

CHAPTERS 800 – 890 HIGHWAY DRAINAGE DESIGN

CHAPTER 800 – GENERAL ASPECTS

Topic 801 – General

Index 801.1 – Introduction

This section is not a textbook, and is not a substitute for fundamental engineering knowledge or experience.

The fields of hydrology and the hydraulics of highway drainage are rapidly evolving and it is the responsibility of the engineer to keep abreast of current design practices. As new practices or procedures are adopted by the Department, this section will be updated.

Instructions for the design of highway drainage features provided are for information and guidance of Department employees. Drainage policies, procedures and standards given are subject to amendment as conditions warrant and are neither intended as, nor do they establish, legal standards. Special situations may call for variations from these requirements, subject to approval of the Division of Design or approval by others as may be specifically referenced.

801.2 Drainage Design Philosophy

Highway drainage design is much more than the mere application of the technical principles of hydrology and hydraulics. Good drainage design is a matter of properly balancing technical principles and data with the environment giving due consideration to other factors such as safety and economics. Such design can only be accomplished through the liberal use of sound engineering judgment. Drainage features to remove runoff from the roadway and to convey surface and stream waters originating upstream of the highway to the downstream side should be designed to accomplish these functions without causing objectionable backwater, excessive velocities, erosion or unduly affecting traffic public safety. A goal in highway drainage design should be to perpetuate natural drainage, insofar as practical.

801.3 Drainage Standards

Drainage design criteria should be selected that are commensurate with the relative importance of the highway, associated risks, and possible damage to adjacent property. The objective of drainage design should be to provide optimum facilities considering function versus cost rather than to just meet minimum standards.

Engineers and other professional disciplines using this guide must recognize that hydrologic analysis, as practiced by the highway engineer, has not advanced to a level of

July 1, 2020

precise mathematical expression. All hydrologic analysis methods, whether deterministic or statistical, are based on the information available. A common challenge faced by the highway design engineer is that there may be insufficient flow data or no data at all at the site for which a stream crossing is to be designed. By applying analytical principles and methods it is possible to obtain peak discharge estimates which are functionally acceptable for the design of highway drainage structures and other features.

The design of highway drainage structures and other features must consider the probability of flooding and provide protection which is commensurate with the importance of the highway, the potential for property damage, and traffic safety. Traditionally, the level of assurance for such protection has been specified in terms of the peak rate of flow during passage of a flood or storm of the severity associated with the frequency of occurrence, i.e. a 10-year storm, the 50-year flood, etc. State-of-the-art methods and procedures associated with the necessary hydrologic analysis required to determine the severity and probability of occurrence of possible rare storms and flood events are inherently ambiguous. Therefore, the suggested drainage design criteria relating to frequency of occurrence references in this manual are provided for guidance only and are not intended to establish either legal or design standards which must be strictly adhered to. Rather, they are intended as a starting point of reference for designing the most cost effective drainage structures and facilities considering the importance of the highway, safety, legal obligations, ease of maintenance, and aesthetics.

801.4 Objectives of Drainage Design

Drainage design seeks to prevent the retention of water by a highway and provide for removal of water from the roadway through a detailed analysis considering all pertinent factors.

Specific steps to be taken generally include:

- (a) Estimating the amount and frequency of storm runoff.
- (b) Determining the natural points of concentration and discharge, the limiting elevations of entrance head, and other hydraulic controls.
- (c) Estimating the amount and composition of bedload and its abrasive and bulking effects.
- (d) Determining the necessity for protection from floating trash and from debris moving under water.
- (e) Determining the requirements for energy dissipation and bank protections.
- (f) Determining the necessity of providing for the passage of fish and recognizing other ecological conditions and constraints. Water quality and pollution control are discussed under Index 110.2. Aspects of wetlands protection are covered under Index 110.4.
- (g) Analyzing the deleterious effects of corrosive soils and waters on structures.
- (h) Comparing and coordinating proposed design with existing drainage structures and systems handling the same flows.
- (i) Coordinating, with local agencies, proposed designs for facilities on roads to be relinquished.

- (j) Providing access for maintenance operations.
- (k) Providing for removal of detrimental amounts of water on traveled ways (see Topics 831 and 833).
- (l) Providing for removal of detrimental amounts of subsurface water.
- (m) Designing the most efficient drainage facilities consistent with the factors listed above, economic considerations, the importance of the transportation facility, ease and economy of maintenance, engineering judgment, and aesthetics.
- (n) Checking the structural adequacy of designs by referral to Structures Design or by use of data furnished by Structures Design.
- (o) Preventing water from crossing slopes in concentrated flows.

801.5 Economics of Design

An economic analysis of alternate drainage designs, where a choice is available, should always be made. Non-engineering constraints may severely limit the design alternatives available to the drainage design engineer for a specific project or location. Generally, however, the design engineer has a wide range of materials and products to choose from in selecting the most economical design from available alternatives for highway drainage structures and other features.

The following factors should be considered in the selection of alternative designs and economic comparisons:

- (a) Initial cost of construction and right of way.
- (b) Evaluation of flood related risks to the highway and to adjacent properties including potential liabilities for damage.
- (c) Cost of detours and traffic handling.
- (d) Service life of the highway and of the drainage structure.
- (e) Cost of providing traffic safety features.
- (f) Aesthetics.
- (g) Costs to traveling public for delays or extra travel distance due to road closures.
- (h) Initial cost versus long term maintenance costs for cleanout, repair, traffic control and other pertinent maintenance charges that may be incurred during the life of the facility.
- (i) Safety of required maintenance activities, ability to provide maintenance mechanically and to reduce worker exposure.
- (j) Inlet and outlet treatment.
- (k) Potential for causing erosion and effective water pollution control.

801.6 Use of Drainage References

No attempt has been made herein to detail basic hydrologic and hydraulic engineering techniques.

Various sources of information, including FHWA Hydraulic Engineering Circulars (HEC's); FHWA Hydraulic Design Series (HDS) documents; Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 650, Subpart A; AASHTO Guidelines; Federal-Aid Policy Guide and numerous

August 8, 2025

hydrology and hydraulics reports and texts have been used to compile this highway drainage guide. Frequent references are made to these publications. Where there is a conflict in information or procedure, engineers must look at all pertinent parameters and use their best judgment, to determine which approach is the most consistent with the objectives of Caltrans drainage design principles and which most closely relates to the specific design problem or project.

Topic 802 – Drainage Design Responsibilities

802.1 Functional Organization

- (1) *Division of Design.* The Office of Hydraulics and Stormwater Design in Division of Design performs the following functions under the direction of the Headquarters Hydraulics Engineer:
 - (a) Provide design information, guidance and standards to the Districts for the design of surface and subsurface drainage.
 - (b) Keep informed on the latest data from research, experimental installations, other public agencies, and industry that might lead to improvement in drainage design practices.
 - (c) Promote statewide uniformity of design procedures, and the exchange of information between Districts.
 - (d) Coordinate drainage design practices with other Caltrans Offices.
 - (e) Review special drainage problems and unusual drainage designs on the basis of statewide experience.
 - (f) Act in an advisory capacity to the Districts when requested.
- (2) *Division of Engineering Services (DES).* The DES is responsible for:
 - (a) The hydraulic design of bridges, bridge deck drains, and special culverts.
 - (b) The structural adequacy of all drainage facilities.
 - (c) The adequacy of pumping plant characteristics and temporary storage. Refer to Topic 839 for further discussion on pumping stations.
 - (d) Compliance with Federal-Aid Policy Guide, Transmittal 1, G 6012.1 and submittal of preliminary hydraulic data as outlined under Topic 805.
 - (e) Geotechnical (soil mechanics and foundation engineering) considerations.
- (3) *Legal Division.* The Legal Division provides legal advice and guidance to other Caltrans Offices concerning the responsibilities of the Department and owners of property along State highways with regard to surface water drainage.
- (4) *Districts.* The District Director is responsible for:
 - (a) The hydrology for all drainage features except bridges.
 - (b) The hydraulic adequacy of all drainage features, except bridges and any special culverts and appurtenances designed by the Division of Engineering Services.
 - (c) Consulting with the Division of Engineering Services when it is proposed that an existing bridge be replaced with a culvert.

- (d) Bank and shore protection designs, including erosion protection measures at ends of bridges and other structures designed by the Division of Engineering Services.
- (e) Assigning one or more engineers in responsible charge of hydrologic study activities and the hydraulic design of drainage features.
- (f) Compliance with Federal-Aid Policy Guide, Transmittal 1, G 6012.1 for storm drain systems.
- (g) Providing additional staff as necessary with the training and background required to perform the following:
 - Accomplish the objectives of drainage design as outlined under Index 801.4
 - Prepare drainage plans or review plans prepared by others.
 - Study drainage problems involving cooperative agreements and make recommendations to the decision makers.
 - Accumulate and analyze hydrologic and hydraulic data reflecting the local conditions throughout the District for use in design.
 - Review drainage changes proposed during construction.
 - Make investigations and recommendations on drainage problems arising from the maintenance of existing State highways.
 - Coordinate drainage design activities with other District Offices and Branches.
 - Coordinate drainage designs with flood control districts and other agencies concerned with drainage by representing the District at meetings and maintaining an active liaison with these agencies at all times.
 - Furnish data as required on special problems, bridges, large culverts, culverts under high fills and pumping plants that are to be designed by the Division of Engineering Services.
 - Make field inspections of proposed culvert sites, existing drainage structures during storms, and storm damage locations.
 - Document condition and file data that might forestall or defend future lawsuits.
 - Review permits for drainage facilities to be constructed by other agencies or private parties within the highway right of way.
 - Investigate and prepare responses to complaints relative to drainage conditions on or adjacent to the right of way.

Assignment of the duties described above will vary between districts. Due to the increasing complexity of hydraulic and hydrologic issues it is imperative that the more complex analyses be performed by experienced hydraulic designers. To provide guidance on those issues where district hydraulic units should become involved, the following list is provided.

- Storm drain design and calculations.
- Drainage basins exceeding 320 acres.
- Hydrograph development or routing.
- Open channel modification or realignment.
- Retention or detention basins.
- Backwater analysis.
- High potential for flood damage litigation.

August 8, 2025

- Scour analysis or sediment transport (typically forwarded to DOS).
- Culvert designs greater than 36 inches in diameter.
- Encroachments on FEMA designated floodplains.
- Modifications to inlet or outlet capacities on existing culverts or drainage inlets (e.g., placement of safety end grates, conversion of side opening inlets to grated inlets, etc.).
- Unique hydraulic design features (e.g., energy dissipator design, pumping stations, siphons, etc.).

This list is not all inclusive, and many additional functions are likely to be performed by hydraulic units. Although various constraints may preclude the hydraulic unit from actively performing the design or analysis of these items, a thorough review by that unit should be performed, at a minimum.

(5) *Materials Engineering and Testing Services*. METS provides advice and guidance to other Caltrans Offices and Branches concerning service life, physical properties, and structural adequacy of materials used in drainage design.

802.2 Culvert Committee

The Caltrans Culvert Committee is composed of nine members representing the Offices of Hydraulics and Stormwater Design, Structure Design, Office Engineer, and Materials Engineering and Testing Services, along with the Division of Construction and the Division of Maintenance. The Committee is chaired by the Headquarters Hydraulics Engineer in the Office of Hydraulics and Stormwater Design. The Committee performs the following functions:

- (a) Investigates new materials and new installation methods that may improve the economic service life of culverts and other drainage facilities.
- (b) Coordinates drainage design practice with other headquarters departments.
- (c) Follows current research and takes steps to implement successful findings.
- (d) Acts as an advisory group to Districts and other Caltrans Offices when requested.
- (e) Serves as Caltrans liaison with manufacturers, suppliers, contractors and industry associations.

The authority of the Committee is advisory only, and recommendations of the Committee are submitted to the Chief, Division of Design for approval and implementation through design guidelines and standards.

Requests for consideration of new materials, methods, or procedures should be directed to the Committee Chairman.

802.3 Bank and Shore Protection Committee

The Caltrans Bank and Shore Protection Committee is composed of representatives from DES Structures Maintenance and Investigation, Office of Hydraulics and Stormwater Design, METS, Division of Construction, and Division of Maintenance. It is chaired by the Office of Hydraulics and Stormwater Design representative. The Committee performs the following functions:

- (a) Acts as a service and an advisory group available to Districts and Caltrans Offices and Branches upon written request for special investigations or study. Requests for special investigation of rock slope protection, channel or bridge protection, major channel changes, etc. should be directed to the Committee Chair.
- (b) Provides conceptual input and acts as approval authority for supplements or modifications to bank and shore protection practice publications as warranted.
- (c) Investigates and provides input toward the development of detailed design criteria for the various types of bank and shore protection.
- (d) Observes performances of existing and/or experimental installations during or following severe exposures. The Districts or Caltrans Offices or Branches are requested to inform the Chair, Bank and Shore Protection Committee, or any available members of the Committee, of damage to installations by flood or high seas.
- (e) Upon submission by the Department's New Products Coordinator, the Committee evaluates new products and processes related to bank and shore protection for possible approval.

Topic 803 – Drainage Design Policies

803.1 Basic Policy

In drainage design, the basic consideration is to protect the department's facilities against damage from storm and subsurface waters, taking into account the effect of the proposed improvement on travelers, property, and wildlife. Unless the State would benefit thereby, or the cost is borne by others, no improvement in the drainage of areas outside the right of way is to be considered on Caltrans projects.

803.2 Cooperative Agreements

The extent of the department's financial participation in cooperative drainage improvement projects must be commensurate with the benefits to the Department and the traveling public.

- (1) *Local Agencies.* Caltrans may participate with Local Agencies, Flood Control Districts or Drainage Assessment Districts on drainage improvement projects. Such projects must be covered by a formal agreement prepared and processed in accordance with instructions in the Caltrans Cooperative Agreement Manual.
- (2) *Federal and State Flood Control Projects.* The cost of upgrading or modifying existing State highway facilities to accommodate Federal and/or State funded flood control projects is normally the responsibility of the agency funding the project. As necessary, Caltrans may enter into agreements containing provisions that the cost of betterments to existing highways, including drainage features, will be paid for by the Department. The Cooperative Agreement Manual contains procedures for preparing interagency agreements.

803.3 Up-Grading Existing Drainage Facilities

- (1) *Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Projects.* The hydraulic adequacy, as well as the structural adequacy of existing drainage facilities should be evaluated early in the project development process on pavement rehabilitation and highway reconstruction projects

July 1, 2020

Repair or replacement of structurally deficient drainage structures and up-grading of hydraulically inadequate drainage facilities should, whenever practicable, be included in the work of the proposed project. A thorough investigation of upstream and downstream conditions is often required to reveal what adverse effects there may be with increasing the capacity or velocity of existing cross drainage.

A cooperative agreement should be negotiated when the proposed work includes the upgrading of an existing storm drain system under the jurisdiction of a local or other public agency.

- (2) *Proposed Upstream Development.* Unless developers of land in the drainage basin upstream of existing State highways incorporate positive stormwater management practices, such as detention or retention storage basins within their improvement areas, the peak flow from stormwater runoff is nearly always increased. As a practical matter, minor increases in peak flow are usually not objectionable. However, uncontrolled upstream development or diversions can significantly increase the peak flow run-off causing the capacity of downstream drainage systems, including those within the State right of way, to be exceeded.

When reasonable solutions to potential drainage problems associated with such increased flows include the up-grading of drainage facilities within the State highway right-of-way, cooperative agreements with the responsible local agency should be negotiated. The local agency having permit authority has the responsibility for assessing liabilities and seeking commensurate funding for mitigation of run-off impacts from the developers. The local agency should not allow potentially harmful developments to proceed until all issues have been resolved. If it becomes apparent that the District, the local agency and the developer may not amiably reach agreement, the matter should be referred to Caltrans Legal Division before there is an impasse in the negotiations.

Caltrans financial participation in such drainage improvements must be based on the general rule stated in Index 803.2 Cooperative Agreements.

- (3) *Hydraulically Inadequate Facilities.* Land use changes nearly always cause areas to become less pervious and drainage basins to yield greater volumes and increase peak stormwater run-off flows. Even development of a small parcel of land within a drainage basin causes some increase in stormwater run-off. Individually the increase may be negligible. Collectively these incrementally small increases over time may cause the design capacity of an existing culvert to be exceeded.

The up-grading of this category of hydraulically inadequate drainage facilities may be partially or fully financed by Caltrans. Only if the benefit cost (b/c) ratio is equal to or greater than one is up-grading viable for normal Caltrans project funding. When the benefits to the Department and the traveling public do not justify increasing the capacity, up-grading may still be accomplished cooperatively with the local agency in accordance with the general rule for participation under Index 803.2 Cooperative Agreements.

Topic 804 – Floodplain Encroachments

804.1 Purpose

The purpose of these instructions is to provide uniform procedures and guidelines for Caltrans multi-disciplinary evaluation of proposed highway encroachments on floodplains.

804.2 Authority

Title 23, CFR, Part 650, Subpart A, prescribes FHWA's "... policies and procedures for the location and hydraulic design of highway encroachments on floodplains, ..." The CFR's may be found on-line at the National Archive's Code of Federal Regulations eCFR tool at: <https://www.ecfr.gov/>

804.3 Applicability

The guidance provided herein establishes Caltrans procedures whenever a floodplain encroachment is anticipated. Adherence to these procedures will also ensure compliance with applicable Federal regulations which apply to any Federally approved highway construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, or improvement project which affects the (100-year) base floodplain. Work outside the limits of the base floodplain should be reviewed to see if it affects the (100-year) base floodplain. The only exception is repairs made with emergency funds during or immediately following a disaster. The premise is that all Federal-aid projects be evaluated and that diligent efforts be made to:

- Avoid significant floodplain encroachments where practicable.
- Minimize the impact of highway actions that adversely affect the base floodplain.
- Be compatible with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

804.4 Definitions

The following definitions of terms are made for the purpose of uniform application in the documentation and preparation of floodplain evaluation reports. Refer to Title 23, CFR, Part 650, Section 650.105 for a complete list of definitions.

- (1) *Base Flood*. The flood or tide having a 1 percent chance of being exceeded in any given year (100-year flood).
- (2) *Base Floodplain*. The area subject to flooding by the base flood. Every watercourse (river, creek, swale, etc.) is subject to flooding and theoretically has a base floodplain.
- (3) *Design Flood*. The peak discharge, volume if appropriate, stage or wave crest elevation of the flood associated with the probability of exceedance selected for the design of a highway encroachment. By definition, the highway will not be inundated from the stage of the design flood.
- (4) *Encroachment*. An action within the limits of the base floodplain. Any construction activity (access road, building, fill slopes, bank or slope protection, etc.) within a base floodplain constitutes an encroachment.
- (5) *Location Hydraulic Study*. A term from 23 CFR, Section 650.111 referring to the preliminary investigative study to be made of base floodplain encroachments by a proposed highway action. The extent of investigation and the discussion content in the required documentation of the "Location Hydraulic Study" is very site specific and need be no more than that which is commensurate with the risk(s) and impact(s) particular to the location under consideration. The information developed, documented (refer to Figure 804.7A) and retained in the project file is the suggested minimum necessary for compliance.

July 1, 2020

- (6) *Natural and Beneficial Floodplain Values.* This shall include but is not limited to fish, wildlife, plants, open space, natural beauty, scientific study, outdoor recreation, agriculture, forestry, natural moderation of floods, water quality maintenance, and groundwater recharge.
- (7) *Overtopping Flood.* The flood described by the probability of exceedance and water surface elevation at which flow occurs over the highway, over the watershed divide, or through structure(s) provided for emergency relief.
- (8) *Regulatory Floodway.* The floodplain area that is reserved in an open manner by Federal, State or local requirements, i.e., unconfined or unobstructed either horizontally or vertically, to provide for the discharge of the base flood so that the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated amount (not to exceed 1 foot as established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for administering the National Flood Insurance Program).

804.5 Procedures

Floodplain evaluations are essentially an extension of the environmental assessment process and instructions contained in the Environmental Handbook and the Project Development Procedures Manual are to be followed. Early in the planning of a project it is necessary to first determine:

- (a) If a proposed route alternative will encroach on a base floodplain (refer to Index 804.4 (2)) or,
- (b) Where proposed construction on existing highway alignment encroaches on a base floodplain.

A Location Hydraulic Study is used to determine (a) and (b) above. Refer to Index 804.4 (4) and 804.7 (2)(b) for further discussion.

Where National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Maps and study reports are available, their use is mandatory in determining whether a highway location alternative will include an encroachment on the base floodplain. Three types of NFIP maps are published which, if available, may be obtained from the District Hydraulics Branch: Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM), Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM), and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

If NFIP Maps are not available, the District Hydraulics Engineer should develop hydrologic data and hydraulic information to estimate the limits of the 100-year base floodplain to determine whether a highway location alternative will include an encroachment.

Projects which involve proposed construction within a regulatory floodplain or floodway need to be analyzed to determine whether it may be necessary to obtain a map revision. A map revision is required when construction in the floodplain increases the base flood elevation (BFE) more than 1 foot. Not all new construction projects require a map revision.

804.6 Responsibilities

The District Project Engineer is generally the responsible party for initiating and coordinating the overall multi-disciplinary team activities of evaluation and documentation of floodplain impacts. Discussion of specific hydraulic and environmental aspects are required by 23 CFR 650, Subpart A. Preparing the project floodplain evaluation report and

the summary for the environmental document or project report is normally the responsibility of the Environmental Planning Branch. The District Hydraulics Engineer will, as necessary, develop the hydrological and hydraulic information and provide technical assistance for assessing impacts of floodplain encroachments.

804.7 Preliminary Evaluation of Risks and Impacts for Environmental Document

Virtually all proposed highway improvements that are considered as floodplain encroachments will be designed to have:

- (a) No significant risks associated with implementation and,
 - (b) Negligible environmental impacts on the base floodplain.
- (1) *Risks.* There will always be some potential for property damage and flooding that may affect public safety, associated with highway drainage design. In a majority of cases, a field review with a NFIP or USGS map and the application of good engineering judgment are all that is needed to determine if such risks are significant or acceptable. The detail of study and documentation shall be commensurate with the risk(s) or floodplain impact(s) and, in all cases, should be held to the minimum necessary to address 23 CFR 650.111.
- (2) *Impacts.* The assessment of potential impacts on the floodplain environment will include:
- (a) Impacts on natural and beneficial floodplain values.
 - (b) Support of probable incompatible floodplain development.

Except for the more environmentally sensitive projects, a single visit to the project site by the District Project Engineer, Hydraulics Engineer, and Environmental Planner, to assess and document the risks and environmental impacts associated with the proposed project is generally all that is necessary to obtain enough information for the "Location Hydraulic Study". Any reasonable adaptation of the technical information for "Location Hydraulic Study" form, Figure 804.7A, may be utilized to document and summarize the findings of the "Location Hydraulic Study" when the project is expected to be processed with a categorical exclusion. Items listed in 23 CFR 650.111 as follows must be addressed:

- (a) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) maps or information developed by the highway agency, if NFIP maps are not available, shall be used to determine whether a highway location alternative will include an encroachment.
- (b) Location studies shall include evaluation and discussion of the practicability of alternatives to any longitudinal encroachments.
- (c) Location studies shall include discussion of the following items, commensurate with the significance of the risk or environmental impact, for all alternatives containing encroachments and for those actions which would support base floodplain development:
 - (1) The risks associated with implementation of the action,
 - (2) The impacts on natural and beneficial floodplain values,
 - (3) The support of probable incompatible floodplain development,
 - (4) The measures to minimize floodplain impacts associated with the action, and

July 1, 2020

- (5) The measures to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial floodplain values impacted by the action.
- (d) Location studies shall include evaluation and discussion of the practicability of alternatives to any significant encroachments or any support of incompatible floodplain development.
- (e) The studies required by Sec. 650.111 (c) and (d) shall be summarized in environmental review documents prepared pursuant to 23 CFR part 771.
- (f) Local, State, and Federal water resources and floodplain management agencies should be consulted to determine if the proposed highway action is consistent with existing watershed and floodplain management programs and to obtain current information on development and proposed actions in the affected watersheds.

Figure 804.7A is considered the suggested minimum hydraulic and engineering documentation for floodplain encroachments (bridge, culvert, channel change, slope protection, embankment, etc.). It is intended as a guide tool to help address the items listed in 23 CFR 650.111 and should be prepared jointly by the Project Engineer and Hydraulics Engineer. Since every location is unique, some of the questions may not apply, or additional considerations may need to be added.

For projects requiring an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment (EIS/EA) or a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with alternatives that have permanent features that encroach on the floodplain, a back-up report entitled Floodplain Evaluation is normally prepared by the District Environmental Branch. The technical requirements are typically developed jointly by the District Project Engineer and District Hydraulics Engineer. See Figure 804.7B for the Floodplain Evaluation Report Summary form that is used when an environmental document is to be prepared.

804.8 Design Standards

The design standards for highways encroaching on a floodplain are itemized in 23 CFR, Section 650.115. One requirement often overlooked is the need to assess the costs and risks associated with the overtopping flood for design alternatives in those instances where the overtopping flood exceeds the base flood. The content of design study information to be retained in the project file are described in 23 CFR, Section 650.117.

804.9 Coordination with the Local Community

The responsibility for enforcing National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations rests with the local community that is participating in the NFIP. It is the community who must submit proposals to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for amendments to NFIP ordinances and maps in that community, or to demonstrate that an alternative floodway configuration meets NFIP requirements. However, this responsibility may be borne by the agency proposing to construct the highway crossing. Therefore, the highway agency should deal directly with the community and, through them, deal with FEMA. Determination of the status of a community's participation in the NFIP and review of applicable NFIP maps and study reports are, therefore, essential first steps in conducting location hydraulic studies and preparing environmental documents.

804.10 National Flood Insurance Program

The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (PL 93-234, 87 Stat. 975) denies Federal financial assistance to flood prone communities that fail to qualify for flood insurance. The Act requires communities to adopt certain land use controls in order to qualify for flood insurance. These land use requirements could impose restrictions on the construction of highways in floodplains and regulatory floodplains in communities which have qualified for flood insurance.

July 1, 2020

Figure 804.7A**Technical Information for Location Hydraulic Study**

Dist. _____ Co. _____ Rte. _____ P.M. _____

EA _____ Bridge No. _____

Floodplain Description

1. Description of Proposal (include any physical barriers i.e. concrete barriers, soundwalls, etc. and design elements to minimize floodplain impacts)

2. ADT: Current _____ Projected _____

3. Hydraulic Data: Base Flood Q_{100} = _____ CFS
 WSE_{100} = _____ The flood of record, if greater than Q_{100} :
 Q = _____ CFS WSE = _____
 Overtopping flood Q = _____ CFS WSE = _____
 Are NFIP maps available? Yes _____ No _____
 Are NFIP studies available? Yes _____ No _____

4. Is the highway location alternative within a regulatory floodway?

Yes	No
_____	_____

5. Attach map with flood limits outlined showing all buildings or other improvements within the base floodplain.

Potential Q_{100} backwater damages:

A. Residences?

B. Other Bldgs?

C. Crops?

D. Natural and beneficial Floodplain values?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Figure 804.7A**Technical Information for Location Hydraulic Study (Cont.)**

6. Type of Traffic:
- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| A. Emergency supply or evacuation route? | _____ | _____ |
| B. Emergency vehicle access? | _____ | _____ |
| C. Practicable detour available? | _____ | _____ |
| D. School bus or mail route? | _____ | _____ |
7. Estimated duration of traffic interruption for 100-year event
_____ hours.
8. Estimated value of Q_{100} flood damages (if any) - moderate risk level.
- | | |
|---------------|-------|
| A. Roadway\$ | _____ |
| B. Property\$ | _____ |
| Total\$ | _____ |
9. Assessment of Level of Risk
Low ____ Moderate ____ High ____
For High Risk projects, during design phase, additional Design Study Risk Analysis may be necessary to determine design alternative.

PREPARED BY:

Signature - Dist. Hydraulic Engineer Date
(Item numbers 3, 4, 5, 7, 9)

Is there any longitudinal encroachment, significant encroachment, or any support of incompatible Floodplain development? No ____ Yes ____

If yes, provide evaluation and discussion of practicability of alternatives in accordance with
23 CFR 650.113

Information developed to comply with the Federal requirement for the Location Hydraulic Study Shall be retained in the project files.

Signature - Dist. Project Engineer Date
(Item numbers 1, 2, 6, 8)

July 1, 2020

Figure 804.7B**Floodplain Evaluation Report Summary**

Dist. _____ Co. _____ Rte. _____ P.M. _____
 Project No. _____ Bridge No. _____
 Limit _____

Floodplain Description

	Yes	No
1. Is the proposed action a longitudinal encroachment of the base floodplain?	_____	_____
2. Are the risks associated with the implementation of the proposed action significant?	_____	_____
3. Will the proposed action support probable incompatible floodplain development?	_____	_____
4. Are there any significant impacts on natural and beneficial floodplain values?	_____	_____
5. Routine construction procedures are required to minimize impacts on the floodplain. Are there any special mitigation measures necessary to minimize impacts or restore and preserve natural and beneficial floodplain values? If yes, explain.	_____	_____
6. Does the proposed action constitute a significant floodplain encroachment as defined in 23 CFR, Section 650.105(q).	_____	_____
7. Are Location Hydraulic Studies that document the above answers on file? If not explain.	_____	_____

PREPARED BY:

Signature - Dist. Hydraulic EngineerDate_____
Signature - Dist. Environmental Branch ChiefDate_____
Signature - Dist. Project EngineerDate

The National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001-4127) requires that communities adopt adequate land use and control measures to qualify for insurance. To implement this provision, the following Federal criteria contains requirements which may affect certain highways:

- In riverine situations, when the Administrator of the Federal Insurance Administration has identified the flood prone area, the community must require that, until a floodway has been designated, no use, including land fill, be permitted within the floodplain area having special flood hazards for which base flood elevations have been provided, unless it has been demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed use, when combined with all other existing and reasonably anticipated uses of similar nature, will not increase the water surface elevation of the 100-year flood more than 1 foot at any point within the community.
- After the floodplain area having special flood hazards has been identified and the water surface elevation for the 100-year flood and floodway data have been provided, the community must designate a floodway which will convey the 100-year flood without increasing the water surface elevation of the flood more than 1 foot at any point and prohibit, within the designated floodway, fill, encroachments and new construction and substantial improvements of existing structures which would result in any increase in flood heights within the community during the occurrence of the 100-year flood discharge.
- The participating cities and/or counties agree to regulate new development in the designated floodplain and floodway through regulations adopted in a floodplain ordinance. The ordinance requires that development in the designated floodplain be consistent with the intent, standards and criteria set by the National Flood Insurance Program.

804.11 Coordination with FEMA

There should be Caltrans coordination with FEMA in situations where administrative determinations are needed involving a regulatory floodway or where flood risks in NFIP communities are significantly impacted. The circumstances which would ordinarily require coordination with FEMA include the following.

- When a proposed crossing encroaches on a regulatory floodway and, as such, would require an amendment to the floodway map.
- When a proposed crossing encroaches on a floodplain where a detailed study has been performed but no floodway designated and the maximum 1 foot increase in the base flood elevation would be exceeded.
- When a local community is expected to enter into the regular program within a reasonable period and detailed floodplain studies are under way.
- When a local community is participating in the emergency program and the base FEMA flood elevation in the vicinity of insurable buildings is increased by more than 1 foot. Where insurable buildings are not affected, it is sufficient to notify FEMA of changes to the base flood elevations as a result of highway construction.
- The draft (EIS/EA) should indicate the NFIP status of affected communities, the encroachments anticipated and the need for floodway or floodplain ordinance amendments. If a determination by FEMA would influence the selection of an alternative, a commitment from FEMA should be obtained prior to the final environmental impact Statement (FEIS) or FONSI.

August 8, 2025

More information regarding FEMA can be found on-line at FEMA's Flood Insurance website: <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/>.

FEMA has developed a comprehensive listing of all numerical models that are accepted for NFIP usage. These models can be accessed online at FEMA's Software for Flood Mapping website: <https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/software>

Topic 805 – Preliminary Plans

805.1 Required FHWA Approval

Current Federal policy requires the review and approval of plans for unusual structures. (See Indices 805.2 - 805.6) by FHWA. FHWA will no longer review and approve major structures (those with greater than 125,000 square feet of deck area) or pumping plants with greater than 20 CFS design discharge. Submittal of plans for unusual structures for review applies only to new construction on the Interstate system. The responsibility for the oversight of unusual structures on other Federal-aid and non-Federal-aid highways will be assumed by the state.

Federal review and approval may take place at either their Division Office or FHWA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Early submission of necessary data is critical in order to receive a timely approval.

805.2 Bridge Preliminary Report

A Bridge Preliminary Report will be prepared by Structures Design, in the Division of Engineering Services and submitted to the California FHWA Division Office in Sacramento for approval of unusual bridges and structures.

An unusual bridge involves difficult or unique foundation problems, new or complex designs involving unique design or operational features, longer than normal spans or bridges for which the design procedures depart from current acceptable practice. Examples include cable stayed, suspension, arch, segmental concrete bridges, trusses and other bridges which deviate from AASHTO Standard Specifications or Guide Specifications for Highway Bridges, bridges requiring abnormal dynamic analysis for seismic design, bridges designed using a three-dimensional computer analysis, bridges with spans exceeding 500 feet, and bridges which include ultra high strength concrete or steel.

805.3 Storm Drain Systems

The District will submit preliminary plans and hydraulic data for unusual storm drain systems to the California FHWA Division Office in Sacramento for storm drain systems that carry more than 200 CFS or have an accumulated surface detention storage system of more than five acre-feet.

805.4 Unusual Hydraulic Structures

The District will submit preliminary plans and hydraulic data for unusual hydraulic structures to the California FHWA Office in Sacramento. For projects on the interstate system, FHWA Headquarters Office of Bridge Technology approval is required for hydraulic structures involving unusual stream stability countermeasures or unique design techniques. The Division of Engineering Services will submit preliminary plans and hydraulic data to the California FHWA Division Office in Sacramento for unusual structures such as tunnels, complex or unique geotechnical structures and complex or unique hydraulic structures.

805.5 Levees and Dams Formed by Highway Fills

The District will submit preliminary plans and other supportive data to the California FHWA Division Office in Sacramento for approval of:

- (a) Highway fills which will function as a levee and serve the purpose of reducing the flooding of adjacent areas.
- (b) Dams formed by highway fills which will permanently impound water more than 25 feet in depth or 50 acre-feet in volume. See Index 829.9 Dams, for legal definition of a dam and regulations relative to approval by the California Department of Water Resources. Also see 23 CFR 650.115(c) for the definition of design standards regarding the use of highway fills as dams.

805.6 Geotechnical

The District shall submit preliminary plans and technical data for major or unusual geotechnical features to the California FHWA Division Office for approval. Major geotechnical features include unusually deep cuts or high fills where the site geology is potentially unstable, landslide corrections, and large retaining walls (cantilever, permanent ground anchor, and soil reinforcement). FHWA Headquarters Bridge Division approval is required for unusual geotechnical features, such as new or complex retaining wall systems or ground improvement systems.

805.7 Data Provided by the District

The following items of supportive information must be provided with requests for FHWA approval:

- (a) Preliminary plans and profiles:
 - Approach layouts.
 - Drainage plans.
- (b) Hydraulic design studies:
 - Design Q and frequency.
 - Hydraulic grade lines.
 - Inflow - Outflow hydrographs.
 - Capacity of reservoirs or pump storage systems.
 - Pump capacity.

July 1, 2020

- Stream velocities.
 - Water surface profiles.
 - Slope protection, toe and top elevations.
- (c) Proposed specifications.
- (d) Estimated cost.
- (e) Foundation report:
- Embankment design for fills functioning as dams.
- (f) Subsurface investigations.
- (g) Coordination with Federal, state and local agencies.
- (h) Other pertinent data.

The FHWA requires that three copies of supportive information be submitted to the California FHWA Division Office when approval by FHWA Headquarters Bridge Division is required. Four copies of supportive information are to be furnished to the Division of Engineering Services to prepare the FHWA approval requests for bridges.

Topic 806 – Definitions of Drainage Terms

806.1 Introduction

These definitions are for use with Sections 800 through 890 of this manual and the references cited. They are not necessarily definitions as established by case or statutory law.

806.2 Drainage Terms

Accretion. Outward growth of bank or shore by sedimentation. Increase or extension of boundaries of land by action of natural forces.

Action. Any highway construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, or improvement.

Aggradation. General and progressive raising of a stream bed by deposition of sediment. Modification of the earth's surface in the direction of uniformity of grade, or slope, by deposition as in a river bed.

Aggressive. Refers to the corrosive properties of soil and water.

Alluvial. Referring to deposits of silts, sands, gravels and similar detrital material which have been transported by running water.

Alluvium. Stream-borne materials deposited in and along a channel.

Apron. (1) A paved area (usually depressed) around a drainage inlet. (2) A floor or lining of concrete between wingwalls at the end of a culvert to prevent scour. (3) A lining of the bed of the channel upstream or downstream from a lined or restricted waterway. (4) A floor or lining of concrete, rock, etc., to protect a surface from erosion such as the pavement along the toe of bank protection.

Aqueduct. (1) A major conduit. (2) The entire transmission main for a municipal water supply which may consist of a succession of canals, pipes, tunnels, etc. (3) Any conduit for water; especially one for a large quantity of flowing water. (4) A structure for conveying a canal over a river or hollow.

Aquifer. Water-bearing geologic formations that permit the movement of ground water.

Armor. Artificial surfacing of bed, banks, shore or embankment to resist erosion or scour.

Arroyo. Waterway of an ephemeral stream deeply carved in rock or ancient alluvium.

Artesian Waters. Percolating waters confined below impermeable formations with sufficient pressure to spring or well up to the surface.

Articulated. Made flexible by hinging particularly of small rigid slabs adapted to revetment.

Avulsion. (1) A forcible separation; also, a part torn off. (2) The sudden removal of land from the estate of one man to that of another, as by a sudden change in a river, the property thus separated continuing in the original owner. (3) A sudden shift in location of channel.

Backing Layer. A layer of graded rock between rock riprap and underlying engineering fabric or filter layer to prevent extrusion of the soil or filter layer material through the riprap.

Backshore. The zone of the shore or beach lying between the foreshore and the coastline and acted upon by waves only during severe storms, especially when combined with exceptionally high water.

Backwater. An unnaturally high stage in stream caused by obstruction or confinement of flow, as by a dam, a bridge, or a culvert. Its measure is the excess of unnatural over natural stage, not the difference in stage upstream and downstream from its cause.

Baffle. Concrete or metal panels mounted in a series on the floor and/or wall of a culvert to increase boundary roughness and thereby reduce the average water velocity while increasing flow depth in the culvert.

Bank. The lateral boundary of a stream confining water flow. The bank on the left side of a channel looking downstream is called the left bank, etc.

Bankfull Stage. Stage at which a stream first overflows its natural banks into the floodplain. If the floodplain is absent or poorly defined, other indicators may identify bankfull. These include the height of depositional features, a change in vegetation, slope or topographic breaks along the bank, a change in the particle size of bank material, undercuts in the bank, and stain lines or the lower extent of lichens and moss on boulders. Corresponds to the stage at which channel maintenance is most effective, that is, the discharge at which the stream is moving sediment, forming or removing bars, forming or changing bends and meanders, and generally doing work that results in the average morphologic characteristics of channels. Generally applies to mature streams in more alluvial conditions rather than in mountainous conditions where the "bank" might be hundreds of feet above the incised channel.

July 1, 2020

In incised channels, where the previous floodplain surface has become a terrace, the bankfull stage can be identified as the lowermost limit of establishing woody-riparian vegetation.

Bank Protection. Revetment, or other armor protecting a bank of a stream from erosion, includes devices used to deflect the forces of erosion away from the bank.

Bar. An elongated deposit of alluvium within a channel or across its mouth.

Barrier. A low dam or rack built to control flow of debris.

Base Flood. The flood or tide having a 1 percent chance of being exceeded in any given year (100-year flood). The "base flood" is commonly used as the "standard flood" in Federal flood insurance studies. (see Regulatory Flood).

Base Floodplain. The area subject to flooding by the base flood.

Basin. (1) The surface of the area tributary to a stream or lake. (2) Space above or below ground capable of retaining or detaining water or debris.

Bay. An indentation of bank or shore, including erosional cuts and slipouts, not necessarily large.

Beach. The zone of sedimentary material that extends landward from the low water line to the place where there is marked change in material or form, or to the line of permanent vegetation (usually the effective limit of storm waves). The seaward limit of a beach, unless otherwise specified, is the mean low water line. A beach includes foreshore and backshore.

Bed. The earth below any body of water, limited laterally by bank or shore.

Bedding. The foundation under a drainage structure.

Bed Load. Sediment that moves by rolling, sliding, or skipping along the bed and is essentially in contact with the stream bed.

Berm. (1) A bench or terrace between two slopes. (2) A nearly horizontal part of the beach or backshore formed at the high water line by waves depositing material. Some beaches have no berms, others have one or several.

Block. Precast prismatic unit for riprap structure.

Bluff. A high, steep bank composed of erodible materials.

Boil. Turbulent break in a water surface by upwelling.

Boom. Floating log or similar element designed to dampen surface waves or control the movement of drift.

Bore. A transient solitary wave in a narrow or converging channel advancing with a steep turbulent front; product of flash floods or incoming tides.

Boulder. Largest rock transported by a stream or rolled in the surf; typically heavier than 25 pounds and larger than 8 inches in diameter.

Braided Stream. A stream in which flow is divided at normal stage by small islands. This type of stream has the aspect of a single large channel with which there are subordinate channels.

Breaker. A collapsing wave meeting a shore, reef, sandbar, or rock.

Breakwater. A fixed or floating structure that protects a shore area, harbor, anchorage, or basin from intercepting waves.

Bulkhead. A steep or vertical structure placed on a bank, bluff, or embankment to retain or prevent sliding of the land and protect the inland area from damage.

Bulking. The increase in volume of flow due to air entrainment, debris, bedload, or sediment in suspension.

Buoyancy. Uplift force on a submerged body equal to the mass of water displaced times the acceleration of gravity.

Camber. An upward adjustment of the profile of a drainage facility under a heavy loading (usually a high embankment) and poor soil conditions, so that as the drainage facility settles it approaches the design profile.

Canal. An artificial open channel.

Canyon. A large deep valley; also the submarine counterpart.

Cap. Top layer of stone protective works.

Capacity. The effective carrying ability of a drainage structure. Generally measured in cubic feet per second.

Capillarity. The attraction between water and soil particles which cause water to move in any direction through the soil mass regardless of gravitational forces.

Capillary Water. Water which clings to soil particles by capillary action. It is normally associated with fine sand, silt, or clay, but not normally with coarse sand and gravel.

Catch Basin. A drainage structure which collects water. May be either a structure where water enters from the side or through a grating.

Causeway. A raised embankment or trestle over swamp or overflow areas.

Cavitation. Erosion by suction, especially in the partial vacuum of a diverging jet.

Celerity. Velocity of a moving wave, as distinguished from velocity of particles oscillating in the wave.

Channel. An open conduit either naturally or artificially created which periodically or continuously contains moving water, or which forms a connecting link between two bodies of water. River, creek, run, branch, anabranch, and tributary are some of the terms used to describe natural channels. Natural channels may be single or braided (see Braided Stream). Canal and "floodway" are some of the terms used to describe artificial channels.

Check. A sill or weir in a channel to control stage or velocity.

Check Dam. A small dam generally placed in steep ditches for the purpose of reducing the velocity in the ditch.

Cienega. A swamp formed by water rising to the surface at a fault.

Cleanout. An access opening to a roadway drainage system. Usually consists of a manhole shaft, a special chamber or opening into a shallow culvert or drain.

July 1, 2020

Cliff. A high, steep face of rock; a precipice.

Cloudburst. Rain storm of great intensity usually over a small area for a short duration.

Coast. (1) The strip of land, of indefinite width (up to several miles), that extends from the shoreline inland to the first major change in terrain features. (2) As a combining form, “upcoast” is northerly and “downcoast” is southerly.

Cobble. Rock smaller than a boulder and larger than gravel; typically 1 pound to 25 pounds, or 3 inches to 8 inches in diameter.

Coefficient of Runoff. Percentage of gross rainfall which appears as runoff.

Composite Hydrograph. A plot of mean daily discharges for a number of years of record on a single year time base for the purpose of showing the occurrence of high and low flows.

Concentrated Flow. Flowing water that has been accumulated into a single fairly narrow stream.

Concentration. In addition to its general sense, means the unnatural collection or convergence of waters so as to discharge in a narrower width, and at greater depth or velocity.

Conduit. Any pipe, arch, box or drain tile through which water is conveyed.

Cone. Physiographic form of sediment deposit washed from a gorge channel onto an open plain; a debris cone, also called an alluvial fan.

Confluence. A junction of streams.

Constriction. An obstruction narrowing a waterway.

Contraction. The reduction in cross sectional area of flow.

Control. (1) A section or reach of an open conduit or stream channel which maintains a stable relationship between stage and discharge. (2) For flood, erosion, debris, etc., remedial means or procedure restricting damage to a tolerable level.

Conveyance. A measure of the water carrying capacity of a stream or channel.

Core. Central zone of dike, levee, rock groin, jetty, etc.

Corrasion. Erosion or scour by abrasion in flowing water.

Corrosion. Erosion by chemical action.

Cradle. (1) A concrete base generally constructed to fit the shape of a structure which is to be forced through earthen material by a jacking operation. The cradle is constructed to line and grade. (2) Wood support for rigid culverts on yielding embankment subgrade. Then the pipe rides on the cradle as it is worked through the given material by jacking and tunneling methods. Also serves as bedding for pipes in trenches in special conditions.

Creek. A small stream, usually active.

Crest. (1) Peak of a wave or a flood. (2) Top of a levee, dam, weir, spillway or other water barrier or control.

Crib. An open-frame structure loaded with earth or stone ballast to act as a baffle in bank protection.

Critical Depth. (Depth at which specific energy is a minimum) - The depth of water in a conduit at which under certain other conditions the maximum flow will occur. These other conditions are the conduit is on the critical slope with the water flowing at its critical velocity and there is an adequate supply of water. The depth of water flowing in an open channel or a conduit partially filled, for which the velocity head equals one-half the hydraulic mean depth.

Critical Flow. That flow in open channels at which the energy content of the fluid is at a minimum. Also, that flow which has a Froude number of one.

Critical Slope. That slope at which the maximum flow will occur at the minimum velocity. The slope or grade that is exactly equal to the loss of head per foot resulting from flow at a depth that will give uniform flow at critical depth; the slope of a conduit which will produce critical flow.

Critical Velocity. Mean velocity of flow when flow is at critical depth.

Culvert. A closed conduit which allows water to pass under a highway. The following three conditions constitute a culvert;

1. Single Barrel - span measured along centerline of road 20 feet or less.
2. Multi-Barrels - total of the individual spans measured along centerline of road is 20 feet or less.
3. Multi-Barrels - total of the individual spans measured along centerline of road is 20 feet or greater, but the distance between individual culverts is more than one-half the culvert diameter.

Current. Flow of water, both as a phenomenon and as a vector. Usually qualified by adjectives like downward, littoral, tidal, etc. to show relation to a pattern of movement.

Current Meter. An instrument for measuring the velocity of a current. It is usually operated by a wheel equipped with vanes or cups which is rotated by the action of the impinging current. An indicating or recording device is provided to indicate the speed of rotation which is correlated with the velocity of the current.

Cutoff Wall. A wall at the end of a drainage structure, the top of which is an integral part of the drainage structure. This wall is usually buried and its function is to prevent undermining of the drainage structure if the natural material at the outlet of the structure is dug out by the water discharging from the end of the structure. Cutoff walls are sometimes used at the upstream end of a structure when there is a possibility of erosion at this point.

Debris. Any material including floating woody materials and other trash, suspended sediment, or bed load moved by a flowing stream.

Debris Barrier. A deflector placed at the entrance of a culvert upstream, which tends to deflect heavy floating debris or boulders away from the culvert entrance during high-velocity flow.

Debris Basin. Any area upstream from a drainage structure utilized for the purpose of retaining debris in order to prevent clogging of drainage structures downstream.

July 1, 2020

Debris Rack. A straight barrier placed across the stream channel which tends to separate light and medium floating debris from stream flow and prevent the debris from reaching the culvert entrance.

Degradation. General and progressive lowering of the longitudinal profile of a channel by erosion.

Delta. System of channels thru an alluvial plain at the mouth of a stream.

Deposit. An earth mass of particles settled or stranded from moving water or wind.

Depth. Vertical distance, (1) from surface to bed of a body of water. (2) From crest or crown to invert of a conduit.

Design Capacity. The size required of a drainage facility which allows it to pass the design discharge without detrimental impacts.

Design Channel Capacity. Expressed as a rate of flow, usually in cubic feet per second, it is the level to which a facility is designed. Based upon slope, geometry, flow regime, frictional coefficients, etc., it is the sizing of a drainage facility which allows it to pass the design discharge. Freeboard or other safety factors which are added to the final facility dimensions are not a part of the design capacity.

Design Discharge. The quantity of flow that is expected at a certain point as a result of a design storm. Usually expressed as a rate of flow in cubic feet per second.

Design Flood. The peak discharge (when appropriate, the volume, stage, or wave crest elevation) of the flood associated with the probability of exceedance selected for the design of a highway encroachment. By definition, the highway will not be inundated by the design flood. In a FEMA floodplain, see 23 CFR, Part 650, Subpart A, for definitions of "overtopping flood" and "base flood."

Design Frequency. The recurrence interval for hydrologic events used for design purposes. As an example, a design frequency of 50 years means a storm of a magnitude that would be expected to recur on the average of every 50 years. (See Probability of Exceedance.)

Design High Water. The flood stage or tide crest elevation adopted for design of drainage and bank protection structures. (See Design Flood and High Water).

Design Storm. That particular storm which contributes runoff which the drainage facilities were designed to handle. This storm is selected for design on the basis of its probability of exceedance or average recurrence interval (See Probability of Exceedance.)

Detention Storage. Surface water moving over the land is in detention storage. Surface water allowed to temporarily accumulate in ponds, basins, reservoirs or other types of holding facility and which is ultimately returned to a watercourse or other drainage system as runoff is in detention storage. (See Retention Storage)

Detritus. Loose material such as; rock, sand, silt, and organic particles.

Dike. (1) Usually an earthen bank alongside and parallel with a river or open channel or an AC dike along the edge of a shoulder. (See Levee) (2) An AC dike along the edge of a shoulder.

Dike, Finger. Relatively short embankments constructed normal to a larger embankment, such as an approach fill to a bridge. Their purpose is to impede flow and direct it away from the major embankment.

Dike, Toe. Embankment constructed to prevent lateral flow from scouring the corner of the downstream side of an abutment embankment. Sometimes referred to as training dikes.

Dike, Training. Embankments constructed to provide a transition from the natural stream channel or floodplain, both to and from a constricting bridge crossing.

Discharge. A volume of water flowing out of a drainage structure or facility. Measured in cubic feet per second.

Dissipate. Expend or scatter harmlessly, as of energy of moving water.

Ditch. Small artificial channel, usually unlined.

Diversion. (1) The change in character, location, direction, or quantity of flow of a natural drainage course (a deflection of flood water is not a diversion). (2) Draft of water from one channel to another. (3) Interception of runoff by works which discharge it thru unnatural channels.

D-Load (Cracking D-Load). A term used in expressing the strength of concrete pipe. The cracking D-load represents the test load required to produce a 0.01 inch crack for a length of 12 inches.

Downdrain. A prefabricated drainage facility assembled and installed in the field for the purpose of transporting water down steep slopes.

Downdrift. The direction of predominant movement of littoral materials.

Drain. Conduit intercepting and discharging surplus ground or surface water.

Drainage. (1) The process of removing surplus ground or surface water by artificial means. (2) The system by which the waters of an area are removed. (3) The area from which waters are drained; a drainage basin.

Drainage Area (Drainage Basin) (Basin). That portion of the earth's surface upon which falling precipitation flows to a given location. With respect to a highway, this location may be either a culvert, the farthest point of a channel, or an inlet to a roadway drainage system.

Drainage Course. Any path along which water flows when acted upon by gravitational forces.

Drainage Divide. The rim of a drainage basin. A series of high points from which water flows in two directions, to the basin and away from the basin.

Drainage Easement (See Easement).

Drainage System. Usually a system of underground conduits and collector structures which flow to a single point of discharge.

Drawdown. The difference in elevation between the water surface elevation at a constriction in a stream or conduit and the elevation that would exist if the constriction

July 1, 2020

were absent. Drawdown also occurs at changes from mild to steep channel slopes and weirs or vertical spillways.

Drift. (1) Floating or non-mineral burden of a stream. (2) Deviation from a normal course in a cross current, as in littoral drift.

Drop. Controlled fall in a stream to dissipate energy.

Dry Weather Flows. A small amount of water which flows almost continually due to lawn watering, irrigation or springs.

Dune. A sand wave of approximately triangular cross section (in a vertical plane in the direction of flow) formed by moving water or wind, with gentle upstream slope and steep downstream slope and deposition on the downstream slope.

Easement. Right to use the land of others.

Ebb. Falling stage or outward flow, especially of tides.

Eddy. Rotational flow around a vertical axis.

Eddy Loss. The energy lost (converted into heat) by swirls, eddies, and impact, as distinguished from friction loss.

Embankment. Earth structure above natural ground.

Embayment. Indentation of bank or shore, particularly by progressive erosion.

Encroachment. Extending beyond the original, or customary limits, such as by occupancy of the river and/or floodplain by earth fill embankment.

Endwall. A wall placed at the end of a culvert. It may serve three purposes; (1), to hold the embankment away from the pipe and prevent sloughing into the pipe outlet channel; (2), to provide a wall which will prevent erosion of the roadway fill; and (3), to prevent flotation of the pipe.

Energy. Potential or kinetic, the latter being expressed in the same unit (feet) as the former.

Energy Dissipator. A structure for the purpose of slowing the flow of water and reducing the erosive forces present in any rapidly flowing body of water.

Energy Grade Line. The line which represents the total energy gradient along the channel. It is established by adding together the potential energy expressed as the water surface elevation referenced to a datum and the kinetic energy (usually expressed as velocity head) at points along the stream bed or channel floor.

Energy Head. The elevation of the hydraulic grade line at any section plus the velocity head of the mean velocity of the water in that section.

Entrance. The upstream approach transition to a constricted waterway.

Entrance Head. The head required to cause flow into a conduit or other structure; it includes both entrance loss and velocity head.

Entrance Loss. The head lost in eddies and friction at the inlet to a conduit or structure.

Ephemeral. Of brief duration, as the flow of a stream in an arid region.

Equalizer. A drainage structure similar to a culvert but different in that it is not intended to pass a design flow in a given direction. Instead it is often placed level so as to permit passage of water in either direction. It is used where there is no place for the water to go. Its purpose is to maintain the same water surface elevation on both sides of the highway embankment.

Erosion. The wearing away of natural (earth) and unnatural (embankment, slope protection, structure, etc.) surfaces by the action of natural forces, particularly moving water and materials carried by it. In the case of drainage terminology, this term generally refers to the wearing away of the earth's surface by flowing water.

Erosion and Scour. The cutting or wearing away by the forces of water of the banks and bed of a channel in horizontal and vertical directions, respectively.

Erosion and Accretion. Loss and gain of land, respectively, by the gradual action of a stream in shifting its channel by cutting one bank while it builds on the opposite bank. Property is lost by erosion and gained by accretion but not by *avulsion* when the shift from one channel to another is sudden. Property is gained by *reliction* when a lake recedes.

Estuary. That portion of a river channel occupied at times or in part by both sea and river flow in appreciable quantities. The water usually has brackish characteristics.

Evaporation. A process whereby water as a liquid is changed into water vapor, typically through heat supplied from the sun.

Face. The outer layer of slope revetment.

Fan. A portion of a cone, but sometimes used to emphasize definition of radial channels. Also reference to spreading out of water or soils associated with waters leaving a confined channel (e.g., alluvial fan).

Fetch. The unobstructed distance across open water through which wind acts to generate waves.

Filter. A porous article or mass (as of fabric or even-graded mineral aggregate) through which water will freely pass, but which will block the passage of soil particles.

Filter Fabric (RSP fabric). An engineering fabric (geotextile) placed between the backfill and supporting or underlying soil through which water will pass and soil particles are retained.

Filter Layer. A layer of even-graded rock between rock riprap and underlying soil to prevent extrusion of the soil thru riprap.

Flap Gate. This is a form of valve that is designed so that a minimum force is required to push it open but when a greater water pressure is present on the outside of the valve, it remains shut so as to prevent water from flowing in the wrong direction. Construction is simple with a metal cover hanging from an overhead rod or pinion at the end of a culvert or drain.

Flood Frequency. Also referred to as exceedance interval, recurrence interval or return period; the average time interval between actual occurrences of a hydrological event of a given or greater magnitude; the percent chance of occurrence is the reciprocal of

July 1, 2020

flood frequency, e.g., a 2 percent chance of occurrence is the reciprocal statement of a 50-year flood. (See Probability of Exceedance.)

Floodplain. Normally dry land areas subject to periodic temporary inundation by stream flow or tidal overflow. Land formed by deposition of sediment by water; alluvial land.

Floodplain Encroachment. An action within the limits of the base floodplain.

Flood Plane. The position occupied by the water surface of a stream during a particular flood. Also, loosely, the elevation of the water surface at various points along the stream during a particular flood.

Floodproof. To design and construct individual buildings, facilities, and their sites to protect against structural failure, to keep water out or reduce the effects of water entry.

Flood Stage. The elevation at which overflow of the natural banks of a stream begins to cause damage in the reach in which the elevation is measured. The elevation of the lowest bank of the reach. The term "lowest bank" is, however, not to be taken to mean an unusually low place or break in the natural bank through which the water inundates an unimportant and small area.

Flood Waters. Former stream waters which have escaped from a watercourse (and its overflow channel) and flow or stand over adjoining lands. They remain as such until they disappear from the surface by infiltration, evaporation, or return to a natural watercourse. They do not become surface waters by mingling with such waters, nor stream waters by eroding a temporary channel.

Flow. A term used to define the movement of water, silt, sand, etc.; discharge; total quantity carried by a stream.

Flow Line. A term used to describe the line connecting the low points in a watercourse.

Flow Regime. The system or order characteristic of streamflow with respect to velocity, depth, and specific energy.

Flow, steady. Flow at constant discharge.

Flow, unsteady. Flow on rising or falling stages.

Flow, varied. Flow in a channel with variable section.

Foreshore. The part of the shore lying between the ordinary high water mark or upper limit of wave wash traversed by the runup and return of waves and the water's edge at the low water.

Freeboard. (1) The vertical distance between the water surface elevation usually corresponding to the design flow and a point of interest such as a bridge beam, levee top or specific location on the roadway grade. (2) The distance between the normal operating level and the top of the sides of an open conduit; the crest of a dam, etc., designed to allow for wave action, superelevation, floating debris, or any other condition or emergency, without overtopping the structure. Freeboard is provided to ensure that the desired degree of protection will not be reduced by unaccounted factors such as the accumulation of silt, trash, or aquatic growth in the channel; unforeseen embankment settlement, erratic hydrologic phenomena and variation of resistance or other coefficients from those assumed in design.

Free Outlet. A condition under which water discharges with no interference such as a pipe discharging into open air.

Free Water. Water which can move through the soil by force of gravity.

French Drain. A trench loosely backfilled with stones, the largest stones being placed in the bottom with the size of stones decreasing towards the top. The interstices between the stones serve as a passageway for water.

Friction. Energy-dissipating conflict among turbulent water particles disturbed by irregularities of channel surface.

Froude Number. A dimensionless expression of the ratio of inertia forces to gravity forces, used as an index to characterize the type of flow in a hydraulic structure in which gravity is the force producing motion and inertia is the resisting force. It is equal to a characteristic flow velocity (mean, surface, or maximum) of the system divided by the square root of the product of a characteristic dimension (as diameter or depth) and the gravity constant (acceleration due to gravity) all expressed in consistent units.

$$F_r = V/(gy)^{1/2}$$

Gabion. A wire basket or cage filled with stone and placed as, or as part of, a bank-protection structure.

Gaging Station. A location on a stream where measurements of stage or discharge are customarily made. The location includes a reach of channel through which the flow is uniform, a control downstream from this reach and usually a small building to house the recording instruments.

Gorge. A narrow deep valley with steep or vertical banks.

Grade. Elevation of bed or invert of a channel.

Grade to Drain. A construction note often inserted on a plan for the purpose of directing the Contractor to slope a certain area in a specific direction, so that the surface waters will flow to a designated location.

Gradient (Slope). The rate of ascent or descent expressed as a percent or as a decimal as determined by the ratio of the change in elevation to the length.

Gradually Varied Flow. In this type of flow, changes in depth and velocity take place slowly over large distances, resistance to flow dominates and acceleration forces are neglected.

Grate. A framework of bars, usually cast iron or welded steel, used as a screen to cover the intake of a drainage inlet. See Standards Plans and Standard Specifications for requirements.

Ground Water. That water which is present under the earth's surface. Ground water is that situated below the surface of the land, irrespective of its source and transient status. Subterranean streams are flows of ground waters parallel to and adjoining stream waters, and usually determined to be integral parts of the visible streams.

Grouted. Bonded together with an inlay or overlay of cement mortar.

July 1, 2020

Guide Bank. An appendage to the highway embankment at or near a bridge abutment to guide the stream through the bridge opening.

Gulch. A relatively young, well-defined and sharply cut erosional channel.

Gully. Diminutive of gulch.

Head. Represents an available force equivalent to a certain depth of water. This is the motivating force in effecting the movement of water. The height of water above any point or plane of reference. Used also in various compound expressions, such as energy head, entrance head, friction head, static head, pressure head, lost head, etc.

Headcutting. Progressive scouring and degrading of a streambed at a relatively rapid rate in the upstream direction, usually characterized by one or a series of vertical falls.

High Water. Maximum flood stage of stream or lake; periodic crest stage of tide. Historic HW is stage recorded or otherwise known.

Hydraulic. Pertaining to water in motion and the mechanics of the motion.

Hydraulic Gradient. A line which represents the relative force available due to the potential energy available. This is a combination of energy due to the height of the water and the internal pressure. In any open channel, this line corresponds to the water surface. In a closed conduit, if several openings were placed along the top of the pipe and open tubes inserted, a line connecting the water surface in each of these tubes would represent the hydraulic grade line.

Hydraulic Jump (or Jump). Transition of flow from the rapid to the tranquil state. A varied flow phenomenon producing a rise in elevation of water surface. A sudden transition from supercritical flow to the complementary subcritical flow, conserving momentum and dissipating energy.

Hydraulic Mean Depth. The area of the flow cross section divided by the water surface width.

Hydraulic Radius. The cross sectional area of a stream of water divided by the length of that part of its periphery in contact with its containing conduit; the ratio of area to wetted perimeter.

Hydrograph. A graph showing stage, flow, velocity, or other property of water with respect to time.

Hydrographic. Pertaining to the measurement or study of bodies of water and associated terrain.

Hydrography. Water Surveys. The art of measuring, recording, and analyzing the flow of water; and of measuring and mapping watercourses, shore lines, and navigable waters.

Hydrologic. Pertaining to the cyclic phenomena of waters of the earth; successively as precipitation, runoff, storage and evaporation, and quantitatively as to distribution and concentration.

Hydrology. The science dealing with the occurrence and movement of water upon and beneath the land areas of the earth.

Overlaps and includes portions of other sciences such as meteorology and geology. The particular branch of Hydrology that a design engineer is generally interested in is surface runoff which is the result of excess precipitation.

Hydrostatic. Pertaining to pressure by and within water due to gravitation acting thru depth.

Hyetograph. Graphical representation of rainfall intensity against time.

Impinge. To strike and attack directly, as in curvilinear flow where the current does not follow the curve but continues on tangent into the bank on the outside of bend in the channel.

Incised Channel. Those channels which have been cut relatively deep into underlying formations by natural processes. Characteristics include relatively straight alignment and high, steep banks such that overflow rarely occurs, if ever.

Infiltration. The passage of water through the soil surface into the ground.

Inlet Time. The time required for storm runoff to flow from the most remote point, in flow time, of a drainage area to the point where it enters a drain or culvert.

Inlet Transition. A specially shaped entrance to a box or pipe culvert. It is shaped in such a manner that in passing from one flow condition to another, the minimum turbulence or interference with flow is permitted.

Inundate. To cover with a flood.

Invert. The bottom of a drainage facility along which the lowest flows would pass.

Invert Paving. Generally applies to metal pipes where it is desirable to improve flow characteristics or prevent corrosion at low flows. The bottom portion of the pipe is paved with an asphaltic material, concrete, or air-blown mortar.

Inverted Siphon. A pipe for conducting water beneath a depressed place. A true inverted siphon is a culvert which has the middle portion at a lower elevation than either the inlet or the outlet and in which a vacuum is created at some point in the pipe. A sag culvert is similar, but the vacuum is not essential to its operation.

Isohyetal Line. A line drawn on a map or chart joining points that receive the same amount of precipitation.

Isohyetal Map. A map containing isohyetal lines and showing rainfall intensities.

Isovel. Line on a diagram of a channel connecting points of equal velocity.

Jack (or Jack Straw). Bank protection element consisting of wire or cable strung on three mutually perpendicular struts connected at their centers.

Jacking Operations. A means of constructing a pipeline under a highway without open excavation. A cutting edge is placed on the first section of pipe and the pipe is forced ahead by hydraulic jacks. As the leading edge pushes ahead, the material inside the pipe is dug out and transported outside the pipe for disposal.

Jam. Wedged collection of drift in a constriction of a channel, such as a gorge or a bridge opening.

July 1, 2020

Jet. An effluent stream from a restricted channel, including a fast current through a slower stream.

Jetty. An elongated, artificial obstruction projecting into a stream or the sea from bank or shore to control shoaling and scour by deflection of strength of currents and waves.

Jump. Sudden transition from supercritical flow to the complementary subcritical flow, conserving momentum and dissipating energy; the hydraulic jump.

Kolk. Rotational flow about a horizontal axis, induced by a reef and breaking the surface in a boil.

Lake. A water filled basin with restricted or no outlet. Includes reservoirs, tidal ponds and playas.

Lag. Various defined as time from beginning (or center of mass) of rainfall to peak (or center of mass) of runoff.

Laminar Flow. That type of flow in which each particle moves in a direction parallel to every other particle and in which the head loss is approximately proportional to the velocity (as opposed to turbulent flow).

Lateral. In a roadway drainage system, a drainage conduit transporting water from inlet points to the main drain trunk line.

Levee. An embankment on or along the bank of a stream or lake to protect outer lowlands from inundation. (See Dike)

Lining. Protective cover of the perimeter of a channel.

Littoral. Pertaining to or along the shore, particularly to describe currents, deposits, and drift.

Littoral Drift. The sedimentary material (sand) moved along the shoreline under the influence of waves and currents.

Littoral Transport. The movement of littoral drift along the shoreline by waves and currents. Includes movement parallel (longshore transport) and perpendicular (on-offshore transport) to the shore.

Local Depression. A low area in the pavement or in the gutter established for the special purpose of collecting surface waters on a street and directing these waters into a drainage inlet.

Longshore. Parallel to and near the shoreline.

Marginal. Within a borderland area; more general and extensive than riparian.

Marsh. An area of soft, wet, or periodically submerged land, generally treeless and usually characterized by grasses and other low vegetation.

Mature. Classification for streams which have established flat gradients not subject to further scour.

Maximum Historical Flood. The maximum flood that has been recorded or experienced at any particular highway location.

Mean Annual Flood. The flood discharge with a recurrence interval of 2.33 years.

Mean Depth. For a stream at any stage, the wetted normal section divided by the surface width. Hydraulic mean depth.

Meander. In connection with streams, a winding channel usually in an erodible, alluvial valley. A reverse or S-shaped curve or series of curves formed by erosion of the concave bank, especially at the downstream end, characterized by curved flow and alternating shoals and bank erosions. Meandering is a stage in the migratory movement of the channel, as a whole, down the valley.

Meander Plug (Clay Plug). Deposits of cohesive materials in old channel bendways. These plugs are sufficiently resistant to erosion to serve as essentially semi-permanent geological controls to advancing channel migrations.

Meander Scroll. Evidence of historical meander patterns in the form of lines visible on the inside of meander bends (particularly on aerial photographs) which resemble a spiral or convoluted form in ornamental design. These lines are concentric and regular forms in high sinuosity channels and are largely absent in poorly developed braided channels.

Mesh. Woven wire or other filaments used alone as revetment, or as retainer or container of masses of gravel or cobble.

Mud Flow. A well-mixed mass of water and alluvium which, because of its high viscosity, and low fluidity as compared with water, moves at a much slower rate, usually piling up and spreading out like a sheet of wet mortar or concrete.

Natural and Beneficial Floodplain Values. Includes but are not limited to fish, wildlife, plants, open space, natural beauty, scientific study, outdoor recreation, agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, natural moderation of floods, water quality maintenance, and groundwater recharge.

Natural Channel Capacity. The maximum rate of flow in cubic feet per second that can pass through a channel without overflowing the banks

Navigable Waters. Those stream waters lawfully declared or actually used as such. Navigable Waters of the State of California are those declared by Statute. Navigable Waters of the United States are those determined by the Corps of Engineers or the U.S. Coast Guard to be so used in interstate or international commerce. Other streams have been held navigable by courts under the common law that navigability in fact is navigability in law.

Negative Projecting Conduits. A structure installed in a trench with the top below the top of trench, then covered with backfill and embankment. See Positive Projecting Conduit

Nonuniform Flow. A flow in which the velocities vary from point to point along the stream or conduit, due to variations in cross section, slope, etc.

Normal Depth. The depth at which flow is steady and hydraulic characteristics are uniform.

Normal Water Surface (Natural Water Surface). The free surface associated with flow in natural streams.

"n" Value. The roughness coefficient in the Manning formula for determination of the discharge coefficient in the Chezy formula,

July 1, 2020

$$V = C(RS)^{1/2}, \text{ where } C = \left(\frac{1.49}{n} \right) R^{1/6}$$

Nourishment. The process of replenishing a beach. It may be brought about naturally, by accretion due to the longshore transport, or artificially, by the deposition of dredged materials.

Off-Site Drainage. The handling of that water which originates outside the highway right of way.

On-Site Drainage. The handling of that water which originates inside the highway right of way.

Open Channel. Any conveyance in which water flows with a free surface.

Ordinary High Water Mark. The line on the shore established by the fluctuation of water and physically indicated on the bank (1.5 ± years return period).

Outfall. Discharge or point of discharge of a culvert or other closed conduit.

Outwash. Debris transported from a restricted channel to an unrestricted area where it is deposited to form an alluvial or debris cone or fan.

Overflow. Discharge of a stream outside its banks; the parallel channels carrying such discharge.

Overtopping Flood. The flood described by the probability of exceedance and water surface elevation at which flow occurs over the highway, over the watershed divide, or through structure(s) provided for emergency relief.

Peak Flow. Maximum momentary stage or discharge of a stream in flood. Design Discharge.

Pebble. Stone 0.5 inch to 3-inch in diameter, including coarse gravel and small cobble.

Perched Water. Ground water located above the level of the water table and separated from it by a zone of impermeable material.

Percolating Waters. Waters which have infiltrated the surface of the land and move slowly downward and outward through devious channels (aquifers) unrelated to stream waters, until they reach an underground lake or regain and spring from the land surface at a lower point.

Permeability. The property of soils which permits the passage of any fluid. Permeability depends on grain size, void ratio, shape and arrangement of pores.

Permeable. Open to the passage of fluids, as for (1) pervious soils and (2) bank-protection structures.

Physiographic Region. A geographic area whose pattern of landforms differ significantly from that of adjacent regions.

Pier. Vertical support of a structure standing in a stream or other body of water. Used in a general sense to include bents and abutments.

Pile. A long, heavy timber or section of concrete or metal that is driven or jetted into the earth or bottom of a water body to serve as a structural support or protection.

Piping. The action of water passing through or under an embankment and carrying some of the finer material with it to the surface at the downstream face.

Plunge. Flow with a strong downward component, as in outfall drops, overbank falls, and surf attack on a beach.

Point of Concentration. That point at which the water flowing from a given drainage area concentrates. With reference to a highway, this would generally be either a culvert entrance or some point in a roadway drainage system.

Poised Stream. A term used by river engineers applying to a stream that over a period of time is neither degrading or aggrading its channel, and is nearly in equilibrium as to sediment transport and supply.

Positive Projecting Conduit. A structure installed in shallow trench with the top of the conduit projecting above the top of the trench and then covered with embankment. See Negative Projecting Conduit.

Potamology. The hydrology of streams.

Practicable. Capable of being done within reasonable natural, social, and economic constraints.

Precipitation. Discharge of atmospheric moisture as rain, snow or hail, measured in depth of fall or in terms of intensity of fall in unit time.

Prescriptive Rights. The operation of the law whereby rights may be established by long exercise of their corresponding powers or extinguished by prolonged failure to exercise such powers.

Preserve. To avoid modification to the functions of the natural floodplain environment or to maintain it, as closely as practicable, in its natural state.

Probability. The chance of occurrence or recurrence of a specified event within a unit of time, commonly expressed in 3 ways. Thus a 10-year flood has a chance of 0.1 per year and is also called a 10 percent-chance flood.

Probability of Exceedance. The statistical probability, expressed as a percentage, of a hydrologic event occurring or being exceeded in any given year. The probability (p) of a storm or flood is the reciprocal of the average recurrence interval (N).

Probable Maximum Flood. The flood discharge that may be expected from the most severe combination of critical meteorological and hydrological conditions that are reasonably possible in the region.

Pumping Plant. A complete pumping installation including a storage box, pump or pumps, standby pumps, connecting pipes, electrical equipment, pumphouse and outlet chamber.

Rack. An open upright structure, such as a debris rack.

Rainfall. Point Precipitation: That which registers at a single gauge. Area Precipitation: Adjusted point rainfall for area size.

Rainwash. The creep of soil lubricated by rain.

Range. Difference between extremes, as for stream or tide stage.

July 1, 2020

Rapidly Varied Flow. In this type of flow, changes in depth and velocity take place over short distances, acceleration forces dominate, and energy loss due to friction is minor.

Rapids. Swift turbulent flow in a rough steep reach.

Reach. The length of a channel uniform with respect to discharge, depth, area, and slope. More generally, any length of a river or drainage course.

Recession. Retreat of shore or bank by progressive erosion.

Reef. Generally, any solid projection from the bed of a stream or other body of water.

Regime. The system or order characteristic of a stream; its behavior with respect to velocity and volume, form of and changes in channel, capacity to transport sediment, amount of material supplied for transportation, etc.

Regimen. The characteristic behavior of a stream during ordinary cycles of flow.

Regulatory Floodway. The open floodplain area that is reserved in by Federal, State, or local requirements, i.e., unconfined or unobstructed either horizontally or vertically, to provide for the discharge of the base flood so that the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated amount (not to exceed 1 foot as established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for administering the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)).

Reliction. Pertaining to being left behind. For example: that area of land is left behind by reliction when the water surface of a lake is lowered.

Repose. The stable slope of a bank or embankment, expressed as an angle or the ratio of horizontal to vertical projection.

Restore. To reestablish a setting or environment in which the functions of the natural and beneficial floodplain values adversely impacted by the highway agency can continue to operate.

Restriction. Artificial or natural control against widening of a channel, with or without construction.

Retard. Bank-protection structure designed to check the riparian velocity and induce silting or accretion.

Retarding Basin. Either a natural or man made basin with the specific function of delaying the flow of water from one point to another. This tends to increase the time that it takes all the water falling on the extremities of the drainage basin to reach a common point, resulting in a reduced peak flow at that point.

Retention Storage. Water which accumulates and ponds in natural or excavated depressions in the soil surface with no possibility for escape as runoff. (See Detention Storage)

Retrogression. Reversal of stream grading; i.e., aggradation after degradation, or vice versa.

Revetment. Bank protection to prevent erosion.

Riparian. Pertaining to the banks of a stream.

Riprap. A layer, facing, or protective mound of rubble or stones randomly placed to prevent erosion, scour, or sloughing of a structure or embankment; also, the stone used for this purpose.

Ripple. (1) The light fretting or ruffling of a water caused by a breeze. (2) Undulating ridges and furrows, or crests and troughs formed by action of the flow.

Risk. The consequences associated with the probability of flooding attributable to an encroachment. It includes the potential for property loss and hazard to life during the service life of the highway.

Risk Analysis. An economic comparison of design alternatives using expected total costs (construction costs plus risk costs) to determine the alternative with the least expected cost to the public. It must include probable flood-related costs during the service life of the facility for highway operation, maintenance, and repair, for highway aggravated flood damage to other property, and for additional or interrupted highway travel.

Riser. In mountainous terrain where much debris is encountered, the entrance to a culvert sometimes becomes easily clogged. Therefore, a corrugated metal pipe or a structure made of timber or concrete with small perforations, called a riser, is installed vertically to permit entry of water and prohibit the entry of mud and debris. The riser may be increased in height as the need occurs.

River. A large stream, usually active when any streams are flowing in the region.

Rock. (1) Cobble, boulder or quarry stone as a construction material. (2) Hard natural mineral, in formation as in piles of talus.

Rounded Inlet. The edges of a culvert entrance that are rounded for smooth transition which reduces turbulence and increases capacity.

RSP Fabric. (See Filter Fabric).

Rubble. Rough, irregular fragments of rock or concrete.

Runoff. (1) The surface waters that exceed the soil's infiltration rate and depression storage. (2) The portion of precipitation that appears as flow in streams. Drainage or flood discharge which leaves an area as surface flow or a pipeline flow, having reached a channel or pipeline by either surface or subsurface routes.

Runup. The rush of water up a beach or structure, associated with the breaking of a wave. The amount of runup is measured according to the vertical height above still water level that the rush of water reaches.

Sag Culvert (or Sag Pipe). A pipeline with a dip in its grade line crossing over a depression or under a highway, railroad, canal, etc. The term inverted siphon is common but inappropriate as no siphonic action is involved. The term "sag pipe" is suggested as a substitute.

Sand. Granular soil coarser than silt and finer than gravel, ranging in diameter from 0.002 inch to 0.2 inch.

Scour. The result of erosive action of running water, primarily in streams, excavating and carrying away material from the bed and banks. Wearing away by abrasive action.

July 1, 2020

Scour, General. The removal of material from the bed and banks across all or most of the width of a channel, as a result of a flow contraction which causes increased velocities and bed shear stress.

Scour, Local. Removal of material from the channel bed or banks which is restricted to a minor part of the width of a channel. This scour occurs around piers and embankments and is caused by the actions of vortex systems induced by the obstruction to the flow.

Scour, Natural. Removal of material from the channel bed or banks which occurs in streams with the migration of bed forms, shifting of the thalweg and at bends and natural contractions.

Sea. Ocean or other body of water larger than a lake; state of agitation of any large body of water.

Seawall. A structure separating land and water areas, primarily designed to prevent erosion and other damage due to wave action. (See bulkhead).

Sediment. Fragmentary material that originates from weathering of rocks and is transported by, suspended in, or deposited by water.

Sedimentation. Gravitational deposit of transported material in flowing or standing water.

Seepage. Percolation of underground water thru the banks and into a stream or other body of water.

Seiche. A standing wave oscillation of an enclosed waterbody that continues, pendulum fashion, after the cessation of the originating force, which may have been either seismic or atmospheric.

Seismic Wave. A gravity wave caused by an earthquake.

Sheet Flow. Any flow spread out and not confined; i.e., flow across a flat open field.

Sheet Pile. A pile with a generally slender, flat cross-section that is driven into ground or bottom of a water body and meshed or interlocked with like members to form a wall or bulkhead.

Shoal. A shallow region in flowing or standing water, especially if made shallow by deposition.

Shoaling. Deposition of alluvial material resulting in areas with relatively shallow depth.

Shore. The narrow strip of land in immediate contact with the water, including the zone between high and low water lines. See backshore, foreshore, onshore, offshore, longshore, and nearshore.

Significant Encroachment. A highway encroachment and any direct support of likely base floodplain development that would involve one or more of the following construction or flood related impacts:

- A significant potential for interruption or termination of a transportation facility which is needed for emergency vehicles or provides a community's only evacuation route.
- A significant risk, or
- A significant adverse impact on natural and beneficial floodplain values.

Silt. (1) *Water-Borne Sediment.* Detritus carried in suspension or deposited by flowing water, ranging in diameter from 0.0002 inch to 0.002 inch. The term is generally confined to fine earth, sand, or mud, but is sometimes both suspended and bedload.

(2) *Deposits of Water-Borne Material.* As in a reservoir, on a delta, or on floodplains.

Sinuosity. The ratio of the length of the river thalweg to the length of the valley proper.

Skew. When a drainage structure is not normal (perpendicular) to the longitudinal axis of the highway, it is said to be on a skew. The skew angle is the smallest angle between the perpendicular and the axis of the structure.

Slide. Gravitational movement of an unstable mass of earth from its natural position.

Slipout. Gravitational movement of an unstable mass of earth from its constructed position. Applied to embankments and other man-made earthworks.

Slope. (1) Gradient of a stream. (2) Inclination of the face of an embankment, expressed as the ratio of horizontal to vertical projection; or (3) The face of an inclined embankment or cut slope. In hydraulics it is expressed as percent or in decimal form.

Slough. (1) Pronounced SLU. A side or overflow channel in which water is continually present. It is stagnant or slack; also a waterway in a tidal marsh. (2) Pronounced SLUFF. Slide or slipout of a thin mantle of earth, especially in a series of small movements.

Slugflow. Flow in culvert or drainage structure which alternates between full and partly full. Pulsating flow -- mixed water and air.

Soffit. The bottom of the top -- (1) With reference to a bridge, the low point on the underside of the suspended portion of the structure. (2) In a culvert, the uppermost point on the inside of the structure.

Specific Energy. The energy contained in a stream of water, expressed in terms of head, referred to the bed of a stream. It is equal to the mean depth of water plus the velocity head of the mean velocity.

Spur Dike. A structure or embankment projecting a short distance into a stream from the bank and at an angle to deflect flowing water away from critical areas.

Stage. The elevation of a water surface above its minimum; also above or below an established "low water" plane; hence above or below any datum of reference; gage height.

Standing Wave. The motion of swiftly flowing stream water, that resembles a wave, but is formed by decelerating or diverging flow that does not quite produce a hydraulic jump. A term which when used to describe the upper flow regime in alluvial channels, means a vertical oscillation of the water surface between fixed nodes without appreciable progression in either an upstream or downstream direction. To maintain the fixed position, the wave must have a celerity (velocity) equal to the approach velocity in the channel, but in the opposite direction.

Steady Flow. A flow in which the flow rate or quantity of fluid passing a given point per unit of time remains constant.

July 1, 2020

Stone. Rock or rock-like material; a particle of such material, in any size from pebble to the largest quarried blocks.

Storage. Detention, or retention of water for future flow, naturally in channel and marginal soils or artificially in reservoirs.

Storage Basin. Space for detention or retention of water for future flow, naturally in channel and marginal soils, or artificially in reservoirs.

Storm. A disturbance of the ordinary, average conditions of the atmosphere which, unless specifically qualified, may include any or all meteorological disturbances, such as wind, rain, snow, hail, or thunder.

Storm Drain. That portion of a drainage system expressly for collecting and conveying former surface water in an enclosed conduit. Often referred to as a "storm sewer", storm drains include inlet structures, conduit, junctions, manholes, outfalls and other appurtenances.

Stormwater Management. The recognition of adverse drainage resulting from altered runoff and the solutions resulting from the cooperative efforts of public agencies and the private sector to mitigate, abate, or reverse those adverse results.

Strand. (1) To lodge on bars, banks, or overflow plain, as for drift. (2) Bar of sediment connecting two regions of higher ground.

Stream. Water flowing in a channel or conduit, ranging in size from small creeks to large rivers.

Stream Power. An expression used in predicting bed forms and hence bed load transport in alluvial channels. It is the product of the mean velocity, the specific weight of the water-sediment mixture, the normal depth of flow and the slope.

Stream Response. Changes in the dynamic equilibrium of a stream by any one, or combination of various causes.

Stream Waters. Former surface waters which have entered and now flow in a well defined natural watercourse, together with other waters reaching the stream by direct precipitation or rising from springs in bed or banks of the watercourse. They continue as stream waters as long as they flow in the watercourse, including overflow and multiple channels as well as the ordinary or low-water channel.

Strutting. Elongation of the vertical axis of pipe prior to installing in a trench. After the backfill has been placed around the pipe and compacted, the wires or rods holding the pipe in its distorted shape are removed. Greater side support from the earth is developed when the pipe tends to return to its original shape. Generally used on pipes which because of size or thinness of the metal would tend to deform during construction operations. Arches are strutted diagonally per standard or special plan.

Subcritical Flow. In this state, gravity forces are dominant, so that the flow has a low velocity and is often described as tranquil and streaming. Also, that flow which has a Froude number less than one.

Subdrain. A conduit for collecting and disposing of underground water. It generally consists of a pipe, with perforations in the bottom through which water can enter.

Subsidence. General lowering of land surface by consolidation or removal of underlying soil.

Sump. In drainage, any low area which does not permit the escape of water by gravity flow.

Supercritical Flow. In this state, inertia forces are dominant, so that flow has a high velocity and is usually described as rapid, shooting and torrential. Also, that flow which has a Froude number greater than one.

Support Base Floodplain Development. To encourage, allow, serve, or otherwise facilitate additional base floodplain development. Direct support results from an encroachment, while indirect support results from an action out of the base floodplain.

Surf. The breaking of waves and swell on the foreshore and offshore shoals.

Surface Runoff. The movement of water on earth's surface, whether flow is over surface of ground or in channels.

Surface Waters. Surface waters are those which have been precipitated on the land from the sky or forced to the surface in springs, and which have then spread over the surface of the ground without being collected into a definite body or channel. They appear as puddles, sheet or overland flow, and rills, and continue to be surface waters until they disappear from the surface by infiltration or evaporation, or until by overland or vagrant flow they reach well-defined watercourses or standing bodies of water like lakes or seas.

Surge. A sudden swelling of discharge in unsteady flow.

Suspended Load. Sediment that is supported by the upward components of turbulent currents in a stream and that stay in suspension for appreciable amount of time.

Swale. A shallow, gentle depression in the earth's surface. This tends to collect the waters to some extent and is considered in a sense as a drainage course, although waters in a swale are not considered stream waters.

Swamp. An area of shallow pondage or saturated surface, the water being fresh or acidic and the area usually covered with rank vegetation.

Swell. Waves generated by a distant storm, usually regular and fully harmonic.

Talus. Loose rocks and debris disintegrated from a steep hill or cliff standing at repose along the toe.

Tapered Inlet. A transition to direct the flow of water into a channel or culvert. A smooth transition to increase hydraulic efficiency of an inlet structure.

Terrace. Berm or bench-like earth embankment, with a nearly level plain bounded by rising and falling slopes.

Tetrahedron. Bank protection element, basically composed of 6 steel or concrete struts joined like the edges of a triangular pyramid, together with subdividing struts and tie wires or cables.

July 1, 2020

Tetrapod. Bank protection element, precast of concrete, consisting of 4 legs joined at a central block, each leg making an angle of 109.5 degrees with the other three, like rays from the center of a tetrahedron to the center of each face.

Texture. Arrangement and interconnection of surface and near-surface particles of terrain or channel perimeter.

Thalweg. The line following the lowest part of a valley, whether under water or not. Usually the line following the deepest part of the bed or channel of a river.

Thread. The central element of a current, continuous along a stream.

Tide. The periodic rising and falling of the ocean and connecting bodies of water that results from gravitational attraction of the moon and sun acting on the rotating earth.

Time of Concentration. The time required for storm runoff to flow from the most remote point, in flow time, of a drainage area to the point under consideration. It is usually associated with the design storm.

Topping. The top layer on horizontal revetments or rock structures; also capping or cap stones.

Training. Control of direction of currents.

Transition. A relatively short reach or conduit leading from one waterway section to another of different width, shape, or slope.

Transport. To carry solid material in a stream in solution, suspension, saltation, or entrainment.

Trash Rack. A grid or screen across a stream designed to catch floating debris.

Trough. Space between wave crests and the water surface below it.

Trunk (or Trunk Line). In a roadway drainage system, the main conduit for transporting the storm waters. This main line is generally quite deep in the ground so that laterals coming from fairly long distances can drain by gravity into the trunk line.

Tsunami. A gravity wave caused by an underwater seismic disturbance (such as sudden faulting, landsliding or volcanic activity).

Turbulence. A state of flow wherein the water is agitated by cross-currents and eddies, as opposed to a condition of flow that is quiet and laminar.

Turbulent Flow. That type of flow in which any particle may move in any direction with respect to any other particle, and in which the head loss is approximately proportional to the square of the velocity.

Undercut. Erosion of the low part of a steep bank so as to compromise stability of the upper part.

Underflow. The downstream flow of water through the permeable deposits that underlie a stream. (1) Movement of water through a pervious subsurface stratum, the flow of percolating water; or water under ice, or under a structure. (2) The rate of flow or discharge of subsurface water.

Undertow. Current outward from a wave-swept shore carrying solid particles swept or scoured from the beach or foreshore.

Unsteady Flow. A flow in which the velocity changes with respect to space and time.

Updrift. The direction opposite that of the predominant movement of littoral materials.

Uplift. Upward hydrostatic pressure on base of an impervious structure.

Velocity. The rate of motion of objects or particles, or of a stream of particles.

Velocity Head. A term used in hydraulics to represent the kinetic energy of flowing water. This "head" is represented by a column of standing water equivalent in potential energy to the kinetic energy of the moving water calculated as $(V^2/2g)$ where the "V" represents the velocity in feet per second and "g" represents the potential acceleration due to gravity, in feet per second per second.

Vernal Pools. Seasonally flooded landscape depressions that support distinctive (and many times rare) plant and animal species adapted to periodic or continuous inundation during the wet season, and the absence of either ponded water or wet soil during the dry season.

Wash. Floodplain or active channel of an ephemeral stream, usually in recent alluvium.

Watercourse. A definite channel with bed and banks within which water flows, either continuously or in season. A watercourse is continuous in the direction of flow and may extend laterally beyond the definite banks to include overflow channels contiguous to the ordinary channel. The term does not include artificial channels such as canals and drains, except natural channels trained or restrained by the works of man. Neither does it include depressions or swales through which surface or errant waters pass.

Watershed. The area that contributes surface water runoff into a tributary system or water course.

Water Table. The surface of the groundwater below which the void spaces are completely saturated.

Waterway. (1) That portion of a watercourse which is actually occupied by water (2) A navigable inland body of water.

Wave. (1) An oscillatory movement of water on or near the surface of standing water in which a succession of crests and troughs advance while particles of water follow cyclic paths without advancing. (2) Motion of water in a flowing stream so as to develop the surficial appearance of a wave.

Wave Height. The vertical distance between a wave crest and the preceding trough.

Wave Length. The horizontal distance between similar points on two successive waves (e.g., crest to crest or trough to trough), measured in the direction of wave travel.

Wave Period. The time in which a wave crest travels a distance equal to one wave length. Can be measured as the time for two successive wave crests to pass a fixed point.

Weephole. A hole in a wall, invert, apron, lining, or other solid structure to relieve the pressure of groundwater.

August 8, 2025

Weir. A low overflow dam or sill for measuring, diverting, or checking flow.

Well. (1) Artificial excavation for withdrawal of water from underground storage. (2) Upward component of velocity in a stream.

Wetland. Those areas that are inundated or saturated by 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 saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

Windbreak. Barrier fence or trees to break or deflect the velocity of wind.

Windwave. A wave generated and propelled by wind blowing along the water surface.

Young. Immature, said of a stream on a steep gradient actively scouring its bed toward a more stable grade.

Topic 807 – Selected Drainage References

807.1 Introduction

Hydraulic and drainage related reference publications listed are grouped as to source.

807.2 Federal Highway Administration Hydraulic Publications

Current publications are available from FHWA Hydraulics Publication website:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/engineering/hydraulics/library_listing.cfm

(1) *Hydraulic Engineering Circulars (HEC).*

HEC No.	Title	Date	FHWA Publication
9	Debris-Control Structures	2005	IF-04-016
14	Hydraulic Design of Energy Dissipators for Culverts and Channels	2006	NHI-06-086
15	Design of Roadside Channels with Flexible Linings	2005	IF-05-114
17	Highways in the River Environment, Floodplains, Extreme Events, Risk and Resilience	2016	HIF-16-018
18	Evaluating Scour at Bridges	2012	HIF-12-003
20	Stream Stability at Highway Structures	2012	HIF-12-004
21	Bridge Deck Drainage Systems	1993	SA-92-010
22	Urban Drainage Design Manual	2024	HIF-24-006

HEC No.	Title	Date	FHWA Publication
23	Bridge Scour and Stream Instability Countermeasures	2009	NHI-09-111 NHI-09-012
24	Highway Stormwater Pump Station Design	2001	NHI-01-007
25	Highways in the Coastal Environment	2020	HIF-19-059
26	Culvert Designer Aquatic Organism Passage	2010	HIF-11-008

(2) Hydraulic Design Series (HDS).

HDS No.	Title	Date	FHWA Publication #
2	Highway Hydrology	2024	HIF-24-007
4	Introduction to Highway Hydraulics	2008	NHI-08-090
5	Hydraulic Design of Highway Culverts (GPO 050-001-00298-1)	2012	HIF-12-026
7	Hydraulic Design for Safe Bridges	2012	HIF-12-018

August 8, 2025

(3) Other Publications.

Title	Date	FHWA Publication#
FHWA Bridge Inspector's Reference Manual	2023	NHI-23-024
FHWA-FLH Culvert Assessment and Decision-Making Procedures Manual (hard copy only)	2010	CFL/TD-10-005
Culvert Pipe Liner Guide and Specifications	2005	CFL/TD-05-003
Aquatic Organism Passage at Highway Crossings: An Implementation Guide	2024	FHWA-HIF-24-054

807.3 American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

(1) Highway Drainage Guidelines

The AASHTO Highway Drainage Guidelines were previously published as individual volumes, the 2007 edition moved to chapter designations, as follows:

1. - Hydraulic Considerations in Highway Planning and Location
 2. - Hydrology
 3. - Erosion and Sediment Control in Highway Construction
 4. - Hydraulic Design of Culverts
 5. - The Legal Aspects of Highway Drainage
 6. - Hydraulic Analysis and Design of Open Channels
 7. - Hydraulic Analysis for the Location and Design of Bridges
 8. - Hydraulic Aspects in Restoration and Upgrading of Highways
 9. - Storm Drain Systems
 - 10.- Evaluating Highway Effects on Surface Water Environments
 - 11.- Highways along Coastal Zones and Lakeshores
 - 12.- Stormwater Management
 - 13.- Training and Career Development of Hydraulic Engineers
 - 14.- Culvert Inspection, Material Selection, and Rehabilitation
 - 15.- Guidelines for Selecting and Utilizing Hydraulics Engineering Consultants
- Appendix. Glossary of Highway-Related Drainage Terms

The layout and chapter list are subject to change as this manual is being updated. Refer to the AASHTO website for the current edition. The current edition may be purchased through AASHTO, 444 North Capitol St., N.W., Suite 225, Washington D.C. 20001.

(2) AASHTO Drainage Manual

The AASHTO Drainage Manual (ADM) is divided into two volumes. Volume One provides states with guidelines or examples for drainage design policies, criteria, and standards. Volume Two provides hydrologic and hydraulic design procedures that are frequently used by highway hydraulics engineers.

(3) AASHTO Culvert and Storm Drain System Inspection Guide

This guide provides inspectors with methods to rate the conditions for culvert and storm drain system components.

807.4 California Department of Transportation

The following publications are available from the Caltrans website.

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design>

- Bridge Design Practice Manual
- Structure Technical Policy (STP), 2.6 Bridge Design Manual
- Manual of Test - Volumes 1, 2, and 3
- Construction Contract Standards: Standard Plans, Standard Specifications and Contract Item Codes (available online only)

807.5 U.S. Department of Interior - Geological Survey (USGS)

- Magnitude and Frequency of Floods in California - Water Resources Investigation 77-21.
- Methods for Determining Magnitude and Frequency of Floods in California, Based on Data through Water Year 2006, SIR 2012-5113
- Methods for Estimating Magnitude and Frequency of Floods in the Southwestern United States –Open-File Report 93-419.
- Guide For Determining Flood Flow Frequency - Bulletin #17C.
- Water Resources Data for California, Part 1: Surface Water Records, Volumes 1 and 2 (1965) – Water Data Report CA-65-1-1 and CA-65-1-2.
- Rock Riprap Design for Protection of Stream Channels Near Highway Structures (1987) Volumes 1 and 2 (1987). – Water Resources Investigation Reports 86-4127 and 86-4128.
- Regional Skew for California, and Flood Frequency for Selected Sites in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basin, Based on Data through Water Year 2006 (2011) - Scientific Investigations Report 2010-5260.

807.6 U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Engineering Design Standards.
- Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds -Technical Release 55

August 8, 2025

807.7 California Department of Water Resources

The California Department of Water Resources provides intensity, duration, and frequency data from the California Department of Water Resources network of rain gauges at the California Water Watch website: Statewide Hydroclimate and Water Supply Conditions – Precipitation at Regional Scale, at: <https://cww.water.ca.gov/regionscale>.

807.8 University of California - Institute of Transportation and Traffic Engineering (ITTE)

- Street and Highway Drainage - Course Notes, Volumes 1 and 2.

807.9 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Publications and computer programs, too numerous to list, are available from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Publication website. A publication catalog may be obtained by contacting the Hydrologic Engineering Center of the Corp, 609 Second St., Davis, CA 95616. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers publications website address is: <https://www.publications.usace.army.mil/>

Topic 808 – Selected Computer Programs

Table 808.1 below presents a software vs. capabilities matrix for hydrologic/hydraulic software packages that have been reviewed and deemed compatible with Departmental procedures. Where Caltrans drainage facilities connect or impact facilities that are owned by others, the affected Local Agency may require the Department to use a specific program that is not listed below. When the use of other computer programs is requested, a comparison with the results using the appropriate program from Table 808.1 should be made. However, when work is performed on projects under Caltrans' jurisdiction, either internally, or by others, if a program not listed in Table 808.1 is used, it should be demonstrated that the computations are based on the same principles that are used in the programs listed in Table 808.1. For information on Local Agency hydraulic computer program requirements, the District Hydraulics Branch should be contacted. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure that the version of the program being used from Table 808.1 is current.

Table 808.1**Summary of Related Computer Programs and Web Applications**

	Storm Drains	Hydrology	Water Surface Profiles	Culverts	Roadside /Median Channels	Pavement Drainage	Pond Routing
FHWA Hydraulic Toolbox					x	x	
TR-55		x					
HEC-HMS ⁽²⁾		x					x
HY-8				x			
HEC-RAS ⁽¹⁾			x				
FESWMS			x				
WMS		x		x			x
NOAA Atlas 14		x					
USGS StreamStats		x					
SMS/SRH-2D			x	x			x
AutoDesk Civil3D/ Hydraflow	x	x				x	x

NOTES:

⁽¹⁾The data that was used by FEMA to establish water surface elevations (usually HEC-2) must be used to develop a duplicate effective model for FEMA floodplain analysis. For more information contact FEMA or the Local Agency.

⁽²⁾HEC-1 has been superseded by HEC-HMS by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Special circumstances may dictate the use of alternative methods/programs. Any such use should be performed under direction and with approval of the District Hydraulics Engineer.