Chapter 18.108 - CONSERVATION REGULATIONS

Sections:

18.108.010 - Purpose.

A. The purpose and intent of these regulations is to protect the public health, safety and community welfare, and to otherwise preserve the natural resources of the county of Napa. Further, these regulations are intended to ensure the continued long-term viability of county agricultural resources by protecting county lands from excessive soil loss which if unprotected could threaten local water quality and quantity and lead ultimately to loss of economic productivity. These regulations have been developed in general accord with the policies and principles of the general plan, as specified in the land use element and the open space and conservation element.

B. It is furthermore intended that these regulations accomplish the following:

1. Minimize cut, fill, earthmoving, grading operations and other such man-made effects in the natural terrain;
2. Minimize soil erosion caused by human modifications to the natural terrain;
3. Maintain and improve, to the extent feasible, existing water quality by regulating the quantity and quality of runoff entering local watercourses;
4. Preserve riparian areas and other natural habitat by controlling development near streams and rivers;
5. Encourage development which minimizes impacts on existing land forms, avoids steep slopes, and preserves existing vegetation and unique geologic features; and
6. Protect drinking water supply reservoirs in sensitive domestic water supply drainages from sediment, turbidity, and pollution.

C. It is not the intent of these regulations to provide that compliance with these regulations shall provide a defense to a charge of violating Section 5650 of the California Fish and Game Code.

D. It is also the intent of these regulations to further the intent and purpose of Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code.

E. Napa County, through the department of public works, has implemented the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, which requires the county to ensure that stormwater and erosion control measures are provided for all applicable structural (i.e., nonagricultural) projects. As such, technical aspects of providing erosion control measures for structural projects shall be administered by the department of public works via the NPDES program. The remaining applicable requirements of this chapter shall still apply to structural projects. For agricultural projects (which are not covered by the NPDES program), all the requirements of this chapter remain in full effect.

(Ord. 1259 § 1, 2005: Ord. 1219 § 1, 2003: Ord. 991 § 1 (part), 1991: prior code § 12450)

18.108.020 - General provisions.

A. Applicability. These regulations shall apply to all zoning districts within the county of Napa and to all uses that may involve earthmoving activity permitted in such districts, with or without use permits, except as may be specifically provided in this chapter. In the event of conflicts among the regulations in this chapter and those elsewhere in this title, the regulations in this chapter shall prevail except where specifically noted otherwise in this chapter.

B. Relationship to the Review of Tentative Parcel Maps and Subdivision Maps. To the greatest extent feasible, no tentative map, parcel map or final map shall be approved which will create lots which
would necessitate approval of exceptions to these regulations pursuant to Section 18.108.040. Where a division of land would require an exception to these regulations, precise building envelopes shall be specified on the tentative maps, parcel maps and final maps, to ensure that the maximum feasible conformance with this chapter can be attained and maintained over time.

(Ord. 991 § 1 (part), 1991: prior code § 12452)

18.108.025 - General provisions—Intermittent/perennial streams.

A. Applicability. The provisions of this section shall apply to those streams defined by Section 18.108.030. The final administrative determination of whether a watercourse is subject to the provisions of this section shall rest with the director or designee.

B. Setback Requirements. In addition to any requirements of the floodway and floodplain regulations set forth in Title 16, construction of main or accessory structures, earthmoving activity, grading or removal of vegetation or agricultural uses of land as defined by Section 18.08.040 shall be prohibited within the stream setback areas established below unless specifically permitted in subsection (E) of this section, exempt pursuant to Section 18.108.050, or authorized by the commission through the granting of an exception in the form of a use permit pursuant to Section 18.108.040:

1. Setbacks for New Land Clearings for Agricultural Purposes. No clearing of land for new agricultural uses as defined by Section 18.08.040 shall take place within the following setbacks from streams:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slope (Percent)</th>
<th>Required Setback</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
<td>35 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>1—5</td>
<td>45 feet</td>
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<td>5—15</td>
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<td>15—30</td>
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<td>30—40</td>
<td>85 feet</td>
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<td>40—50</td>
<td>105 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>50—60</td>
<td>125 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>60—70</td>
<td>150 feet</td>
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For the purposes of this section, a new agricultural use shall be defined as the use of a parcel or portion thereof for purposes defined in Section 18.08.040 where the parcel had not been used in a manner authorized by Section 18.08.040 during the twenty-four months immediately preceding the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter.
2. Setbacks for Existing Vineyard Use or Other Permanent Agricultural Crop Use of Land.
   a. Except as provided in subsection (B)(2)(b) of this section, the stream setbacks established in subsection (B)(1) of this section shall also be applicable to the replanting of existing vineyards as defined in Section 18.108.030 or other permanent agricultural crop.
   b. Stream setbacks shall not be required for the replanting of existing vineyards or other permanent agricultural crops if the replanting will occur in the same footprint, any recontouring or re-engineering of existing terraces is necessary to correct existing erosion or water quality problem, and no grading is proposed that requires a permit pursuant to Section 3306 of Chapter 33 of the California Building Code.

3. The stream setbacks established in this chapter shall be measured from the top of the bank on both sides of the stream as it exists at the time of replanting, redevelopment, or new agricultural activity.

4. In the case of those specific streams identified in Resolution No. 94-19, the stream setbacks shall be the distances set forth in subsections (B)(1), (2) and (3) of this section or the outboard dripline of upper canopy vegetation at the time of replanting, redevelopment, or new agricultural activity, whichever is greater.

C. Required Setbacks for Residential Development. All new residential and nonagricultural structures shall comply with the stream setbacks established by subsection (B)(1) of this section.

D. Revegetation Within Required Setbacks. Revegetation of portions of the streamside setbacks may be required by the director or designee as a part of an erosion-control plan to restore areas where vegetation has been removed as a result of existing or past land use activities. The extent of revegetation shall be based on field review, consultation with the Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to enhance water quality and minimize sedimentation of the affected stream.

E. Uses Permitted Within Required Stream Setbacks. Except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of Title 16 pertaining to floodway and floodplain regulations, only the following uses shall be permitted within the required stream setbacks, unless specifically authorized by the planning commission through the use permit process:
   1. Maintenance of existing legal vineyards or other agricultural crop, including the prudent use of fertilizers and such pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides or other techniques for the control of insects, weeds, diseases and pests that are necessary to maintain the productivity of croplands;
   2. Use and maintenance of existing tractor turnaround areas, agricultural roads, recreational roads, trails and crossings;
   3. Activities which are consistent with agricultural practices in the area and which are intended to protect the security and safety of the surrounding area including, but not limited to, fire, flood protection and bank stabilization, weed control, trespass and nuisance protection;
   4. Development and maintenance of those water resources, including pumps, that are necessary for agricultural and domestic purposes;
   5. Maintenance and replacement of existing public works facilities such as pipes, cables, culverts and the like;
   6. Maintenance of existing or restoration of previously dredged depths in existing flood-control projects and navigational channels authorized by a permit issued by the director of public works pursuant to Title 16;
   7. Construction of nonmotorized vehicular and pedestrian trails;
   8. Construction of new public works projects such as drainage culverts, stream crossings when such projects are specifically authorized and permitted by existing state, federal or local law;
9. Construction activities undertaken by or under the auspices of a federal, state or local agency to preserve or restore existing habitat areas:

10. Removal of vegetation as authorized by the director or designee to alleviate an existing hazardous condition;

11. Other uses similar to the foregoing found by the director or designee to be consistent with the intent of this chapter;

12. Installation of stream crossings, recreational roads, and equestrian and nonmotorized trails in accordance with appropriate permits from other state, federal and local use permit requirements when it can be determined by the director or designee that the least environmentally damaging alternative has been selected as a part of an approved project.

F. Construction Fencing to Protect Stream Setbacks and Other Features. Where appropriate, the director may require an applicant to install and maintain construction fencing in a manner that protects stream setback areas, wildlife corridors, sensitive areas and other protected features from intrusion or disturbance during earth-disturbing activities.

(Ord. 1300 § 1, 2007: Ord. 1259 § 2, 2005: Ord. 1082 §§ 9, 10, 1995; Ord. 1062 § 3, 1994; Ord. 991 § 1 (part), 1991: prior code § 12452.1)

18.108.027 - Sensitive domestic water supply drainages.

A. Applicability. The provisions of this section shall apply in sensitive domestic water supply drainages.

B. Vegetation Clearing. A minimum of sixty percent of the tree canopy cover on the parcel existing on June 16, 1993 along with any understory vegetation, or when vegetation consists of shrub and brush without tree canopy, a minimum of forty percent of the shrub, brush and associated annual and perennial herbaceous vegetation shall be maintained as part of any use involving earth-disturbing activity. Two or more contiguous parcels held and maintained under common ownership or legal control at the time the plan is submitted may be considered combined and treated as one holding for purposes of compliance with the vegetation retention requirements in this section; provided that: (1) the total vegetation proposed for clearing would not be greater than what could be cleared if each contiguous parcel was treated as an individual unit; (2) a report prepared by a qualified biologist is submitted to the director which concludes that the proposed vegetation clearing would not result in greater impacts to biological resources than what would occur if the combined parcels were treated as individual units; and (3) a memorandum of understanding or similar document in a form acceptable to county counsel is recorded for each parcel describing the amount of vegetation to be retained on each of the parcels.

C. Winter Shut-Down. All earth-disturbing activities shall be limited to the period of April 1st through September 1st of each year except earth-disturbing activities that are in compliance with the NPDES program administered by the department of public works shall be limited to the period of April 1st through October 1st of each year. No earth-disturbing activities other than installation of winterization measures shall take place during other times of the year. All winterization measures shall be in place by September 15th of any given year or by October 15th for earth-disturbing activities that are in compliance with the NPDES program. However, earth-disturbing activities may be authorized by the director during the winter shut-down period, using the procedures specified for other watersheds in subsection (L) of Section 18.108.070. The applicable water purveyor shall be notified in writing at least seven calendar days prior to the director's decision to grant or deny a grading extension to allow the purveyor to comment on the request.

D. Drainage Facilities. Concentration of runoff shall, wherever feasible, be avoided. Runoff shall instead be spread in small incremental doses into relatively flat buffer areas. Those drainage facilities and outfalls that unavoidably have to be installed shall be sized and designed to handle the runoff from a one hundred-year storm event without failure or unintentional bypassing. Outlets shall be protected against erosion in the one hundred-year storm event.
E. Notice Required. The director shall provide notice to the owner/operator(s) of a public-serving water supply system(s) located in a sensitive domestic water supply drainage of each erosion control plan filed in their drainage. Said notice shall include a copy of the plan submitted and shall provide twenty-one days for a response. If the owner/operator(s) submits credible evidence within this time period that the delivery of sediment or other pollutants into their reservoir(s) from the drainage will be increased by more than one percent on an individual project basis or by more than ten percent on a cumulative basis, the subject erosion control plan shall not be approved until a public hearing on the matter has been held before the commission and a use permit has been issued.

F. Geotechnical Report Required. A report prepared by a qualified professional specifying the depth and nature of the soils and bedrock present and the stability, both current and projected, of the area potentially effected shall be submitted by the property owner at the time of application for any project located in a sensitive domestic water supply drainage.


18.108.030 - Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

"Decorative landscaping" means vegetation, plantings, shrubs, trees and the like established and maintained in proximity to a residential structure, landscape structure or related access road for ornamental or aesthetic purposes. Decorative landscaping does not include agricultural crops established or maintained for commercial use.

"Director" means the director of the planning, building and environmental services department except for matters related to the NPDES program it shall mean the director of the public works department.

"Drainage ditch" means a channel constructed solely for the purpose of providing drainage for agricultural use. A drainage ditch is not a stream as that term is defined in this section.

"Earthmoving or earth-disturbing activity" means any activity that involves vegetation clearing, grading, excavation, compaction of the soil, or the creation of fills and embankments to prepare a site for the construction of roads, structures, landscaping, new planting, and other improvements. It also means excavations; fills or grading which of themselves constitute engineered works or improvements.

"Erosion" means the wearing away of the ground surface as a result of the movement of wind or water.

"Erosion hazard area" means those portions of parcels of land having slopes over five percent.

"Failure" or "failed" with respect to an erosion control measure means that the measure has operated in the past or is expected to operate in the future in such a manner that erosion and/or resultant sedimentation have or will be increased above design rates or that flows exceed the capacity of the measure and bypassing has or will occur.

"Grading" shall mean any stripping, cutting, filling, contouring, recontouring or stockpiling of earth or land, including the land in its cut or fill condition.

"Hydrophilic vegetation" means vegetation that grows in water or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content (i.e., plants typically found in wet habitats).

"Improvement" means any man-made, immovable item which becomes part of, placed on, or affixed to, a parcel of land.

"Land clearing" means the removal of tree canopy, understory or herbaceous vegetation down to bare soil, by any method.
"Landscape structure" means a structure, object and/or feature for human use and enjoyment of the land associated with decorative landscaping in relationship to a residential structure, which does not require issuance of a ministerial or discretionary permit by the county.

"Major storm event" means a two-year or larger storm (i.e., a storm with a fifty percent or less probability of occurring in any given year).

"NPDES program" means earth-disturbing activities that are subject to the runoff control requirements administered by the department of public works as outlined in the "Napa County Construction Site Runoff Control Requirements" adopted by the Napa County board of supervisors on December 12, 2006, or as may be amended.

"One hundred-year storm" means a storm with a one percent probability of occurring in any given year.

"Resolution" means any resolution duly adopted by the Napa County board of supervisors.

"Riparian vegetation" means vegetation commonly occurring adjacent to or within streams and watercourses or along their banks including, but not limited to, such plants as willows, cottonwoods and their associated understory vegetation.

"Sensitive domestic water supply drainage" means any of the following drainages as depicted on the sensitive domestic water supply drainages map(s) maintained and hereafter modified from time to time as necessary by the director:

1. Kimball Reservoir drainage;
2. Rector Reservoir drainage;
3. Milliken Reservoir drainage;
4. Bell Canyon Reservoir drainage;
5. Lake Hennessey drainage including Friesen Lakes;
6. Lake Curry drainage;
7. Lake Madigan drainage.

"Slope" means the inclination of the terrain calculated in accordance with the methodology set forth in Resolution No. 94-19, which is incorporated herein by reference.

"Stream" means any of the following:

1. A watercourse designated by a solid line or dash and three dots symbol on the largest scale of the United State Geological Survey maps most recently published, or any replacement to that symbol;
2. Any watercourse which has a well-defined channel with a depth greater than four feet and banks steeper than 3:1 and contains hydrophilic vegetation, riparian vegetation or woody-vegetation including tree species greater than ten feet in height;
3. Those watercourses listed in Resolution No. 94-19 and incorporated herein by reference.

"Structure" means anything which is built or constructed, or any piece of work artificially built up or composed of parts joined in some definite manner whether installed on, above, or below the surface of the land.

"Vegetation canopy cover" means the crown area of a stand of trees (i.e., upper-story vegetation) in a natural stand of vegetation. For the purposes of this chapter, canopy cover is the collective cover of a grouping of trees viewed from an aerial photograph of the latest edition on file with the department, where the tree stand is continuous. Single trees are not considered canopy cover.

"Vegetation outboard dripline" means the furthermost edge of riparian vegetation, including the dripline of the canopy cover of woody vegetation of a stream visible on the latest edition of aerial
photographs on file with the department or as determined by a field inspection conducted by the director or designee.

"Vegetation understory" means shrub or brush vegetation within a natural stand of vegetation that commonly grows to a height below established tree levels, and also includes associated annual and perennial herbaceous vegetation.

"Vineyard replanting" shall mean vine removal, ripping, recontouring or grading or any installation of erosion control measures and replanting of vines where the removal of vines began no more than six years prior to submittal of vineyard replanting program or erosion control plan to the department.

"Winter shut-down period" shall mean between October 15 and April 1, except within sensitive domestic water supply drainages, the winter shut-down period shall mean between September 1 and April 1.


(Ord. No. 1379, § 167, 1-29-2013)

18.108.040 - Exceptions.

Upon application by the landowner or leaseholder of a site, an exception in the form of a use permit may be granted to any of the requirements of this chapter other than subsection (B) of Section 18.108.060 if, after a public hearing, findings can be made that:

A. For structural/road development projects, all of the following are true:
   1. Roads, driveways, buildings and other man-made structures have been designed to complement the natural landform and to avoid excessive grading;
   2. Primary and accessory structures employ architectural and design elements which in total serve to reduce the amount of grading and earthmoving activity required for the project, including the following elements:
      a. Multiple-floor levels which follow existing, natural slopes,
      b. Foundation types such as poles, piles, or stepping levels which minimize cut and fill and the need for retaining walls,
      c. Fence lines, walls, and other features which blend with the existing terrain rather than strike off at an angle against it;
   3. The development project minimizes removal of existing vegetation, incorporates existing vegetation into the final design plan, and replacement vegetation of appropriate size, quality and quantity is included to mitigate adverse environmental effects;
   4. Adequate fire safety measures have been incorporated into the design of the proposed development;
   5. Disturbance to streams and watercourses shall be minimized, and the encroachment if any, is the minimum necessary to implement the project;
   6. The project does not adversely impact threatened or endangered plant or animal habitats as designated by state or federal agencies with jurisdiction and identified on the county's environmental sensitivity maps;
   7. An erosion control plan, or equivalent NPDES stormwater management plan, has been prepared in accordance with Section 18.108.080 and has been approved by the director or designee.
B. For agricultural projects and agricultural roads (as defined by Napa County department of public works), all of the following are true:

1. The erosion rate that results two years from the completion of the proposed agricultural development does not exceed the soil tolerance factor approved by the soil conservation service for the soil type, topography and climatic conditions in which the project is located;
2. An erosion control plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 18.108.080 and has been approved by the director or designee;
3. Impacts on streams and watercourses are minimized, and adequate setbacks along these drainageways are or will be maintained;
4. The project does not adversely impact sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal habitats as designated by state or federal agencies with jurisdiction and identified on the county's environmental sensitivity maps.

(Ord. 1259 § 5, 2005: Ord. 1062 § 10, 1994; Ord. 991 § 1 (part), 1991: prior code § 12459)

(Ord. No. 1370, § 41, 3-20-2012)

18.108.050 - Exemptions.

This chapter shall not apply to the following activities, whether or not permits are presently required therefor, which this board hereby finds have less potential to significantly alter the present environment; are preempted by state law; or are publicly-supervised projects necessary for the protection of the immediate health and safety of the residents of the county of Napa:

A. Additions to existing single-family residences or other structures allowed without a use permit where the proposed addition is attached and when no earthmoving or grading is required with the exception of that necessary to install a foundation system and the location of the project has not been identified on the Napa County environmental sensitivity maps as a landslide area or within required stream setbacks as provided in subsection (B) of Section 18.108.025;

B. Clearing of vegetation and/or grading in connection with the construction, remodeling or other improvements of a single-family residence and/or associated accessory structures, where application for all permits required for such activities for that project have been received on or before May 13, 1991 by the county departments responsible for the issuance of such permits;

C. Clearing of vegetation and/or grading in connection with the planting and/or maintenance of decorative landscaping and/or construction of landscape structures as defined in Section 18.108.030 for which no building or grading permits are required as part of an existing or approved residential structure; and the clearing and/or grading does not involve more than one acre per legal parcel, and the clearing and/or grading does not involve removal of any living tree from the ridge line or hilltop visible from any public roadway unless such tree is replaced in a manner approved by the director or his designee, and temporary erosion control measures are installed by October 15th if planting and or landscaping continues beyond October 15th;

D. Maintenance of private access roads, such as resurfacing (rock or asphalt), cleaning inside ditches and culvert inlets, removing or installing waterbars, construction and maintenance of all public roads and any other public facilities, including flood control facilities, required by and completed under the direction of any public agency;

E. Clearing of vegetation, construction of improvements, grading, and/or earthmoving activity for projects specifically authorized by any use permit or other administrative or discretionary permit, including small winery exemptions, issued by the county of Napa or Napa County water conservation and flood control district prior to June 11, 1991; provided that this exemption shall continue to apply only to such areas for which an approved erosion control plan is on file with
the department or erosion control measures were included in the use permit or other permit, and this exemption affects only those areas identified in the approved plan or permit;

F. Clearing of vegetation and/or grading necessary for the construction of: (1) any septic or wastewater system, or water well; (2) other facilities necessary for the protection of public health; (3) in connection with correction of any problem involving hazardous wastes or materials, where such construction or corrective activity is required by, and completed under the supervision of the department to comply with federal, state or local standards; (4) minor trenching (so long as such work is conducted and restored outside the winter shutdown period and outside the required stream setbacks);

G. Clearing of vegetation and/or grading necessary for preliminary testing for site suitability for septic systems or water wells, where such testing is approved by the department and does not involve the construction of roads for access to the parcel or testing sites and disturbed areas are revegetated or otherwise treated for erosion control;

H. Creation and/or maintenance of firebreaks required by, and completed under the direction of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection;

I. Clearing of vegetation and/or grading specifically authorized by a state timber harvesting permit where erosion measures were included in the project as necessary; provided, however, that this exemption shall not apply if a state timber conversion permit is a part of or included as a component of the state timber harvesting permit;

J. Clearing of vegetation and/or grading pursuant to a permit other than a timberland conversion permit or a notice of less than three-acre conversion exemption (or similar exemption process) issued by: (1) a state or federal agency in compliance with applicable provisions of state or federal laws or regulations where adequate erosion control measures as determined by the county of Napa have been incorporated as part of the project or (2) by a city in relation to city-owned property exempt from the zoning regulations of the county of Napa. This exception only applies to those portions of the project specifically authorized by the state or federal permit involved. Components or parts of the project not specifically authorized by a state or federal permit shall be subject to this chapter;

K. Clearing of vegetation and/or grading in connection with the abatement of a public nuisance as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction and then only in accordance with recommendations of, and under the advisory supervision of, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and State Department of Fish and Game;

L. Clearing of temporary erosion control cover crops and/or grading activities, but only in conjunction with the planting of agricultural crops or installation of erosion control measures on land cleared of vegetation and/or graded prior to May 13, 1991; provided that this exemption shall continue to apply only to such areas for which an approved erosion control plan is on file with the department or the soil conservation service and applies only to areas prepared pursuant to the approved plan;

M. Completion of multi-year phased agricultural, vegetation and/or grading activities approved pursuant to Ordinances 956, 957, 962, 965 or 987 and "used" pursuant to Section 18.124.080 of the Napa County Code so long as the approved plans substantially conform with the erosion control standards approved through the adoption of the ordinance codified in this chapter;

N. Activities which are consistent with existing agricultural practices, including but not limited to, post hole digging, fire protection and prevention, and weed control;

O. Maintenance operations for ongoing agricultural activities, including maintenance of existing roads, existing erosion and sediment control devices, and activities involving minimal soil disturbance such as discing, spraying, fertilizer applications, shallow ripping for root stimulating, trellising, installation of irrigation, fencing, and minor trenching for repair work;

P. Earthmoving activity associated with mining and mining-related activities conducted pursuant to and in compliance with an approved surface mining and reclamation permit (Chapter 16.12);
Q. Earthmoving activity and construction of improvements authorized by a final map or development agreement approved and recorded by the county of Napa after January 1, 1986, and before the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter;

R. Earthmoving activity and construction of improvements authorized by use permit, site plan approval and building permit approval where provisions for erosion control were included as part of the approved permit for projects located within the industrial park or the general industrial zoning districts;

S. Replanting of existing vineyards when the area to be replanted involves less than one acre, and the footprint of the replanting area does not change, and any recontouring, grading or re-engineering is necessary to correct existing erosion or water quality problem, regardless of slope percent of the area to be replanted;

T. Repair and maintenance of existing water storage facilities when no permit is required from any federal, state or local agency;

U. Clearing of vegetation and/or grading necessary for the construction of a water tank in connection with an existing dwelling where no construction of a roadway is necessary and the slope is fifteen percent or less.


(Ord. No. 1379, § 168, 1-29-2013)

18.108.055 - Exemption from discretionary permit.

The following types of projects are NOT exempt from preparation and approval of erosion control plans (or equivalent NPDES stormwater plan for structural projects) or vineyard replanting program or standard erosion and sediment control measures, but are exempt from requirements of subsections (A) and (B) of Section 18.108.060.

A. Replanting of existing vineyards when the footprint of the area to be replanted does not change, and any recontouring or re-engineering of existing terraces is necessary to correct existing erosion or water quality problem, provided, that an erosion control plan or a vineyard replanting program prepared in accordance with this chapter and accompanying resolution has been approved by the director or designee, the resource conservation district, or the soil conservation service.

B. Tentative subdivision or parcel maps on file with the department as of May 14, 1991, when located within a designated urban area of the county as shown on Figure 14 of the land use element of the Napa County general plan when, as a part of the discretionary review process, an erosion control plan which meets the criteria established in this chapter and its accompanying resolution is reviewed and approved by the commission. This exemption affects only those areas identified in the approved erosion control plan.

C. Earthmoving activity and construction of improvements associated with the construction or remodeling of a single-family residence or accessory structure to the residence within the following subdivisions of record which were authorized by a final map approved and recorded by the county of Napa, when an erosion control plan prepared pursuant to this chapter and its accompanying resolution is approved by the director or designee. This exemption applies only to the following subdivisions: Circle Oaks, Unit #1, R.M. Book 7, page 60; Berryessa Highlands, Unit #1, R.M. Book 8, pages 11-19, Unit #2, R.M. Book 9, pages 34-47; Berryessa Estates, Unit #2, R.M. Book 8, pages 28-34; Spanish Flat Woodlands, Unit #1, R.M. Book 7, page 89; and Berryessa Pines, R.M. Book 6, page 100.
18.108.060 - Slope regulations—Prohibited uses.

A. Uses Prohibited Without an Exemption or an Exception. To minimize the risks associated with project development in areas characterized by steep slopes, high erosion potential, unstable soils, combustible vegetation and other sensitive environmental resource areas as defined by Section 18.08.270 or designated in the conservation and open space element and the seismic and safety elements of the general plan, no construction, improvement, grading, earthmoving activity or vegetation removal associated with the development or use of land shall take place on those parcels or portions thereof having a slope of thirty percent or greater unless exempt under Section 18.108.050 or 18.108.055 or unless an exception through the use permit process is granted pursuant to Section 18.108.040.

B. Uses Prohibited Without an Exemption. No structure, improvement, grading, earthmoving activity, vegetation removal or development shall be permitted on a slope greater than fifty percent unless exempt under Section 18.108.050 or 18.108.055 of this chapter.

18.108.070 - Erosion hazard areas—Use requirements.

All uses not otherwise prohibited within erosion hazard areas shall comply with all of the following requirements:

A. Erosion Control Measures. No otherwise permitted earthmoving activity, grading, improvement, or construction of a structure for nonagricultural activity shall commence until the activity is in compliance with the requirements of the NPDES program. The project shall be submitted to the applicable lead department and approved by the director of public works or designee.

B. Erosion Control Plans. No otherwise permitted agricultural earthmoving activity, grading, or improvement, shall commence on slopes over five percent until an erosion control plan which complies with the requirements of Section 18.108.080 has been submitted to and approved by the director or designee.

C. Vineyard Replanting Programs. No vineyard replanting on slopes over five percent shall commence until a vineyard replanting program which complies with the requirements of Section 18.108.090 or, if found necessary, an erosion control plan which complies with Section 18.108.080 has been submitted and approved by the director or designee.

D. Minimization of Erosion Potential. Site development shall be conducted in a manner, based upon the topography and soil type, which creates the least potential for erosion.

E. Phasing. The site shall be developed in phases of workable size which can be completed in a single construction season. Vineyard or other agricultural crop development shall comply with the phasing identified in an approved erosion control plan on file with the director. Erosion and sediment control measures shall be coordinated with the sequence of grading, development, and construction operations so as to avoid leaving any portion of a disturbed site unprotected from erosion during the winter shutdown period.

F. Vegetation Removal. Vegetation removal shall be limited to the minimum amount necessary to accommodate the project and then only if in compliance with the NPDES program or as indicated on the approved erosion control plan or vineyard replanting program or grading or plot plan if standard erosion control measures were applied. The project shall not adversely affect sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered plants or animals or their habitats as designated by state or federal agencies with jurisdiction, and as mapped on the county's environmental sensitivity maps.
G. Temporary Measures. As the permanent vegetation cover is maturing, temporary vegetation or other erosion control measures sufficient to stabilize the soil shall be established on all disturbed areas as needed as each stage of grading is completed. New planting shall be protected by using such measures as jute netting, straw mulching and fertilizing or other means which are specified in the approved erosion control plan or vineyard re-planting program or grading or plot plan pursuant to subsection (A) of Section 18.108.070.

H. Permanent Measures. Where building permits are required, final clearance shall not be issued until all permanent erosion control measures have been installed which are required by the approved plans pursuant to subsection (A) of Section 18.108.070.

I. Maintenance of Erosion Control Facilities. All required erosion control facilities, both temporary and permanent, shall be maintained in accordance with the approved plans or vineyard replanting program pursuant to subsection (A) or (B) of Section 18.108.070.

J. Completion Deadline for Sediment Retention Devices. All sediment retention devices specified in the approved plans or vineyard replanting program pursuant to subsection (A) or (B) of Section 18.108.070 shall be completed by the grading deadline of the calendar year in which the erosion control plan is approved or clearing and/or grading activity has commenced, whichever is later.

K. Deadline for Winterization and Temporary Measures. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, grading activity associated with "winterization" and installation of temporary erosion control measures specified on the approved plans or vineyard replanting program pursuant to subsection (A) or (B) of Section 18.108.070, other than sediment retention devices, may continue until the grading deadline of any calendar year and may occur after such date if approval by the director is granted.

L. Grading Deadline (Winter Shutdown). Grading and earthmoving activities on slopes greater than five percent shall be limited to the period between April 1 and October 15 (or April 1 to September 1 pursuant to subsection (C) of Section 18.108.027 for work on any slopes within sensitive domestic water supply drainages) except that earthmoving or grading activity may occur during the winter shutdown period, providing it is in compliance with the NPDES program or an agricultural erosion control plan, vineyard replanting program or erosion control measures have been approved by the applicable director which specifically addresses grading and earthmoving activities during the winter shutdown period, and further provided that adequate winterization (temporary) erosion control measures have been installed before other work on the project in accordance with the approved plan or vineyard replanting program pursuant to subsection (A) or (B) of Section 18.108.070, and field checked by the director or designee. The director, in approving plans involving grading or earthmoving activities during the shutdown period, is authorized to condition such approvals in a manner that will ensure that grading and earthmoving activities will not occur during periods of inclement weather. It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to contact the planning director or designee for a field check at least three working days prior to continuing activity within the "winter shut-down period." Applications to conduct work during the winter shutdown period shall be submitted to the planning department (for agricultural projects) or the public works department (all other projects) at least two weeks before work is planned to commence. Applications not so submitted will be processed by the county as time allows, and will be required to pay two times the required processing fees in effect at the time of submittal. No work may be conducted in the shutdown period until an application is approved.


18.108.075 - Requirements for structural erosion control measures.
A. Submission of Evidence of Erosion Control Measures. Erosion control measures shall be incorporated as part of a project and shall appear on the applicable building, grading, septic, or other plan required to be submitted; or plot plan, if no other plan is required.

B. Contents. The erosion control measures indicated shall contain the information and be prepared in conformance with guidelines provided by the Department of Public Works pursuant to Chapter 16.28 of this code.


18.108.080 - Agricultural erosion control plans—Requirements and authorization to prepare—Field modifications.

A. Submission of Plan. Five sets of each erosion control plan shall be submitted to the director or designee. The plans shall be drawn to scale and shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the nature and extent of the work proposed.

B. Contents. The erosion control plan shall contain the information and be prepared in accordance with the format in Resolution No. 94-19, which is incorporated herein by reference.

C. Conformance With Guidelines. To the extent relevant to the activity proposed, the erosion control plan shall substantially conform to the guidelines contained in the excerpts from the Hillside Vineyard Unit Redwood Empire Target Area Manual (Soil Conservation Service/Napa County Resource Conservation District, 1985) and the most current Manual of Standards for Erosion and Sediment Control Measures (published by the Association of Bay Area Governments), which are incorporated herein by reference.

D. Persons Authorized to Prepare Plans. The erosion control plan shall be prepared only by the following persons:

1. (Reserved).


   a. Vineyard replant projects-erosion control plans shall be prepared by one of the following:

      i. Erosion control plans prepared by any of the following persons are subject to review by the county and/or county's consultant:

         (A) A certified professional soil erosion and sediment control specialist (CPSESCS), or a soil conservation service employee working under the direction of a CPSESCS;

         (B) A licensed civil engineer;

         (C) A registered professional forester (RPF);

         (D) A licensed landscape architect;

         (E) A certified engineering geologist;

         (F) A licensed architect; or

         (G) The property owner or owner's designee, provided that the plan is reviewed and approved in writing by the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) prior to submittal to the Napa County planning, building and environmental services department.

      ii. Any persons on a pre-qualified list of consultants made available by the county with no technical review of plan by the county or county's consultant.
b. All other agricultural development projects—erosion control plans shall be prepared by one or more of the persons designated in subsection (D)(2)(a)(i) of this section, all subject to review by the county and/or county's consultant.

E. Field Modifications. Subsequent to approval/confirmation of the erosion control plan, the director or designee or in the case where subsection (D)(2)(a)(ii) of this section is used, the consultant may require field adjustments to the plan to address site-specific issues or field conditions which arose after the commencement of the activity. Such field modifications shall be confirmed in writing by the director or designee or in the case where subsection (D)(2)(a)(ii) of this section is used by the consultant (with a copy to the director) and when so confirmed shall be deemed to be incorporated into the approved plan.

F. Field Modifications. Subsequent to approval/confirmation of the erosion control plan, the permittee may request a field adjustment to the plan to address site-specific issues or field conditions which arose after the commencement of the activity. The permittee shall be responsible to contact the director or designee or in the case where subsection (D)(2)(a)(ii) of this section is used, the consultant, within twenty-four hours of the changed field condition. Changes, as deemed appropriate by the director or designee, or in the case where subsection (D)(2)(a)(ii) of this section is used, the consultant, shall be confirmed in writing and deemed incorporated into the approved plan.

G. No permit for activities conducted pursuant to this chapter shall be issued by the director until the erosion control plan required by this section has been approved by the director or designee, unless the erosion control plan was prepared according to subsection (D)(2)(a)(ii) of this section where no approval is required.

(Ord. 1259 § 9, 2005: Ord. 1062 § 8, 1994; Ord. 991 § 1 (part), 1991: prior code § 12455)

(Ord. No. 1370, § 42, 3-20-2012; Ord. No. 1379, § 169, 1-29-2013)

18.108.090 - Requirements for vineyard replanting programs.

A. Submission of Replant Program. Four sets of each vineyard replant program shall be submitted to the director or his designee. The program shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the nature of the work proposed.

B. Contents. The vineyard replant program shall contain the information and be prepared in accordance with the format in Resolution No.__ which is incorporated herein by reference.

C. Persons Authorized to Submit and Prepare Vineyard Replanting Programs. The property owner or property owner's designee is authorized to submit a vineyard replanting program.

D. Field Modifications. Subsequent to approval of the vineyard replanting program, the director or his designee may require field adjustments to the program to address site-specific issues or field conditions which arose after the commencement of the activity. Such field modifications shall be confirmed in writing by the director or his designee and when confirmed shall be deemed to be incorporated into the approved program.

E. Field Modifications. Subsequent to approval of the vineyard replanting program, the permittee may request a field adjustment to the program to address site-specific issues or field conditions which arose after the commencement of the activity. The permittee shall be responsible to contact the director or his designee within twenty-four hours of the changed field condition. Changes as deemed appropriate by the director or his designee shall be confirmed in writing and deemed incorporated into the approved program.

F. No permit for activities conducted pursuant to this chapter shall be issued by the director until the vineyard replanting program required by this section has been approved by the director or his designee.
18.108.100 - Erosion hazard areas—Vegetation preservation and replacement.

Whenever a project within an erosion hazard area requires issuance of a discretionary permit such as a use permit or an administrative permit including, but not limited to, building permits, grading permits, erosion control plans, permits in compliance with the NPDES program and sewage disposal system permits, the permit shall be subject to the following conditions:

A. Existing vegetation shall be preserved to the maximum extent consistent with the project. Vegetation shall not be removed if it is identified as being necessary for erosion control in the approved erosion control plan or if necessary for the preservation of threatened or endangered plant or animal habitats as designated by state or federal agencies with jurisdiction and identified on the county's environmental sensitivity maps.

B. Existing trees six inches in diameter or larger, measured at diameter breast height, (DBH), or tree stands of trees six inches in diameter (DBH) or larger located on a site for which either an administrative or discretionary permit is required shall not be removed until the required permits have been approved by the decision-making body and tree removal has been specifically authorized.

C. Trees to be retained or designated for retention shall be protected through the use of barricades or other appropriate methods to be placed and maintained at their outboard drip line during the construction phase. Where appropriate, the director may require an applicant to install and maintain construction fencing around the trees to ensure their protection during earthmoving activities.

D. Wherever removal of vegetation is necessitated or authorized, the director or designee may require the planting of replacement vegetation of an equivalent kind, quality and quantity.

E. Vegetation required to be preserved but removed either advertently or inadvertently, or before any required permit has been issued, shall be replaced with fifteen-gallon trees at a ratio of 2:1 at locations approved by the director or designee, or replaced with smaller trees at a higher ratio to be determined by the director or designee.

F. All graded areas for nonagricultural activities shall be replanted with permanent vegetation. A revegetation plan shall be submitted for approval by the director or designee concurrently with the erosion control plan or as part of the NPDES program. All approved plant materials shall be installed prior to occupancy. Plant materials shall be drought-tolerant and compatible with the existing habitat area in which the project is located.

G. To the extent relevant to the agriculture activity proposed, the project shall substantially conform to the guidelines contained in the Information Manual: Riparian Vegetation Management for Pierce’s Disease in North Coast California Vineyard (Soil Conservation Service/Napa County Resource Conservation District, 2000 or as later amended), which are incorporated herein by reference.

H. To prevent importation of plant insects or diseases, plant materials shall be purchased locally when practical. The county agricultural commissioner's office shall be notified of all impending deliveries of live plants with points of origin outside of the county.

18.108.120 - Existing erosion control.

No person shall cause or allow the continued existence of a condition on any site that is causing substantial erosion due to human-induced alteration of the vegetation, land surface, topography or runoff pattern.
18.108.130 - Variances not prohibited.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as prohibiting any person from filing an application for, or the board or commission approving, a variance pursuant to Chapter 18.128.

18.108.135 - Oversight and operation.

A. Installation Oversight. The qualified professional preparing an erosion control plan shall oversee its implementation. Prior to the first winter rains after construction begins and each year thereafter until the project has received a final inspection from the county or its agent and been found complete, the qualified professional shall inspect the site and certify in writing to the director that all of the erosion control measures required at that stage of development have been installed in conformance with the plan and related specifications.

B. Maintenance. The property owner is responsible for insuring that the erosion control measures installed operate properly and are effective in reducing to a minimum erosion and related sedimentation. The property owner shall either personally or have personnel inspect and repair/clean as necessary the erosion control measures installed at least weekly during the period between October 1st and April 1st of each year. Moreover, the property owner shall either be onsite him/herself or have personnel on site as required when it is raining to inspect the erosion control measures present and take those actions necessary to keep them functioning properly.

C. Monitoring. For projects disturbing more than one acre of land or with an average slope greater than fifteen percent, the property owner shall implement, prior to the first winter rains after installation of the planned facilities is commenced, a permanent, on-going program of self-monitoring of ground cover condition, and erosion control facility operation. The ground cover monitoring shall follow the procedures promulgated by the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS, formerly the SCS) for determining rangeland condition for hydrologic assessment.

For projects involving disturbance of more than forty acres of land or containing areas with slopes greater than thirty percent totaling a quarter acre or more, an Annual Erosion Control Plan Operation Status Report specifying ground cover condition and how the erosion control measures involved are operating shall be provided to the director and, if in a sensitive domestic water supply drainage, the owner/operator(s) of any public-serving drinking water supply reservoir present by September 1st of each year. This report shall specify the proposed management and cultural measures to be used the following year to return or maintain the ground cover in good condition in all parts of the area disturbed including vineyard avenues and any remedial actions that will be taken to get the other erosion control measures present to operate in such a manner as to minimize erosion and resultant sedimentation.

D. Failures. The following provisions shall apply where erosion control measures have failed or are in imminent danger of failing.

1. Property Owner Duties—Temporary Measures. The property owner shall:
   a. Notify the director in writing of the failure or pending failure of any erosion control measures within twenty-four hours of discovery and indicate the temporary measures taken to stabilize the situation;
   b. Modify, within twenty-four hours of the time that they receive comments from the independent engineer hired by the county to review the adequacy of these temporary measures, the temporary measures in the manner deemed necessary by the property owner's engineer so as to make them adequate to prevent further damage and problems;
2. Property Owner Duties—Permanent Remedial Measures. The property owner shall:
   a. Submit within ninety-six hours after the discovery of a failure or pending failure:
      i. An engineered plan for the remedial measures necessary to permanently correct the
         problem and an engineer's estimate of the cost thereof, and
      ii. A plan for cleanup of the damage done with an engineer's estimate for the cost of this
         work;
   b. Resubmit to the county, within forty-eight hours of the time comments are received from
      the independent engineer hired by the county to review the temporary measures installed,
      the plan, and engineer's cost estimates revised plans and estimates;
   c. Pay the county the costs of this review within forty-eight hours of demand;
   d. Post a security in one of the forms specified by subsection (A)(1) through (4) of Section
      17.38.030 in the amount equal to one hundred percent of the accepted estimated total cost
      to do the work required to correct the situation and cleanup the damage done within forty-
      eight hours of demand; and
   e. Insure that the revised plan prepared is fully implemented within ninety-six hours of its
      approval.

   The time frames specified in this subsection are maximums. The director may in the case
   of an immediate threat to public health and/or safety require performance in shorter time
   periods.

3. Plan Preparer Duties. The plan preparer shall provide a notice to the county within twenty-
   four hours of full implementation of the plan prepared to permanently correct the problem certifying
   that the measures shown have been installed in conformance with said plan and related
   specifications.

4. Noncompliance. Failure to adhere to the provisions of subsections (D)(1) and (2) above may be
   considered a threat to public health and safety. The director may in such instances take
   immediate action without further notice or hearing to remedy the situation and bill the property
   owner for the remedial work done. The director shall keep an itemized account of the costs
   incurred in remedying the situation. The board shall conduct a hearing on the costs in
   accordance with Sections 1.20.090 through 1.20.130 of this code and shall give the property
   owner an opportunity to object to the costs prior to recording a lien against the property or
   pursuing other cost-recovery actions.

E. Inspection.
   1. Each project requiring an erosion control plan that has not received a final inspection and been
      found complete by the director or his/her agent shall be inspected by the county or its agent
      after the first major storm event of each winter until the project has been completed and stable
      for three years. If it is found that the erosion control program implemented is not functioning
      properly or is ineffective the property owner shall take such remedial measures as the director
      deems necessary to reduce erosion and related sedimentation to minimal levels. The full costs
      of said measures and the related inspections shall be borne by the property owner.

   2. Five percent of projects that have received a final inspection and been found complete by the
      director or his/her agent shall be spot checked by the director or his/her agent each year to
      confirm groundcover condition and the proper operation of other erosion control measures. The
      director, in cooperation with the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and other
      county departments and agencies, will develop a remedial program to address any deficiencies
      that may be identified as the result of these spot checks. The property owner shall implement
      this program, which may include re-seeding all or some portions of the site or changing
      agricultural or management practices. He/she shall pay all costs associated with these spot-
      checks.
F. Right of Entry. With the property owner’s consent, with a warrant, or in an emergency, the property owner shall give the director and his/her agents full and complete access to and throughout the project area so as to allow:

1. Inspection of the erosion control and any remedial measures installed there to insure that they are functioning properly,
2. The making of necessary repairs or corrections to alleviate an erosion control problem or potential erosion control problem, or
3. The performance of needed maintenance.

(Ord. 1219 § 4, 2003)

18.108.140 - Security, violations, and penalties.

A. Security.

1. No earthmoving activity, grading, improvement, or construction of a structure for which an erosion control plan is required or for which compliance with the NPDES program is required by this chapter shall commence until the property owner has filed security in the form, specified in subsection (A)(2) of this section if any of the proposed earth moving activities:
   a. May pose a significant safety or public health risk,
   b. May result in a potential water quality impairment,
   c. Is located in an area determined to have a severe soil erosion hazard as determined by the director in consultation with the Napa County Resource Conservation District based on the Napa County Soil Survey prepared by the Federal Resource Conservation Service, incorporated herein by reference,
   d. Is located in a sensitive domestic water supply drainage,
   e. Involves a failure or potential failure of existing erosion control measures, or
   f. Is otherwise deemed warranted by the director.

2. The security required by subsection (A)(1) of this section shall be submitted within ten days of approval of an erosion control plan, approval of the activity subject to the NPDES program or prior to earthmoving, whichever comes first, and shall be comprised of both of the following:
   a. Security in the amount of the estimated cost of original installation of the required erosion control measures, which shall be posted with the director in one or more of the forms specified by subsections (A)(1) through (4) of Section 17.38.030.
   b. Security in the amount of twenty-five percent of the estimated costs of original installation of the required erosion control measures, which shall be posted with the director in one or more of the forms specified by subsections (A)(1) through (4) of Section 17.38.030 or in the form of recorded lien as specified in subsection (A)(5) of Section 17.38.030 against the parcel on which the measures are installed for the purpose of ensuring ongoing maintenance of the required erosion control measures in the manner specified in the erosion control plan.

3. The security required under subsection (A)(2)(a) of this section shall not be released by the director until:
   a. All required measures have been installed/implemented, and
   b. The director has made a final inspection and confirmed the installation of required erosion control measures.
4. The security required under subsection (A)(2)(b) of this section shall not be released by the director until:
   
a. Three winters after subsections (3)(a) and (3)(b) of this section have passed without any substantial problem,

b. In the case of a substantial problem or failure, any needed cleanup has been completed, erosion control measures have been corrected, and three winters have passed without any substantial problem, and

c. The director has made a final inspection and confirmed ongoing maintenance of the erosion control measures.

B. Violations. Whenever the director determines that a violation of this chapter has occurred, the director shall notify the violator in writing of the violation and require that certain conditions be implemented or adhered to in a reasonable amount of time to correct the erosion problem. Conditions may include applying for approval of an erosion control plan, implementation of remedial erosion control actions, removal of agricultural crops and related infrastructure planted without an approved erosion control plan or use permit, removal of structures constructed in violation of the NPDES program, and/or revegetation of disturbed areas. Each failure to comply with the director's notice or meet the deadlines specified therein shall constitute a separate and distinct violation, punishable as set forth in subsection (C) of this section. Moreover, the county and its agents may with the property owner's consent, with a warrant, or in an emergency enter the property and make necessary repairs or corrections, or perform needed maintenance. The property owner shall fully and completely reimburse the county for the costs associated with this remedial work.

C. Penalties. It is unlawful and a public nuisance for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter for any purpose or to cause any other person to do so. Such a violation shall be enforceable as a misdemeanor pursuant to Napa County Code Sections 1.20.150 and 1.20.160. Such a violation may also be abated as a public nuisance by judicial action or by administrative enforcement in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 1.20, commencing with Section 1.20.010, including those pertaining to treble damages for multiple judgments. In addition administrative penalties may be imposed in the manner specified in Chapter 1.28 (Administrative Penalty) of the Napa County Code. In addition, the director may issue a stop work order, report the violator to the appropriate licensing agencies (such as the State Contractor's Licensing Board), report the violator to applicable responsible and trustee agencies, require that the violator apply for and obtain all required permits, refer the matter to the district attorney's office for civil or criminal prosecution and any such other remedies the director deems appropriate.