

Sustainable Conservation's *Essential* Guide for Expedited Restoration Permitting

Agency/ Authority	Permit/ Approval	Project Size Limits	Activities Covered	Location	Benefits/ Details
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)	Categorical Exemption 15333* and 15304	≤ 5 acres for Sec. 15333 No acreage limit for Sec. 15304	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 Determination (CD)*	Small to Large	Salmonid habitat and related upland restoration Estuarine and coastal restoration	Entire California Coastal Zone	> Faster, no-cost 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 > North and Central Coast* > South Coast*
California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW)	Habitat Restoration and Enhancement (HRE) Act*	Currently ≤ 5 acres and 500 cumulative linear feet of stream segment or coastline (linked to SWRCB 401 permit - see below)	Aquatic habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects	Statewide	> Fast and simple process: 30 day approval with SWRCB 401 otherwise 60 days > Covers CA Endangered Species Act (CESA) and 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSAA) > HRE Act Guidance Document > Training Videos for Applicants
US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Programmatic Biological Opinions for Listed Species and Limited Geographic Regions	Generally align with US Army Corps NWP	Activities conducted under US Army Corps NWP 27, and/or 33 (see below) are typically covered	Regions throughout the State	> Saves substantial time/resources since individual Biological Opinion not needed > Opinions available per the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) for: CA red-legged frog (not including western San Mateo County), CA red-legged frog (Ventura FWO) , Central California tiger salamander , East Alameda County Conservation Strategy ; Suisun Marsh Habitat Restoration Plan and BO Amendment , Upper Sacramento River Habitat Restoration
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	401 Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects	≤ 5 acres and 500 cumulative linear feet of stream segment or coastline (length subject to change with updates)	Aquatic and riparian habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects	Statewide	> Faster, simple process compared to standard 401 Water Quality Certification; coordinated with DFW's HRE Act (see above) > Must be eligible for CEQA categorical exemption 15333, though other CEQA compliance methods can be used

* Sustainable Conservation provided technical assistance on this authorization or earlier versions of this authorization.

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National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Biological Opinions for the North Coast Central Coast* Central Valley* Suisun Marsh	Small to large projects limited to ≤ 1,000 feet of dewatering	Salmonid habitat and related upland restoration	Oregon Border to San Luis Obispo County; Delta, San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Faster/lower cost process: individual Biological Opinion not needed > Requires US Army Corps Permit or NOAA Restoration Center (RC) funding or technical assistance
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Biological Opinion South Coast*	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"> > Faster/lower cost process: individual Biological Opinion not needed > Requires US Army Corps Permit or NOAA RC funding or technical assistance
US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)	Nationwide Permits (NWP) 27, 33	NWP 13 - 500 cumulative linear feet of streambank or coastline (unless waived); No size limits for NWP 27 & 33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWP 13 - Bank Stabilization NWP 27 - Aquatic Habitat Restoration NWP 33 - Temporary Construction Access and Dewatering 	Statewide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 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
US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)	Regional General Permit (RGP) 16 RGPs 41, 70	No Size Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RGP 16 – Anadromous Salmonid Fisheries Restoration RGP 41 – Invasive Plant Removal RGP 70 - Bioengineered Streambank Stabilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sacramento District (RGP 16) Los Angeles District (RGP 41, 70) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Faster approval than Nationwide Permits > Efficient way to acquire Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permitting
Resource Conservation District (RCD) Partners in Restoration Programs (PIR)	A variety of permits available (e.g., SWRCB, US FWS, NMFS BOs)*	Size Limits Vary	Fish, plant and wildlife habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects	Mendocino, Marin, Santa Cruz, SLO, Cachuma, Yolo and Alameda RCDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Consolidated permitting program managed by RCDs

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