

Helpful Phone Numbers and Websites

Important Web sites

TLMA Home page:

<http://www.rctlma.org>

TLMA's Office of the Ombudsman:

<http://www.rctlma.org/ombudsman.html>

TLMA's Geographic Information Services Reports and queries:

<http://www.rctlma.org/gis/gisdevelop.html>

Planning Department's information and applications: [http://](http://www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/planning/index.html)

www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/planning/index.html

Planning Department's case status and reports:

<http://www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/lms/lmsplanning/html>

Building and Safety's information and applications: [http://](http://www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/building/index.html)

www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/building/index.html

Building and Safety's permit status and reports:

<http://www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/lms/lmsbuilding.html>

Transportation Department's information and services:

<http://www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/trans/index.html>

Transportation Department's case status and reports: <http://www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/lms/lmstrans.html>

Environmental Programs Department's info and application:

<http://www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/epd/index.html>

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE BUILDING & SAFETY DEPARTMENT

General Information & Permit Assistance Centers

Districts 1, 2, 5

4080 Lemon Street, 2nd Floor
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 955-1800

Air Force Village West ♦ Alberhill ♦ Gavilan Hills ♦ Hosethief Canyon ♦ La Sierra ♦ Lake Elsinore* ♦ Lake Matthews ♦ Lakeland ♦ Mead Valley ♦ Orangecrest ♦ Perris* ♦ Wildomar ♦ Lake Matthews (n/o Cajalco) ♦ Sedco Hills ♦ Woodcrest ♦ Belltown ♦ Corona * ♦ Coronita ♦ Crestmore ♦ Eastvale ♦ El Cerrito ♦ Glen Avon ♦ Home Gardens ♦ Indian Hills ♦ Jurupa Valley ♦ Mira Loma ♦ Norco* ♦ Pedley ♦ Rubidoux ♦ Sunnyslope ♦ Banning* ♦ Beaumont* ♦ Cabazon ♦ Calimesa* ♦ Cherry Valley ♦ Desert Hot Springs ♦ Eden Hot Springs ♦ Garnet ♦ Gilman Hot Springs ♦ Good Hope ♦ Highgrove ♦ Juniper Flats ♦ Lake Perris ♦ Lakeview ♦ Meadowbrook ♦ Painted Hills ♦ Reche Canyon ♦ Romoland ♦ Twin Pines ♦ University City ♦ Whitewater ♦ Windy Point

District 3

39493 Los Alamos Road, Ste. A
Murrieta, CA 92563
(951) 600-6100

Aguanga ♦ Anza ♦ Canyon Lake* ♦ Cottonwood Canyon ♦ French Valley ♦ Garner Valley ♦ Green Acres ♦ Hemet* ♦ Homeland ♦ Idyllwild ♦ Lake Riverside ♦ Lake Skinner ♦ Menifee ♦ Mountain Center ♦ Murrieta* ♦ Murrieta Hot Springs ♦ Pine Cove ♦ Pine Meadow ♦ Pinyon Pines ♦ Poppet Flats ♦ Quail Valley ♦ Rancho California ♦ San Jacinto* ♦ Soboba Hot Springs ♦ Sun City ♦ Vail Lake ♦ Valle Vista ♦ Winchester

District 4

82-675 Highway 111, Rm. 209
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 863-8271

Bermuda Dunes ♦ Blythe* ♦ Chiriaco Summit ♦ Coachella* ♦ Desert Center ♦ Eagle Mountain ♦ Indio* ♦ Indio Hills ♦ Mecca ♦ Mesa Verde ♦ North Shore ♦ Oasis ♦ Palm Springs* ♦ Ripley ♦ Sky Valley ♦ Thermal ♦ Thousand Palms ♦ Valerie Jean

*does not include incorporated city areas

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE BUILDING & SAFETY DEPARTMENT

"Helping build and maintain safe and livable communities through quality customer service."

Grading Your Property



Our neighborhoods are the environment in which we live and play. Recognizing how important it is to our community to keep our neighborhoods healthy, happy, and attractive, the County of Riverside has certain county ordinances or laws to safeguard this valuable environment. Protecting the environment for our homes can help keep our neighborhoods safe and pleasant.

Permitted methods of clearing properties by the County include disking, hand labor, and mowing. Typical grading violations occur when private property owners or developers begin clearing vegetation on slopes, have large equipment on site that is altering

GRADING

the landform and/or impacting existing drainage conditions, and/or when soil is being deposited or excavated on site.

In general, grading work is:

- **Excavation or fill** which results in a slope gradient of 25 percent or greater (4 horizontal feet to 1 vertical foot), and which the depth or height at any point is more than 5 feet measured vertically.
- **Grubbing or clearing** (destroying native vegetation by removing or disturbing the root system by any means, including chemical) is prohibited.
- **Altering the drainage pattern** on an existing lot, thereby impacting adjacent properties. If you illegally cut into the slope bank on your property or import fill to increase the level portion of your yard which causes dirt to be distributed on an existing slope bank, you are in violation and could be creating an unstable slope on your property. Obtain the grading permit prior to conducting any grading activity.

[Visit Our Website:](http://www.rctlma.org/building/grading.html)

<http://www.rctlma.org/building/grading.html>

General Grading FAQ's

•Why do I need a grading permit?

Obtaining a grading permit allows Riverside County and other agencies to ensure your grading plan complies with the codes, that it is performed safely and that there are no unexpected impacts on the adjacent property or surrounding environment.

•When do I need a grading permit?

A grading permit is required in Riverside County, when at least 50 cubic yards of earth is cut, filled, or imported on a site. A method for estimating 50 cubic yards is to imagine two full size station wagons parked end to end, completely covered with dirt.

•Who should I contact to determine if I need a grading permit?

You may contact the permit counter during regular business hours at (951) 955-1800.

•How do I get a grading permit?

Procedure to Obtain a Grading Permit:

To obtain a grading permit, a grading plan must be submitted. Grading plans indicating less than 200 cubic yards of cut or fill, may be prepared by the applicant on standard plan sheets (24" x 36") with a scale of 1 inch = 20 feet, providing the minimum requirements detailed per the Grading Division Plan Check Correction List. Grading plans indicating larger quantities shall be prepared by a registered civil engineer.

•When don't I need a grading permit?

Exemptions:

A grading *permit* is not required for agricultural grading undertaken in connection with the raising of crops or animals, but not including grading for buildings or structures that require a building permit. Other exemptions as outlined in County Ordinance 457 and Chapter 70 of the Uniform Building Code, do not require a grading permit. **However**, the agricultural grader *is* still required to fill out and process an **Agricultural Grading Form**, available at **Riverside County Agricultural Commissioners Office** (Basement of 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, telephone 951-955-3045), prior to any agricultural grading taking place.



Typical grading violations include clearing vegetation on slopes, having large equipment on site that is altering the landform and/or impacting existing drainage conditions, and/or depositing or excavating soil on site.

•What if I don't get a required permit?

You will be subject to serious code enforcement actions. Excavation, grading, clearing or grubbing without a permit is a major violation of the Uniform Building Code. You could be fined and/or prosecuted by County Counsel/ Board of Supervisors. In addition, the County may issue a stop-work action on the project, withhold issuance of current and future development permits and require restoration of the site. Additional fines, penalties and mitigation may also be imposed by state and federal agencies.

•Can grading cause water pollution?

Yes, without proper safeguards it can. When you grade, you are responsible for preventing "dirty water" from running off your property. Dirty water includes that which contains sediment, soils and chemicals. Sediment from grading cannot be allowed to wash from the site into the city's storm drain system or any nearby body of water. When your grading permit is issued, the County or the state's Regional Water Quality Control Board may impose conditions. If your project doesn't require a permit, you must still prevent sediment and other pollutants from entering the city storm drain system. Keep your dirt on site.

•How do I find out if grading in my community is being performed legally?

For large-scale grading projects, call the Riverside County Planning Department at (951) 955-3200. For residential projects, call the Building & Safety Department at (951) 955-1800. Staff can check to see if there's a valid permit. If there is not a valid permit, call the **Riverside County Code Enforcement Department** at (951) 955-2004.