

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers®

Published: June 18, 2025 Expires: August 5, 2025

Los Angeles District

Nationwide Permits Reissuance Request for Comments

On June 18, 2025, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published in the <u>Federal</u> <u>Register</u> its proposal to reissue 56 existing nationwide permits (NWPs) and issue one new NWP. One NWP is not proposed for reissuance.

NWPs are general permits issued on a nationwide basis to streamline the authorization of activities that result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects. Many of the proposed NWPs require notification to the district engineer before commencing those activities, to ensure that the activities authorized by those NWPs cause no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

National Issues Concerning the Proposed NWPs:

The <u>Federal Register</u> notice is the public's opportunity to comment on the proposed NWPs, general conditions, and definitions. Comments on national issues relating to these NWPs should be submitted to docket number COE-2025-0002 at <u>www.regulations.gov</u>, or by email to <u>2026nationwidepermits@usace.army.mil</u> or by mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CECW-CO-R, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000. Instructions for submitting comments are provided in the June 18, 2025 <u>Federal Register</u> notice. **Comments on the proposed NWPs are due by July 18, 2025**.

Regional Issues Concerning the Proposed NWPs, Including Regional Conditioning: Division engineers are authorized to add regional conditions specific to the needs and/or requirements of a particular region or state. Regional conditions are an important mechanism to help ensure that the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the NWPs are no more than minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Division engineers may also suspend or revoke specific NWPs in certain geographic areas (e.g., states or watersheds) or high-value aquatic systems where the adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by those NWPs may be more than minimal. An enclosure for this public notice (Enclosure 1) lists the proposed regional conditions currently under consideration by the Los Angeles District (the boundaries of the Los Angeles District are defined as the coastal drainages of San Luis Obispo County, the eastern drainages of Mono County to the Conway Summit north of Mono Lake, the eastern drainages of Kern County, all of Inyo, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties in California, and the State of Arizona outside of the Navajo Nation. The Los Angeles District is seeking comments on the proposed regional conditions and seeking comments on the need for additional regional conditions to help ensure that the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the proposed NWPs are no more than minimal, individually and cumulatively. Unless otherwise noted, all proposed regional conditions listed on this enclosure are applicable for activities in all parts of Arizona outside of the Navajo Nation. Comments on regional issues relating to the proposed NWPs and proposed regional conditions should be sent by email to <u>Antal.J.Szijj@usace.army.mil</u> or by mail to the Los Angeles District, Ventura Field Office, Attn: Antal Szijj, 60 South California Street, Suite 201, Ventura, CA 93001. **Comments relating to regional conditions are due by August 4, 2025**. Similar public notices proposing regional conditions in other regions or states are being published concurrently by other division or district offices. After the final NWPs are issued, the final regional conditions will be issued after they are approved by the Division Commander.

401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Act:

States, tribes, and other certifying authorities will make their Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification (WQC) decisions after reviewing the proposed NWPs. States will make their Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determination decisions after reviewing the proposed NWPs.

Draft Decision Documents:

Draft decision documents for each of the proposed NWPs, which include environmental documentation prepared for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act, have been written by Corps Headquarters. The decision documents will address compliance of the NWPs with the requirements for issuance under the Corps' general permit authority. These draft decision documents, as well as the proposed NWPs, are available for viewing at <u>www.regulations.gov</u>, docket number COE-2025-0002. Final decision documents will be prepared for the NWPs that are issued.

Enclosed is an index of the proposed NWPs and conditions (Enclosure 2). Anyone wishing to provide comments may obtain a full text copy of the NWPs through the Corps Home Page at <u>https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Nationwide-Permits/</u>, at <u>www.regulations.gov</u> in docket number COE-2025-0002, or at the following Federal Register address: <u>https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/06/18/2025-11190/proposal-to-reissue-and-modify-nationwide-permits</u>.

Index of Proposed Nationwide Permits, General Conditions, and Definitions

Nationwide Permits

- 1. Aids to Navigation
- 2. Structures in Artificial Canals
- 3. Maintenance
- 4. Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities
- 5. Scientific Measurement Devices
- 6. Survey Activities
- 7. Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures
- 8. Oil and Gas Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf
- 9. Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas
- 10. Mooring Buoys
- 11. Temporary Recreational Structures
- 12. Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities
- 13. Bank Stabilization
- 14. Linear Transportation Projects
- 15. U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges
- 16. Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas
- 17. Hydropower Projects
- 18. Minor Discharges
- 19. Minor Dredging
- 20. Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances
- 21. Surface Coal Mining Activities
- 22. Removal of Vessels
- 23. Approved Categorical Exclusions
- 24. Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs
- 25. Structural Discharges
- 26. [Reserved]
- 27. Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities
- 28. Modifications of Existing Marinas
- 29. Residential Developments
- 30. Moist Soil Management for Wildlife
- 31. Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities
- 32. Completed Enforcement Actions
- 33. Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering
- 34. Cranberry Production Activities
- 35. Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins
- 36. Boat Ramps
- 37. Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation
- 38. Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste
- 39. Commercial and Institutional Developments
- 40. Agricultural Activities
- 41. Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
- 42. Recreational Facilities
- 43. Stormwater Management Facilities

- 44. Mining Activities
- 45. Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
- 46. Discharges in Ditches
- 47. [Reserved]
- 48. Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities
- 49. Coal Remining Activities
- 50. Underground Coal Mining Activities
- 51. Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
- 52. Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects
- 53. Removal of Low-Head Dams
- 54. Living Shorelines
- 55. Seaweed Mariculture Activities
- 56. [Reserved]
- 57. Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities
- 58. Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances
- 59. Water Reclamation and Reuse Facilities
- A. Activities to Improve Passage of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms

Nationwide Permit General Conditions

- 1. Navigation
- 2. Aquatic Life Movements
- 3. Spawning Areas
- 4. Migratory Bird Breeding Areas
- 5. Shellfish Beds
- 6. Suitable Material
- 7. Water Supply Intakes
- 8. Adverse Effects from Impoundments
- 9. Management of Water Flows
- 10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains
- 11. Equipment
- 12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls
- 13. Removal of Temporary Fills
- 14. Proper Maintenance
- 15. Single and Complete Project
- 16. Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 17. Tribal Rights
- 18. Endangered Species
- 19. Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles
- 20. Historic Properties
- 21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts
- 22. Designated Critical Resource Waters
- 23. Mitigation
- 24. Safety of Impoundment Structures
- 25. Water Quality
- 26. Coastal Zone Management
- 27. Regional and Case-by-Case Conditions

- 28. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits
- 29. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications
- 30. Compliance Certification
- 31. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States
- 32. Pre-Construction Notification

District Engineer's Decision

Further Information

Nationwide Permit Definitions

Best management practices (BMPs) Compensatory mitigation Currently serviceable Direct effects Discharge **Ecological reference** Enhancement Establishment (creation) **High Tide Line** Historic property Independent utility Indirect effects Loss of waters of the United States Nature-based solutions Navigable waters Non-tidal wetland Open water Ordinary high water mark Perennial stream Practicable Pre-construction notification Preservation **Re-establishment** Rehabilitation Restoration Riffle and pool complex **Riparian** areas Shellfish seeding Single and complete linear project Single and complete non-linear project Stormwater management Stormwater management facilities Stream bed Stream channelization Structure

Tidal wetland Tribal lands Tribal rights Vegetated shallows Waterbody (Effective March 14, 2026, until March 14, 2031)

A. Regional Conditions for the State of California:

1. The permittee shall submit a pre-construction notification (PCN), in accordance with General Condition 32, in the following circumstances:

a. Activities involving new bank stabilization that do not incorporate bioengineering techniques. Bioengineering techniques include using live plants alone or in combination with dead or inorganic materials, including rock, sand, or gravel;

b. Activities resulting in a discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S. on Tribal lands;

c. Activities involving the permanent channelization, realignment, or relocation of streams; and,

d. Activities that have the potential to adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), as designated by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The PCN shall include an EFH assessment and analysis of effects of the action on EFH, in accordance with 50 C.F.R. § 600.920 (e). For Federal permittees, if a PCN is required for the proposed activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

2. In the desert regions of Los Angeles District (USGS Hydrologic Unit Code accounting units: *Lower Colorado* - 150301, *Northern Mojave* - 180902, *Southern Mojave* - 181001, and *Salton Sea* - 181002), NPWs 3, 7, 12 – 15, 17 – 19, 21, 23, 25, 29, 35, 36, 39 – 46, 48 – 54, and 57 – 59, cannot be used to authorize structures, work, and/or the discharge of dredged or fill material that would result in the loss of wetlands, mudflats, vegetated shallows or riffle and pool complexes as defined at 40 CFR Part 230.40-45, in excess of 0.1 acre.

3. In the Los Angeles District, NWPs 29, 39, 42 and 43, or NWP 14 combined with any of those NWPs, cannot authorize a loss of waters of the United States greater than 0.25 acre within the Murrieta Creek and Temecula Creek watersheds in Riverside County.

4. In conjunction with the Los Angeles District's Special Area Management Plans (SAMPs) for the San Diego Creek Watershed and San Juan Creek/Western San Mateo Creek Watersheds in Orange County, California, the Corps' Division Engineer, through discretionary authority has revoked the use of the following 26 selected NWPs within these SAMP watersheds: 3, 7, 12 – 14, 16 – 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 39 – 44, 46, 49, 50, 57, and 58. Consequently, these NWPs are no longer available in those watersheds to authorize impacts to waters of the United States from discharges of dredged or fill material under the Corps' Clean Water Act section 404 authority. Additional information is available here: https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Established-LOP-Procedures.

5. In the Los Angeles District, the permittee shall submit a pre-construction notification (PCN), in accordance with General Condition 32, in the following circumstances:

a. Activities that would result in a loss of waters of the United States within the Murrieta and Temecula Creek watersheds in Riverside County, California;

b. Activities that would result in a loss of waters of the United States within Santa Clara River watershed in Los Angeles and Ventura County, California, including but not limited to Aliso Canyon, Agua Dulce Canyon, Sand Canyon, Bouquet Canyon, Mint Canyon, South Fork of the Santa Clara River, San Francisquito Canyon, Castaic Creek, Piru Creek, Sespe Creek and the main-stem of the Santa Clara River;

c. Activities that would result in a loss of waters of the United States within all watersheds in the Santa Monica Mountains in Los Angeles and Ventura County, California, bounded by Calleguas Creek on the west, by Highway 101 on the north and east, and by Sunset Boulevard and Pacific Ocean on the south; and,

d. Activities that would result in a loss of waters of the United States within all perennial waterbodies and special aquatic sites.

6. In the San Francisco District, the use of NWPs 29 and 39 are prohibited within the San Francisco Bay diked baylands¹ (see figure 1).

7. In the San Francisco District, the permittee shall submit a pre-construction notification (PCN), in accordance with General Condition 32, for all NWP activities that will take place in waters or wetlands of the U.S. that are within the San Francisco Bay diked baylands¹ (see figure 1).

8. In the Sacramento District, the use of any NWP (except NWPs 3, 6, 16, 20, 24, 27, 37, 38, 52, 53, and 59) authorizing the discharge of dredged or fill material in peatlands² containing histosols, including bogs and fens, is prohibited.

2

¹The San Francisco Bay diked baylands are defined as undeveloped areas that are currently behind levees and are within the historic margin of the Bay. The historic margin of the Bay is defined as areas on the Nichols and Wright map (see figure 1) below the 5-foot contour line, National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) (Nichols, D.R., and N. A. Wright. 1971. Preliminary map of historic margins of marshland, San Francisco Bay, California. U.S. Geological Survey Open File Map).

²A peatland is defined as a wetland with saturated organic soil (greater than or equal to 16 inches in thickness) that is classified as a histosol in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States (Version 8.0, 2016). A copy of the document can be obtained from the NRCS at: <u>http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/ DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2 053171.pdf</u>

B. 401 Water Quality Certification (401 WQC) Regional Conditions for California:

1. TBD.

Draft 2026 Nationwide Permit (NWP) Regional Conditions for the State of Arizona

(Effective March 14, 2026, until March 14, 2031)

A. Regional Conditions for the State of Arizona:

- 1. The permittee shall submit a pre-construction notification (PCN) for all 2026 NWPs, in accordance with General Condition 32, in the following circumstances:
 - Activities that would result in a loss* of waters of the United States within any special aquatic site including wetlands, mudflats, vegetated shallows, riffle and pool complexes, and sanctuaries and refuges (See 40 CFR Part 230.40-45). Activities shall not result in a loss greater than 0.10 acre;
 - Activities resulting in a discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S. on Tribal Lands** belonging to the _____Tribe(s);
 - c. All waterbodies designated by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality as Outstanding Arizona Waters (OAWs), within 1600 meters (or 1 mile) upstream and/or 800 meters (1/2 mile) downstream of a designated OAW, and on tributaries to OAWs within 1600 meters of the OAW (see <u>https://www.azdeq.gov/</u>).

* "Loss" means waters of the United States that are permanently adversely affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity.

**"Tribal Lands" refers to any lands title to which is either: 1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or 2) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restrictions by the United States against alienation.

B. 401 Water Quality Certification (401 WQC) Regional Conditions for Arizona:

1. TBD.