A conduit installed underground to collect excess surface water and carry it to a suitable outlet.

This practice applies where a system is needed to dispose of excess water generated by farmland on steep slopes without causing erosion or flooding.

Underground outlets are often installed as part of a water management system with upland diversions, terraces, or sediment basins to collect excess runoff and prevent erosive surface flow.

Underground Outlets may be used with Diversions, Grassed Waterways, and/or Sediment Basins to address surface erosion; see descriptions and maximum dimensions associated with those practices.

When a pipe outlets directly to a natural watercourse, appropriate energy dissipaters are installed to slow velocities and prevent scour. These structures will not include grouted rock, headwalls, and other structures installed below the ordinary high water mark.

Environmental values considered during planning and design include cultural resources; rare, threatened, and endangered species; air quality; and water quality and water quantity.

How the Permit Coordination Program Works for Landowners

- Landowner requests assistance from the NRCS/Cachuma RCD
- NRCS/Cachuma RCD develops a conservation plan to meet landowner needs, enhance natural resources, and comply with Program permits
- Landowner signs Cooperator Agreement to implement the conservation plan
- Project is covered by Program’s programmatic approvals and agreements
- Participating agencies include California Department of Fish and Game, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, NOAA Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

*All practices completed under this program must have a clear environmental benefit

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