Once your user account is approved, your Notification for Emergency Work must be submitted online through EPIMS. If it does not delay the implementation of emergency work, please consult with CDFW staff in your region to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife resources when conducting the emergency work.

DEADLINE

The Notification for Emergency Work must be submitted within 14 days of beginning the work. In the event of an emergency incident, both the emergency and the subsequent work activities are relevant to the Notification for Emergency Work.

EMERGENCY WORK IN AN EL NIÑO YEAR

Governor Newsom signed a Proclamation of a State of Emergency on September 21, 2026 due to the developing 2026–2027 El Niño event. CDFW encourages entities to prepare for an unprecedented El Niño year and the precipitation-related hazards that may occur. Based on observations of large areas of sea surface temperature anomalies in the Pacific, the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center is predicting a high possibility of an extraordinarily strong El Niño during October–December 2026. This forecast of a stronger El Niño this season makes it more likely that impacts could occur.

AIDS TO IDENTIFY WATERWAYS

At any time of year, even for very short periods after rain, does water channelize or pool on or near your site?

A digital map app or a USGS topographic map—is there a blue line on or near your site?

Review CDFW's Biogeographic Information Observation System (BIOS).
www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/BIOS

Review the hydrology layers in the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA Southwest).
www.erma.noaa.gov

If any of the above determination methods identify water in or near the emergency location, there may be at least one state waterway, which may necessitate a Notification for Emergency Work when the waterway may be disrupted or threatened.



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