

# 10 TIPS FOR RESTORATION PERMITTING SUCCESS

## PRE-APPLICATION

1. Determine all federal, state and local approvals potentially needed. Ensure projects meet the size and type requirements for the permits you intend to use. Check out our [suite of technical resources at suscon.org/technical-resources](https://suscon.org/technical-resources) to find applicable programmatic permits.
2. Get regulatory staff feedback and input on conceptual plan, including project design and environmental protection measures needed.



3. **Ensure cooperating landowners** – where easements and/or adjoining property owners' agreement is needed.
4. Ask restoration applicants who have used programmatic permitting in the past for advice and template applications and language. Another organization in the area may have completed a programmatic process, and can provide information you can incorporate.
5. Non-governmental organizations should **consider partnering** with a local District (Water, Parks and Open Space, Resource Conservation District), which can serve as a CEQA lead agency, in the event where the project rises above the level of a CEQA exemption.
6. Many small-scale restoration projects can use **CEQA Categorical Exemptions** (15333 – direct area of impact 5 acres or less or 15304 – minor alterations to land) rather than the more complex Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) processes.

## APPLICATION

7. **Check agency websites** for guidance, environmental and species protection measures, and application forms. Recently approved permits and authorizations can provide language and measures for your project description.
8. Provide a **clear, detailed and well-written project description**, including all the appropriate protection measures you anticipate the agencies will request. Clearly describe your project purpose, methods and benefits. Give adequate justification for design choices that could be questioned. This upfront work will help ensure your application's approval.
9. Provide **maps, figures and photos** to personalize your project and speed up agency review.



## ONGOING

10. Establish relationships with agency staff. **View regulatory staff as your partners** in getting restoration done, rather than obstacles to the completion of your project.

If you need permitting strategy advice or technical assistance, contact Sustainable Conservation's Accelerating Restoration team at [restoration@suscon.org](mailto:restoration@suscon.org).

For more info, visit [www.suscon.org](http://www.suscon.org).

