

# EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM (EWPP)

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# WHAT IS EWP?

- Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)
- Program for significant natural disasters which impair a watershed (drainage area) and present a potential danger to life and/or property if impairment or condition is left unchecked.
- Typical natural disasters for EWP in California include fires, floods and drought.
- EWP recovery assistance is provided to eligible project Sponsors.

# WHEN TO ASK FOR EWP?

- After a significant storm event or natural disaster strikes that presents a potential danger to life and/or property.
- EWP can be invoked under the following authorities:
  - Presidentially Declared Emergency (Stafford Act)
  - Declaration from the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
  - Declaration from California's State Conservationist



# WHEN TO ASK FOR EWP?

## Exigent & Non-Exigent situations:

The term “exigency” means those situations that demand immediate action to avoid potential loss of life and property. This includes situations where if action to remedy the situation is not taken immediately and a subsequent natural disaster event were to occur within a few hours or days, it could compound the impairment, cause new damages, or cause loss of life.

# WHO CAN ASK FOR EWP (SPONSOR)?

- Tribal Governments
- Any legal subdivision of a State government or a State agency, including the following:
  - Cities
  - Counties
  - Municipal authorities
  - Soil and water conservation districts
  - When chartered under State laws, entities such as—
    - Levee districts
    - Irrigation districts
    - Drainage districts

# WHAT EVENTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

- Disaster causes a sudden impairment of a watershed that results in an imminent threat to life or property.
- The scope of the disaster can be federal, state or local.
- Projects consist of installing emergency measures to restore the watershed or protect public and private property (structures) to pre-disaster conditions.



# WHAT EVENTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

Cont'd

- Project requires a local Sponsor.
- Assistance is available only when eligible sponsors document that they have exhausted other resources or have insufficient funding available to provide adequate relief from applicable hazard.

# SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Sponsor provides:

- Land rights
- Permits
- 25% local cost share for construction (in cash or in-kind services for construction, design or inspection).
- Responsible for O&M
- Administer contracting when part of a local agreement.

# SOME LIMITATIONS OF EWP

- Cannot be used to correct a pre-existing condition or upgrade the level of protection.
- Cannot be used to perform O&M (e.g. remove sediment from debris basins).
- Cannot repair public or private roads, bridges or utilities.
- Cannot protect Federal-aid highways.

# EWP TIME LINE

- The request for assistance must occur within 60 days following the disaster.
- All Damage Survey Reports (DSR) must be submitted within 60 days following the request for assistance.
- Exigencies - Construction must be completed within 10 days following the notice of funding.
- Non-exigencies (Wait List) – Construction must be completed within 220 days following the notice of funding.

# START TO FINISH

1. Significant storm event or natural disaster occurs
  - People / Community impacted
1. Sponsor contacts District Conservationist at local NRCS Field Office for site inspection.
2. Sponsor submits letter to NRCS State Conservationist requesting assistance within 60 days of event.



# START TO FINISH (cont.)

4. NRCS & Sponsor prepare Damage Survey Report (DSR) to determine eligibility, scope of work, and funding needs.
5. Agreement between Sponsor & NRCS.
6. Complete design and implementation (10 days for exigencies or 220 days for non exigencies)
7. Request reimbursement from NRCS.

# EXAMPLES OF EWP PROJECTS

Helping People Help the Land...



# Risk from fires and floods – Mudflows (typ)



# Sediment & debris removal from waterways



BEFORE



AFTER

## Trap Sediment / Debris – Trash Racks



Rock captured after one significant event.

## Trap / Divert Sediment – K-rails (typ)



# Streambank erosion from flood -



BEFORE



AFTER

# Streambank erosion from flood -



BEFORE: Looking downstream.



AFTER: Looking upstream.

# DROUGHT



Wind Erosion from Fallow  
Farm Land.



- Critical Area Planting (Vegetation)



Helping People Help the Land...

# Residue



Soil planted to prevent soil erosion as part of a program through U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. Photo/Kathy Coatney

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov)

or

contact the District Conservationist  
in your local NRCS Office  
(List of POCs handout & brochure)

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