



WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING DIVISION

POLICY CLARIFICATION

SUBJECT: DISTURBANCE AREA AROUND OPEN CHANNELS
DATE: AUGUST 20, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. J. [unclear]", is written over the signature line.

OVERVIEW:

Incorporating trails in channel design provides many benefits, such as conserving green space, making open channels a visible public amenity, and providing pedestrian access across the city. Likewise, channel stabilization and other public improvements enhance both the channel and adjacent properties. The nature of channels makes treating runoff from disturbance within a channel impractical. This clarification seeks to modify the disturbance area calculation for projects involving work within a channel.

DETAILS:

The DCM provides the following guidance:

Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 6.4 states: "Detention facilities shall be provided for all new development sites larger than 1 acre unless an approved basin plan includes the site being developed."

Volume 1, Chapter 3, Section 6.4.2 states: "The redevelopment of a site larger than 1 acre may require on-site detention to be provided if the downstream drainage system is shown to be inadequate to convey storm runoff for the entire site in compliance with this Manual."

Volume 2, Chapter 1, Section 4.0 states: "The Four Step Process, as illustrated and described in the following, is applicable to all new and re-development projects with construction activities that disturb 1 acre or greater or that disturb less than 1 acre but are part of a larger common plan of development or sale."

POLICY:

Due to the impracticality of treating runoff from disturbance areas within open channels, any portion of a trail or public infrastructure project (e.g., drop structures, bank stabilization, spillways) occurring within the proposed top of bank limits of a named channel is exempt from the Four Step Process and detention requirements.

If portions of the public infrastructure or trail extend beyond the channel banks, the area that lies within the proposed top of bank limits may be subtracted from the total disturbance area.

This policy clarification does not remove the requirement for applicable drainage studies.