



## Recovery and Rebuilding:

### Grading Permit Questionnaire

**Purpose:** To assist in determining when a grading permit is required for a fire rebuild project.

**Background:** Grading is regulated by Chapter 16.20 of the Santa Cruz County Code (SCCC). Grading is the mechanical removal of earth material (excavation or “cut”) or deposition of earth or other material by artificial means (“fill”) for any purpose or length of time, including the stockpiling of material. Earth material is defined as rock, natural soil, sand or a combination thereof. Common examples of grading include construction of driveways, building pads, or site improvements, and restoration or stabilization of hillsides, slopes or stream banks. A grading permit is required prior to commencing any grading or related work, including preparatory site clearing and soil disturbance, except where exempted from permit requirements by SCCC 16.20.050. *Debris removal, when conducted in accordance with the approved Environmental Health Services debris removal work plan, does not require issuance of a grading permit.*

**Questionnaire:** To determine if a project requires a grading permit, please answer all the questions below. If a response to any question is unknown, contact a design professional for assistance and/or consult with Santa Cruz County Environmental Planning staff. **Incorrect or false answers may cause delays processing and/or issuing permits related to the project.**

**Note:** A “No” answer may be selected for questions 1-5 for cuts below existing grade for basements, footings of buildings, wells and utilities, and soil testing (exploratory excavations).

Questions	Yes	No	Unknown
1. Does the project include cut or fill exceeding 100 cubic yards? (greater of the cut or fill volumes)			
2. Does the project include cuts greater than 5 feet in depth?			
3. Does the project include fills greater than 2 feet in depth?			
4. Does the project include fills that support a structure?			
5. Does the project include fills of any depth placed on natural terrain with a slope steeper than 5 horizontal to one vertical (20%)?			
6. Does the project include fills that alter or obstruct a drainage course?			

**Acknowledgment:** I, as the applicant, understand that a "Yes" answer to any of the above questions means that a grading permit is required for my project and that the grading permit must be issued before any related building permit(s) can be issued. If any answers are "Unknown" to me, I should contact my design professional immediately to determine if a grading permit is required for my project or

circumstance. Furthermore, I understand that incorrect or false answers may cause delays processing and/or issuing permits related to my project.

Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Assessor's Parcel Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_