



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1455 MARKET STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103-1398

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT
INFORMATION REQUESTED FOR VERIFICATION OF CORPS JURISDICTION

The San Francisco District (SPN) Corps Regulatory Program receives numerous requests for determinations and delineations of Waters of the United States (W/US), including wetlands, for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Navigable Waters of the United States (NW/US) for Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA). To ensure rapid and accurate evaluation of materials prepared by the applicant, the Corps requests proposed maps and supportive documentation supplied for W/US-NW/US determinations and delineations be submitted in a standard format. Applicants providing maps and supportive documentation in other formats could encounter delays from the increased time it takes to evaluate non-standard materials.

Recent changes to the Regulatory Program have increased the need and amount of information required to complete final jurisdictional actions. For wetland determinations, delineations or written disclaimers, please use the Corps 87 Wetland Delineation Manual and the appropriate Regional Supplement for the project study area. Please provide all the information requested to characterize tributaries including abutting and adjacent wetlands and factors used in significant nexus determinations for each stream order segment within the review area including areas outside the project study boundary when appropriate.

Numerous consultants prepare proposed wetland delineation maps and supportive documentation. SPN is not authorized to recommend any private consulting services and advises applicants to check references and referrals of prospective consultants before contracting services. There are no valid expired or verbal jurisdictional disclaimers, determinations, or delineations.

Please provide the following information when requesting Corps verification of delineations and jurisdictional determinations:

I. MAPS

- 1) Locality Map. A road map or copy of a road map that identifies the location of the project site and any mitigation or disposal sites associated with the project from numbered State Route(s).
- 2) USGS quad sheet or copy with the project study boundary outlined.
- 3) Proposed delineation map or aerial photo with clearly defined project study boundary with the location and extent of all areas meeting the criteria for waters (OHWM), wetlands and/or navigable waters. Maximum scale of the map or aerial photo should be 1 inch = 100 feet for smaller projects (< 100 acres) or 1 inch = 200 feet for larger projects (> 100

acres). Please consult with the Corps for maps with scales greater than 1 inch = 200 feet before submittal. Please identify all areas that meet the criteria for waters and wetlands with symbols and a legend that will survive black and white reproduction. Please refrain from including information on the proposed delineation map that is extraneous or unrelated to the delineation of waters, wetlands and navigable waters.

- 4) Proposed jurisdictional determination analysis site map or aerial photo with clearly defined stream order segments with associated drainage area for each stream order segment and all wetland areas abutting, adjacent or isolated within each stream order segment drainage. Identification of stream order segment drainages may require topographic analysis at a resolution greater than the contour lines on quad sheets. Please identify and label each stream order segment and each wetland feature with a unique designation (i.e. trib1 w1, trib1 w2, trib2 w1 etc). Identify which stream order segments are proposed as perennial, RPW's¹ and non-RPW's. Also, identify route from the stream order segment to Traditional Navigable Water ² (TNW) including all direct and indirect tributary connections. Please produce map(s) at same scale as proposed delineation map.
- 5) If applicable, a development map at the same scale as the proposed delineation and jurisdictional determination maps showing the project areas of fill, grading, temporary fill, excavation , structures or areas of work and appropriate cross sections.

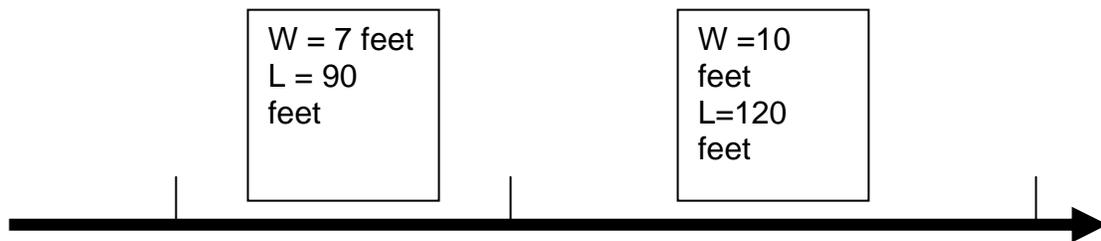
II. REQUESTED INFORMATION / SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTATION

- Narrative of general site conditions with current and recent land use history.
- Lat-Long (decimal degrees preferred).
- Size of project study boundary (acres).
- Size of review area if different from project study boundary.
- Street address.
- AP number(s).
- Any facts pertinent to jurisdictional determination or delineation.

¹ Relatively Permanent Water. RPW includes tributaries with OHWM's that flow year round or at least seasonally. Within SPN, stable OHWM indicators are a reliable field indicator to identify RPW's. Tributaries with stable OHWM's typically flow at least seasonally because of precipitation patterns that predominate within the Mediterranean climate.

² Traditional Navigable Waters. A water body qualifies as a "navigable water of the United States" if it meets any test set forth in 33CFR Part 329 (e.g. the water body is (a) subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, and/or (b) the water body is presently used, or has been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use (with or without reasonable improvements) to transport interstate or foreign commerce).

- Consider any problem situations that may affect the condition of the plant community, soil morphology or hydrology.
- Tidal Areas - Identify the location and elevation of Mean High Water³ and the High Tide Line⁴ on all maps and cross-section drawings when appropriate.
- Linear Waters of US (OHWM) - W/US including Rivers, Streams, Intermittent Streams, Ephemeral Streams, Ditches, etc. need to be identified with estimates of areal extent. Identify all areas with OHWM's including any objective information related to flow volumes and temporal duration. The Corps will determine status of flow regime and determine if stream segments are jurisdictional. For larger projects, record average width for a relative homogenous segment length at the Ordinary High Water Mark⁵ (OHWM);



OHWM average width and lengths of stream segments

- For smaller projects (outfalls, road crossings etc), record the width of the stream at the OHWM on both the plan view and cross-section map of the project area.
- When a stream segment or a portion of a stream segment has both an OHWM and wetland characteristics identify that portion of the stream segment as both and include areal extent as wetland for impact analysis.
- Open Water Bodies - Show OHWM on plan view for open water bodies including lakes, ponds, stockponds, impoundments etc.
- Wetlands: Wetlands are those areas that are inundated or saturated with surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in

³ Mean High Water. MHW is the extent of the line on the shore reached by the plane of the mean (average) high water established by survey with reference to the available tidal datum, preferably averaged over a period of 18.6 years.

⁴ High Tide Line. HTL means the line of intersection of the land with the water's surface at the maximum height reached by a rising tide. The line encompasses spring high tides and other high tides that occur with periodic frequency.

⁵ Ordinary High Water Mark. OHWM means the line on the shore established by the fluctuation of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of the soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding area.

saturated soils. Please identify all areas meeting the criteria for wetlands within the project study boundary and/or review area. Please use the Corps 87 Wetland Delineation Manual with the appropriate Regional Supplement for the project location.

To avoid delays please provide the following information when proposed delineation maps include wetlands:

- sample points addressing information requested on appropriate regional data sheet including assessment of problem and disturbed conditions and narrative information of historic and recent land use practices and management
- sample points in transect lines across wetland/upland boundaries with sufficient sampling across the numbers and types of wetlands to allow quality assurance through quality control sampling by Corps representative
- sample points in homogenous areas to characterize areas of wetland or upland
- location of sample points need to be recoverable in the field for verification or correction
- copy of County Soil Survey for the review area including soil series information and WETS tables
- identify hydrologic connections from wetlands or OHWM's to tributaries of navigable waters by direct or indirect flow through drainage ditches, roadside ditches, culverts, storm sewers, swales, overland flow, sub-surface flow etc.

Jurisdictional Determination Form: The Corps will complete an Approved Jurisdictional Determination Form for each stream order segment within the review area. The jurisdictional determination is an agency action. Submitting completed or partially completed copies of the JD Form will be an unnecessary burden and expense to the applicants. Please provide detailed responses to Section III CWA Analysis Parts A and B as part of the supplemental information. To avoid delays in completing the verification, please identify the types of studies, levels of effort and confidence of information provided to the questions on the jurisdictional determination form including:

- information used to characterize proposed RPW or non-RPW tributary including duration/frequency/volume of flow within OHWM for each stream segment in review area
- identify and describe TNW nearest to the project study area
- identify flow route (direct and indirect) and distances from stream order segment to TNW
- procedures and effort applied to evaluate and characterize the presence or absence of sub-surface flow, water quality, pollutants and biologic condition of stream order segment of tributary

- procedures and effort applied to evaluate and characterize onsite wetlands adjacent to tributaries for wetland quality, sub-surface flow, ecological connection, water quality, pollutants and biologic conditions
- procedures and effort used to summarize the overall biologic, chemical and physical functions occurring in all onsite and offsite wetlands adjacent to the tributary
- please refrain from summary subjective opinions when evaluating characteristics of wetlands, tributaries and their duration of flow

Related web sites:

[CWA Guidance to Implement the U.S. Supreme Court Decision for the *Rapanos* and *Carabell* Cases](http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/cwa_guide/cwa_guide.htm) (http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/cwa_guide/cwa_guide.htm)

[Corps Wetland Delineation Manual \('87 Manual\)](http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/elpubs/pdf/wlman87.pdf)
(http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/elpubs/pdf/wlman87.pdf)

[Arid West Regional Supplement to the '87 Manual](http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/inte_aridwest_sup.pdf)
(http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/inte_aridwest_sup.pdf)
