

THE HABITAT RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT (HRE) ACT

Simplified approvals for restoration by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)



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 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
 - > 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

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