



Creek / Barranca Encroachment and Watercourse Permit FAQs



If your home or property has a creek or barranca within its boundary, questions regarding encroachment and watercourse permit requirements can be made by phone to the Ventura County Watershed Protection Permits Section at 805-662-6882. The permits section, located on the Main Plaza floor at Ventura County's Hall of Administration, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, is available for drop-in customers, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.

Q: Do I need a permit to clean fire-related debris from the creek on my property?

A: You do not need a permit to simply pull debris from a creek bed or its banks; however, you do need a permit from the Ventura County Watershed Protection District if you are making repairs or adding to inlets or pipes that encroach into the bed or banks of a District jurisdictional red-line channel. For more information about the District's jurisdictional red-line channels, please click the following link: <http://vcwatershed.net/publicMaps/Permitting/>. If the creek / barranca / channel flow is compromised and it is a District facility, please contact us so that we can take timely action on it.

Q: Do I need a permit (either encroachment or watercourse permit) from the District if my property is damaged by fire and my rebuilding efforts may impact the stream, river, or watercourse on my property or next to my property?

A: A watercourse permit is required for any work or project affecting the bed, banks and overflow areas of District jurisdictional red-line channels. When the work or project encroaches into the property or easement of the District, an encroachment permit is required. Generally speaking, a permit is required for any work or activity in, on, over, under, or across a District channel, or for temporary or long-term use of District easement or property. For more information about the District's jurisdictional red-line channels, please click the following link: <http://vcwatershed.net/publicMaps/Permitting/>.

Q: What constitutes "emergency work" according to the District?

A: Emergency work is defined as any temporary maintenance or work within, upon, over, under or through any watercourse in an emergency situation for preservation of life or property.

Q: How do I apply for a permit for emergency work?

A: The person performing the emergency work or the property owner must apply for a written permit from the District within fifteen (15) calendar days after starting the work.

Q: What is the difference between a Floodplain Development Permit and a Watercourse Permit?

A: A Floodplain Development Permit will be required from the Ventura County Public Works Agency for any project or activity within the FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Zone (Zone A, AE, AO, AH, VE, and A-99) in the unincorporated areas of Ventura County. Whereas, a watercourse or encroachment permit is required from the Ventura County Watershed Protection District for any work or project

affecting the bed, banks and overflow areas of District jurisdictional red line channels within either the incorporated or unincorporated areas of Ventura County.

Download information available from FEMA include:

- 1) [Flood After Fire ENGLISH](#) FINAL October 2017.pdf (FEMA)
- 2) [FloodAfterFire SPANISH](#) October 2017.pdf (FEMA)

Download information from the Ventura County Watershed Protection District:

[Are you prepared for a Flood in Your Neighborhood?](#)

[Weathering the Storm, a Homeowners Guide for Flood Prevention and Response](#)

There is also helpful information at our website: www.vcfloodinfo.com