

3.2 Permit Determination

The Department's Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) coordinates, reviews and processes the state and federal permits involved on a specific project. Early in the project, prior to preliminary design, a request is sent to OEP to conduct an environmental review of a project. This process and associated permits that are required for a project are discussed in their guidelines entitled, "Water Resources Coordination and Permit processing Manual." The purpose of this initial environmental evaluation is to identify potential environmental, historical and socioeconomic concerns on a given project.

Chapter 800 of the Consulting Engineers Manual also discusses the various permits that may be involved. Potential permit involvement may include, but is not limited to, wetland impacts, fisheries, Army Corps permits and tidal impacts. The designer should be familiar with various permits that may be involved as the project advances through its design phase. This will ensure consistency between Department criteria and state/federal regulations.

The Hydraulics and Drainage Section's involvement with permits is limited to Floodplain Management (FPM) Stream Channel Encroachment Lines (SCEL), Drainage Diversions and Dam Construction. Section 3.11 of this chapter discusses these specific permit requirements in more detail.

For State Design projects, a request for a permit needs determination should be submitted early in the design phase to the Hydraulics and Drainage Section. Oftentimes it is requested at the same time the environmental review is requested from OEP. Include a location plan, scope of work and construction limits of the project. This will typically provide the necessary information to determine the potential environmental impacts associated with floodplain, encroachment, diversions or dams.

For Consultant Design projects, the potential permit involvement is addressed in the preliminary design report.