

# Categorical Permission Update

Ryan Larson, P.E.  
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# Categorical Permission Definition

- Cover potential alterations that are similar in nature and have similar effects.
- Should be established by providing public notice of the activities covered by the categorical permissions
- Appropriate documentation and analysis developed to determine the impacts of activities
- Simplified process to validate application of the categorical permission and specify any special conditions on a site-specific basis.



from EC 1165-2-216, Policy and Procedural Guidance for Processing Requests to Alter US Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects Pursuant to 33 USC 408.



# Types of Alterations

- Agriculture and Landscaping
- Boat Docks
- Borings and other levee explorations
- Borrow Sites
- Bridges
- Buildings and Similar Structures
- Ditches and Canals
- Erosion Control and Bank Stabilization
- Fences and Gates
- Fish Screens
- Pipes
- Restoration
- Retaining Walls
- Seepage and Stability Berms
- Stairs and Handrails
- Swimming Pools
- Trails/Road and Access Ramps
- Utility Poles
- Wells



# Sample Project Description- Trails/Roads and Access Ramps

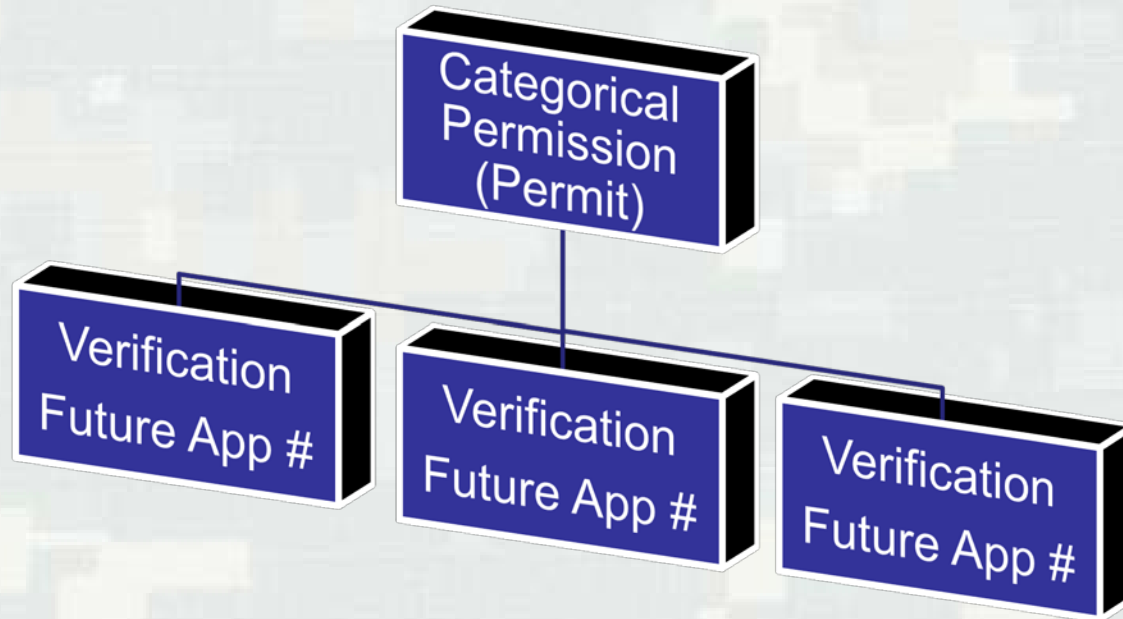
- “New trails/roads may be constructed, and existing trails/roads may be modified, on the levee crown; access ramps on the sides of the levee may also be constructed or modified. Gravel, asphalt, or concrete materials may be used in construction. The total area of construction for ramps must not exceed 2.5 acres in size and total length of trails/roads must not exceed 2 miles.”
  - ▶ Roads longer than 2 miles would not fit the categorical permission
  - ▶ Roads/trails must be constructed of gravel, asphalt, or concrete.



# Next Steps

- Receive and evaluate public comments
- Finalize the Programmatic EA summarizing the effects of the Categorical Permission
- Finalize Categorical Permission
- Sign and implement the Categorical Permission





# A Categorical Permission

## Does:

- Define a class of alterations that can lead to a more streamlined review
- Indirectly encourage requesters to alter within bounds of project description by demonstrating a more timely review.

## Doesn't

- Provide permission without USACE and Sponsor review
- Provide Section 7 of ESA coverage
- Provide Section 106 of NHPA coverage



# Public Notice

- 19 different types of common alterations
- September 18- October 18, 2017
- <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Media/USACE-Project-Public-Notices/>
- Covers the entire Sacramento District Area of Responsibility- CA, NV, UT, CO





# Questions?

