



Engineering Services Division

3675 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Suite 210

Lafayette, CA 94549-1968

Tel. (925) 284-1951 • Fax (925) 284-3169

<http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us>

Drainage Plan Guidelines

If you are submitting an application for a new home or major addition, you need to have a drainage plan for your project. The plan should be a scaled drawing prepared by a professional. Complex drainage plans should be prepared by a licensed civil engineer. Any project adding or replacing more than 500 sq. ft. of impervious surface (roof area, paving, etc.) requires a drainage plan and review by the City Engineer.

The purpose of the plan is to show how rain runoff from your site, including roof areas, patios, driveways, etc., is handled. If you are building a new home, there should be a comprehensive system to collect and convey runoff to a reasonable point of discharge. If your site is particularly large or complex, you need to submit supporting hydraulic and hydrologic analyses. (If you are unsure, submit your drainage plans and we will inform you after our review.) The manner of the discharge may also require a special, engineered treatment at the discharge point, and this detail should be shown on the plans. Discharges into creeks may also require special review by the State Department of Fish & Game, and other state regulatory agencies.

If you are building an addition, you should show any existing drainage system that currently handles site runoff. How the addition would tie into or affect the existing system should be shown on the plans.

If your site currently has no drainage system at all (as in the case of a very old development), you need to think about how to prevent runoff from your site from impacting your neighbor(s). Ideally, you need to consider putting in a new drainage system to solve this situation. A licensed civil engineer can provide you options.

Lastly, your design needs to consider current storm water management practices and guidelines. Direct discharge of runoff in a concentrated manner is discouraged. Please consult design guides such as one found on this website: <http://www.cccleanwater.org/stormwater-c-3-guidebook/>

A complete drainage plan with the necessary details will expedite the review of your permit application. If you have questions, you may contact the City Engineer at (925) 299-3203.