

# Grading Permit Questionnaire

GRD-002

**Purpose:** To assist in determining when a grading permit is required.

**Background:** Grading is regulated by Chapter 11 of the Sonoma County Code (SCC). Grading is the removal or deposition of earth material by artificial means. Earth material is defined as any rock or natural soil or combination thereof. Grading is generally a combination of excavation (cuts) and placement (fill) of soil. Grading does not include routine farming practices. See SCC §11.26.020. 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 SCC §11.04.010.A.

**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 the Permit and Resource Management Department Grading & Storm Water 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 1-4 for cuts below existing or finish grade for basements, and footings of buildings, retaining walls, swimming pools, or other structures, and for fills using only material from the excavation, where authorized by a valid building, agricultural exemption, or demolition permit. The placement of fill must be shown on the approved plans. Fill that is intended to support structures or surcharges may be greater than 1 foot in depth only if a soils report justifies the use of the fill. This exemption shall not apply to any fill that is engineered grading. See SCC §11.04.010.C.4.

| Questions  | Yes                      | No                       | Unknown                  |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Does the project include cut or fill exceeding 50 cubic yards?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does the project include cut or fill greater than 3 feet in depth?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Does the project include a cut slope greater than 5 feet in height and steeper than 2 units horizontal to 1 unit vertical?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Does the project include fill intended to support a structure or surcharge greater than 1 foot in depth or placed on terrain with a natural slope exceeding 15 percent? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Does the project include any fill within the Flood Prone Urban Area (FPUA)?<br>See map on reverse side of this form for the location of the FPUA.                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Does the project include any fill within a Special Flood Hazard Area subject to flooding by the 1 percent annual chance flood (100-year flood)?                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**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 Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address(es)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assessor's Parcel Number(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Building Permit Number(s)

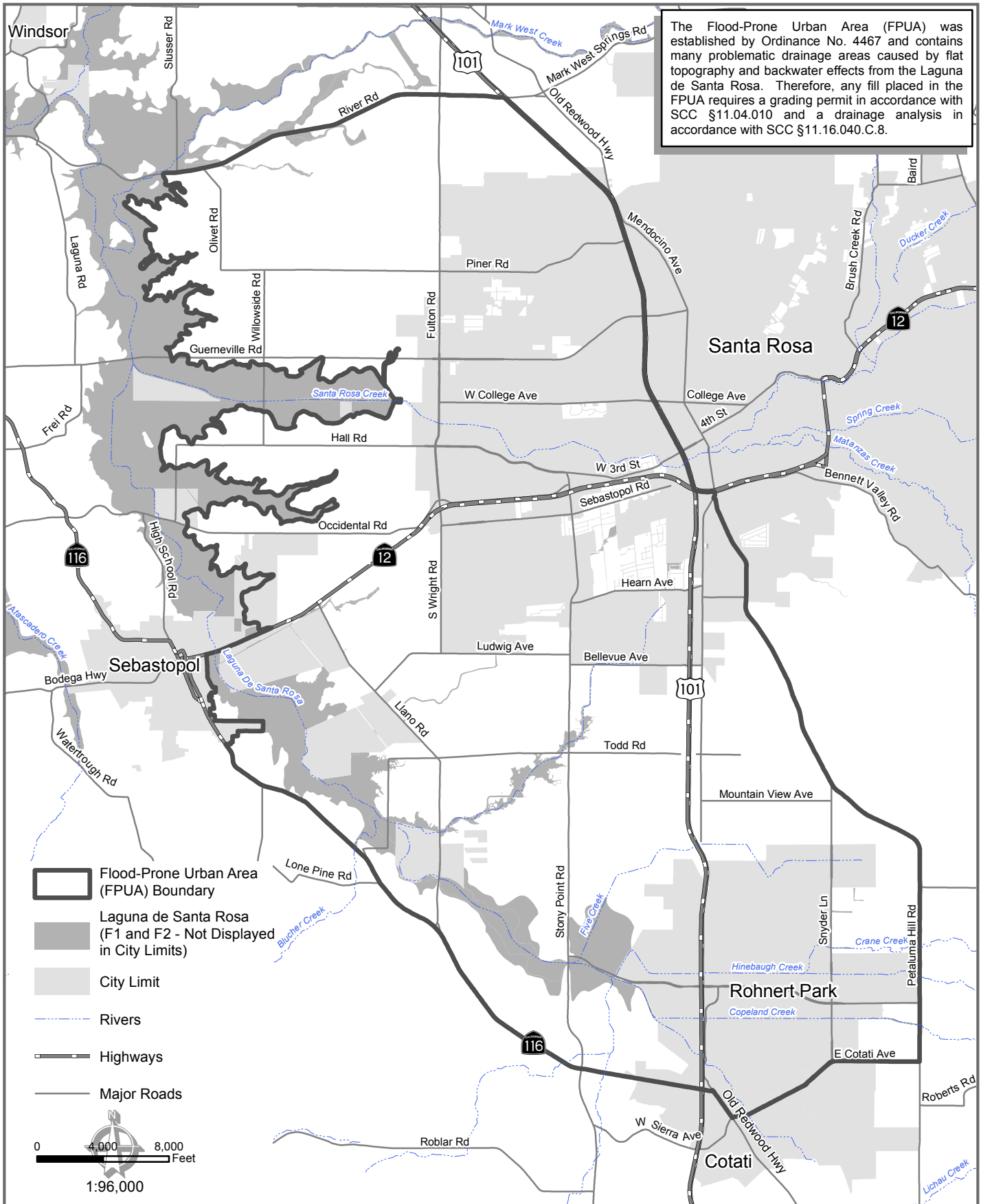


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# FLOOD-PRONE URBAN AREA

The Flood-Prone Urban Area (FPUA) was established by Ordinance No. 4467 and contains many problematic drainage areas caused by flat topography and backwater effects from the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Therefore, any fill placed in the FPUA requires a grading permit in accordance with SCC §11.04.010 and a drainage analysis in accordance with SCC §11.16.040.C.8.



Map Scale and Reproduction methods limit precision in physical features displayed. This map is for illustrative purposes only, and is not suitable for parcel-specific decision making. Site-specific studies are required to draw parcel-specific conclusions.

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