Dryland Stream Delineation Workshop

Field-based instruction in California dryland stream delineation, using methods applied within federal and state aquatic resource jurisdictional frameworks.



Date: Saturday, January 23, 2027
Location: Los Angeles area, CA
Instructor: Malek Al-Marayati
Duration: 1 Day · 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Tuition: $495

Target Audience: Consultants, utility and municipality staff, restoration practitioners, biologists, planners, project managers, and field technicians. No previous delineation experience is required. The workshop is built for a range of experience levels, from professionals new to delineation to those who want to sharpen their judgment on California dryland systems specifically.

Description: Spend a day at a working dryland field site learning to identify and delineate ephemeral and intermittent streams in California using methods applied to evaluate aquatic resource boundaries under federal and state jurisdictional frameworks. You'll learn to distinguish between potential Waters of the U.S. and Waters of the State, apply the principles of Ordinary High Water Mark delineation, and evaluate hydrogeomorphic indicators commonly used to characterize episodic stream systems. On-site instruction in the morning directly supports the field exercises and stays focused on California regulatory expectations. You'll work through real delineation scenarios and receive direct, individualized feedback on your calls and documentation as you work. Tuition includes field instruction, printed materials, digital reference materials, and a certificate of completion.

Participants will learn to:

- Differentiate potential Waters of the U.S. from Waters of the State in dryland systems
- Apply field methods for delineating ephemeral and intermittent streams
- Identify Ordinary High Water Mark indicators in dryland environments
- Evaluate the lateral extent of the watercourse using various hydrogeomorphic indicators
- Complete field documentation that supports regulatory permitting procedures
- See how delineations influence permitting and project planning



Schedule (subject to change):

8:00 am	**Welcome & Regulatory Overview** — Orientation and overview of the federal and California regulatory frameworks applicable to dryland streams, including the distinctions among potential Waters of the U.S., Waters of the State, and streambeds subject to CDFW jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Section 1602.
9:00 am	**Field Indicators & Delineation Principles** — Introduction to Ordinary High Water Mark delineation principles and the hydrogeomorphic indicators commonly evaluated in ephemeral and intermittent stream systems.
10:30 am	**Morning Field Exercises** — Guided field evaluation of stream morphology, channel features, OHWM indicators, and other physical indicators used to characterize dryland stream systems.
Noon	**Lunch** — Break and informal discussion. Please bring your own lunch.
1:00 pm	**Afternoon Field Delineation Exercises** — Hands-on application of field-based delineation methods, including evaluation of watercourse boundaries, OHWM indicators, and other relevant hydrogeomorphic features.
3:00 pm	**Documentation & Case Studies** — Translating field observations into clear, technically defensible documentation, and how delineation findings inform evaluation of potential federal and state jurisdiction, with review of California examples.
4:30 pm	**Discussion & Certificates** — Open Q&A, review of key field and regulatory takeaways, and certificates of completion.

Venue: A representative Southern California dryland field site in the Los Angeles area. The exact meeting location is provided after registration, along with a full preparation list.



Why It Matters

In dryland systems, where the channel is and how it's classified shapes everything downstream of it: permitting strategy, project schedules, mitigation requirements, agency review, and regulatory risk. A misread channel can stall a project or expose it to challenge. Accurate field interpretation leads to more defensible reports and smoother approvals. This workshop develops the field judgment needed to support clearer, more defensible delineation and permitting decisions.

Materials — please bring:

- Field-appropriate clothing and sturdy boots
- Sun protection and water
- Your own lunch and snacks
- A notebook (helpful, not required)

BlueLine provides printed field data sheets and reference materials for use during the exercises, along with digital copies you can keep and use on your own projects.

Physical Requirements & Weather: Participants are on foot in an active dryland channel on uneven ground from late morning through the afternoon. The workshop proceeds in light rain, so dress for the conditions. If storms or flash-flood risk make the channel unsafe, BlueLine will reschedule and notify registrants directly.

Certificate: A certificate documenting 8 contact hours of instruction is issued at the end of the day and can be self-reported toward professional continuing-education requirements.

About the Instructor: Malek Al-Marayati began his environmental consulting career at Sapphos Environmental and went on to work in aquatic resource delineation, permitting, and project management at SWCA Environmental Consultants and Rincon Consultants. He has extensive field experience delineating wetlands and dryland stream systems in the Arid West and Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast regions under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers guidelines. He is a Certified Wetland Botanist and CRAM Practitioner. He currently works as an environmental planner handling aquatic resource permitting and compliance for utility infrastructure projects across Southern California. He founded BlueLine to help bridge the gap between foundational wetland training and the practical regulatory knowledge environmental professionals need to work on California projects.

Add the online course and save $115. The Complete Training Bundle pairs **Stream & Wetland Permitting in California** (online) with this workshop for **$725** instead of $840. If you have already enrolled in the online course, contact BlueLine before registering for the workshop.

Registration Information

Scan the code at right or visit **bluelineinstitute.com/workshop-ca-delineation** to register. Enrollment is limited to 16 participants to maximize field instruction, so register early to secure your place.

Cancellation: Full refund up to 30 days before the workshop; within 30 days, registrations may be transferred to a colleague or applied to a future BlueLine workshop. If BlueLine cancels or reschedules the workshop and you can't attend the new date, you receive a full refund.

Contact: bluelineinstitute.com/contact with any questions, or to discuss group pricing and registration options.

REGISTER