



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency – Environmental Health

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Policy to Establish Permit Requirements for the Construction/Destruction of Soil Borings

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to enforce exploration hole (“soil boring”) construction/destruction requirements for soil borings that intersect groundwater as required in California State Water Code Section 13801.

References

California State Water Code, Division 7. Water Quality. Chapter 10, Article 4, Section 13801(d).

State of California State Water Resources Control Board. November 1989. *Model Well Standards Ordinance Adopted in Accordance with Water Code Section 13801*.

California Department of Water Resources. *Water Well Standards, State of California, Bulletin 74-81*.

California Department of Water Resources. June 1991. *California Well Standards, Bulletin 74-90, (Supplement to Bulletin 74-81)*.

Background

California State Water Code Section 13801 requires that all counties, cities, and water agencies enforce the standards contained in Bulletin 74-81 and supplemental Bulletin 74-90. California State Water Code Section 13801 also adopted the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) model ordinance to provide a regulatory framework to enforce the standards of Bulletin 74-81 and supplemental Bulletin 74-90. The model ordinance requires soil borings that intersect groundwater to be properly destroyed per the requirements in Bulletin 74-81 and supplemental Bulletin 74-90. The County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health Division (CSCEHD) is establishing a soil boring destruction program via this policy to enforce state law and the requirements in the model ordinance, Bulletin 74-81, and supplemental Bulletin 74-90.

Policy

A soil boring construction/destruction permit is required from CSCEHD for any soil boring in Santa Cruz County that intersects groundwater. Groundwater for the purposes of this policy is considered to be any saturated water bearing zone encountered in the boring regardless of whether the saturated zone is continuous or discontinuous throughout the soil samples or boreholes.

The permitting requirement includes all soil borings that are used to evaluate hydrologic conditions at a site for environmental, engineering, or construction purposes. **A soil boring construction/destruction permit must be obtained prior to drilling.** A copy of the permit must be on site during drilling.

The process below is to be followed to obtain a permit.

Soil Boring Construction/Destruction Permit Application Process:

- Determine whether proposed project is within CSCEHD jurisdiction. CSCEHD is permitting borings throughout the County except for geotechnical soil borings in the City of Santa Cruz.
 - A Soil Boring Construction/Destruction Permit Application must be submitted to CSCEHD to start the application process. The application and general requirements can be found at:
<https://scceh.com/NewHome/Programs/EnvironmentalCleanup.aspx>
 - Submissions can be made electronically or hard copy to CSCEHD
 - Fees are due at the time of submission. Current fees can be found at:
<http://unifiedfeeschedule.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/index.html>
 - Application is reviewed by staff for accuracy, completeness, and regulatory compliance
 - Application and sitemap must be received by CSCEHD at least ten (10) business days before proposed start date. Email document to
EHCleanup@santacruzcounty.us
- Review standard borehole seal requirements outlined in the Permit Conditions you receive with your approved soil boring construction/destruction permit.
- An inspection must be scheduled a minimum of two full business days in advance of drilling by emailing EHCleanup@santacruzcounty.us or calling (831) 454-2022. All notifications must be confirmed by CSCEHD verbally or in writing. Inspections cannot be scheduled with CSCEHD until a permit approval has been issued.

If at the start of drilling activities responsible professionals do not anticipate encountering groundwater during project activities and a soil boring construction/destruction permit was not obtained prior to conducting fieldwork, but groundwater is encountered once drilling activities begin, then the responsible professional and C-57 licensed driller shall notify the appropriate CSCEHD case worker of the unanticipated drilling conditions at (831) 454-2022 to receive further instructions including without limitation obtaining a soil boring construction/destruction permit.

Knowingly drilling in Santa Cruz County without a required permit will result in referral to the State of California's Department of Consumer Affairs for both the registered professional and the C-57 license holder. Additionally, drilling a well or a soil boring in Santa Cruz County without a required permit is a violation of the Santa Cruz County Code and is misdemeanor. CSCEHD

will exercise all available enforcement actions and remedies including without limitation a referral to the District Attorney for enforcement action.

CSCEHD is in the process of updating SCCC Chapter 7.70 Water Wells to meet several State requirements. The requirements of the updated Well Ordinance regarding permitting of soil borings will supersede this policy.

For additional information please email EHCleanUp@santacruzcounty.us or call (831) 454-2022.