

## Sustainable Conservation

### Summary of Expedited/Simplified Permitting for Voluntary Habitat Restoration Projects

Agency/ Authority	Permit/ Approval	Project Size Limits	Activities Covered	Location	Benefits/ Details
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)	<a href="#">Categorical Exemption 15333 for Small Habitat Restoration Projects</a>	≤ 5 acres	Fish, plant, and wildlife habitat restoration	Statewide	> Faster/lower cost alternative to CEQA document (i.e., Initial Study/Negative Declaration)
California Coastal Commission (CCC)	Federal Consistency Determinations (CD) ( <a href="#">North&amp;Central Coast</a> ; <a href="#">South Coast</a> )	Small to Large	Salmonid habitat and related upland restoration Estuarine and coastal restoration	Entire California Coastal Zone	> Faster/free alternative to obtaining a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) or individual project CD > Can be used with NMFS Programmatic Biological Opinions; requires NOAA Restoration Center funding or technical assistance > <a href="#">Application Information</a>
California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW)	<a href="#">Habitat Restoration and Enhancement (HRE) Act / AB 2193</a>	Currently ≤ 5 acres and 500 cumulative linear feet of streambank or coastline (linked to SWRCB 401 permit for Small Restoration Projects; see below)	Aquatic habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects	Statewide	> Fast and simple process: 30 day approval with SWRCB 401 for Small Restoration Projects, otherwise 60 days > Covers CA Endangered Species Act (CESA) and 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSAA) approvals through one application > <a href="#">HRE Act Guidance Document</a>
California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW)	<a href="#">Coho HELP Act</a>	≤ 5 acres and 500 cumulative linear feet of streambank or coastline	Coho salmon habitat projects: wood placement to enhance fish habitat, bioengineered streambank restoration, and in-stream improvements (culvert upgrade, road crossing)	Coho Salmon Habitat	> Approval in 60 days or less > Covers CESA and LSAA approvals through one application
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	<a href="#">401 Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects</a>	≤ 5 acres and 500 cumulative linear feet of streambank or coastline (length subject to change with updates)	Aquatic habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects	Statewide	> Faster, simple process compared to standard 401 Water Quality Certification; coordinated with DFW's HRE and Coho HELP Acts (see above) > Must be eligible for CEQA categorical exemption 15333, though other CEQA compliance methods can be used

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National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	<a href="#">Biological Opinions for the North &amp; Central Coasts</a>	Small to large projects limited to ≤ 1,000 feet of dewatering	Salmonid habitat and related upland restoration	Oregon Border to San Luis Obispo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Faster/lower cost process: individual Biological Opinion not needed</li> <li>&gt; Requires US Army Corps Permit or NOAA RC funding or technical assistance</li> </ul>
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	<a href="#">Biological Opinion South Coast</a>	Small to large projects limited to ≤ 500 feet of dewatering	Salmonid habitat and related upland restoration	San Luis Obispo County to San Diego County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Faster/lower cost process: individual Biological Opinion not needed</li> <li>&gt; Requires US Army Corps Permit or NOAA RC funding or technical assistance</li> </ul>
US Army Corps of Engineers	<a href="#">Nationwide Permits (NWP) 13, 27, 33</a>	NWP 13 - 500 cumulative linear feet of streambank or coastline (unless waived); No size limits for NWP 27 & 33	NWP 13 - Bank Stabilization NWP 27- Aquatic Habitat Restoration NWP 33- Temporary Construction Access and Dewatering	Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Efficient way to acquire Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 Clean Water Act permitting when other regional/statewide permits aren't available</li> </ul>
US Army Corps of Engineers	<a href="#">Regional General Permits (RGPs) 41, 70</a>	No Size Limits	RGP 41 – Invasive Plant Removal RGP 70 - Bioengineered Streambank Stabilization	Los Angeles Corps District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Faster approval than Nationwide Permits</li> <li>&gt; Efficient way to acquire Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permitting</li> </ul>
US Fish & Wildlife Service	<a href="#">Programmatic Biological Opinions for Listed Species</a>	Generally corresponds with US Army Corps NWP size limits	Activities conducted under US Army Corps NWPs-13, 27, and/or 33 (see above) are typically covered	Napa to Ventura County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Saves substantial time/resources since individual Biological Opinion not needed</li> <li>&gt; Covers Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) permitting for <a href="#">California Red-Legged Frog</a> (not including western San Mateo County) and <a href="#">Central California Tiger Salamander</a></li> </ul>
US Fish & Wildlife Service	<a href="#">Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Partners Program</a>	Small to large projects	Invasive species control, fish passage barrier removal, migratory bird habitat restoration, wetland restoration	California Central Valley and Foothill Ring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Covers Federal ESA permitting</li> <li>&gt; Requires funding from US FWS Partners' Program</li> </ul>
Resource Conservation District (RCD) Partners in Restoration Programs (PIR)	A variety of permits available (e.g., SWRCB, US FWS, NMFS BOs)	Generally ≤ 5 acres	Fish, plant and wildlife habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects	Mendocino, Marin, SLO, Cachuma, Yolo and Alameda RCDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Consolidated permitting program managed by RCDs</li> </ul>