



Regulatory Compliance Issues for Vineyards



Overview

Vineyard facilities face numerous challenges in today's stringent and constantly changing regulatory environment regarding land use, permitting, and regulatory compliance. Tenera Environmental, with offices in Lafayette and San Luis Obispo has been assisting clients for over 30 years with a wide variety of regulatory issues. Whether involved in the operation or expansion of existing facilities, or the establishment of new facilities, Tenera has successfully assisted its clients through the regulatory process. Tenera's areas of expertise include:

- Environmental Planning and Permitting
- Regulatory Compliance Review
- Natural Resource Inventories
- Research and Monitoring
- Impact Assessment and Mitigation
- Data Management and Analysis

Tenera's staff of experienced environmental professionals has a proven track record of assisting clients with regulatory processes involved in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Endangered Species Act (CESA), and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Our approach is to work closely with regulatory agencies to achieve a timely resolution to permitting issues and in doing so to assist our clients in attaining project goals while operating within budgetary constraints.

Tenera Environmental has expertise in the following project areas:

- Project feasibility and impact analysis
- Habitat assessment, characterization, and mapping
- Wildlife, botanical, and fishery studies
- Special status species investigations
- Wetland delineations
- Section 404 permitting and certifications
- Restoration plans
- Habitat Conservation Plans/incidental take permitting
- Pre-construction surveys, construction monitoring, and post-construction mitigation monitoring

Storm Water Construction Permitting

Developments planning to disturb more than one acre of land need to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity. Modifications to this permit were adopted in September 2009 and will take effect on July 1, 2010. The requirements for this permit have become more strict with the requirements imposed for each site depending on multiple risk factors, including but not limited to overall project size, location, terrain, annual rainfall, project timing, and distance to waterbodies. Incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) or Hydromodification to the site design can save costs in the long run. Tenera can assist with all of your storm water permitting issues.

Conditional Agricultural Waiver

Agricultural discharges have been stated to be a major cause of water quality impairment throughout California. The Central Coast RWQCB's Agricultural Regulatory Program is designed to address major water quality issues of toxicity, nitrates, pesticides, and sediment in agricultural runoff and polluted runoff leaching into groundwater. This program requires each grower to develop a Farm Plan, implement worker education, Best Management Practices, and conduct monitoring. The RWQCB states that even with this program in operation there has been evidence of the exceedance of surface water quality standards, and poor biological and physical conditions in many areas of the region. This Agricultural Order, when adopted, will create additional requirements that will need to be addressed. Tenera's team can assist you with your compliance with existing or new Agricultural Waivers.



Photo by J.R. Maxually

Geographic Information Capabilities

Tenera's experience with ESRI's ArcGIS[®] applications, the standard for GIS mapping and spatial data analysis and Global Positioning System (GPS) instruments, has been used to generate spatial databases for a wide variety of projects. Tenera can combine base data derived from existing archival and current digital information sources with project-specific data to create a cost-effective integrated solution to management and planning. Our capabilities include:

- GPS positional data processing and mapping
- Habitat and species range recognition and mapping
- Bathymetric analysis for reservoir mapping, maintenance, and dredging
- Spectral image analysis
- Spatial data modeling
- Metadata generation capabilities for GIS and report documentation



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