

# THE HABITAT RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT (HRE) ACT

## SIMPLIFIED APPROVALS FOR RESTORATION BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (CDFW)



Habitat images, left to right: Yolo Wildlife Area, CDFW photo by Bob Sahara; Table Mountain, CDFW photo; Suisun Marsh, CDFW photo

### Accelerating Restoration and Water Quality Improvement

CDFW offers a faster and simpler pathway for qualified restoration projects, as an alternative to the DFW permits, including:

- Section 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA)
- Section 2081 California Endangered Species Act (CESA) permit

#### Covered projects could include:

- Improving aquatic habitat for endangered species
- Revegetation to reduce sediment and pollutants in waterways
- Removing invasive plants along streams
- Removing fish passage barriers such as small dams, fords and failing culverts
- Other types of common restoration work

### Benefits from the New Law

- Two permit approvals with no change in fees
- Fast track review for voluntary restoration up to 5 acres and affecting 500 *cumulative* linear feet of streambank or shoreline
- Coordinated with the [State Water Board's General 401 Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects](#):
  - Fast 30-day approval for projects **with** a State Water Board General 401 Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects
  - 60-day approval for projects **eligible for** the Water Board's General Certification but receiving other types of approval, or not yet having approval, from the State/Regional Water Boards
- Simplifies monitoring requirements by allowing for use of plans/reports from other permits
- CEQA compliance can be through Categorical Exemption 15333 for Small Habitat Restoration Projects or other adopted CEQA document

### How to Use the New Process

- Projects must be voluntary with a primary purpose of improving fish and wildlife habitat
- Provide detailed explanations of the project's design, purpose, and habitat/water quality benefits
- Incorporate all protection measures into the project design
- Utilize techniques or methodologies contained in recovery plans, guidelines, manuals, or guidance documents

Apply at:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/HRE-Act](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/HRE-Act)

Contact [Sustainable Conservation](#) for guidance in completing the application process (415 977-0380 / [restoration@suscon.org](mailto:restoration@suscon.org))

