

# Sustainable Conservation's *Essential* Guide for Accelerated 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; minor alterations to land	Statewide	> Faster/lower cost alternative to CEQA document (i.e., Initial Study/Negative Declaration)
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	401 Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (SHRP)	≤ 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, simpler process compared to standard 401 Water Quality Certification; coordinated with DFW's HREA (see below); recommend getting SWRCB permit first, then using DFW's HREA/Sec. 1653 process > Must be eligible for CEQA categorical exemption 15333, though other CEQA compliance methods can be used
California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW)	Habitat Restoration and Enhancement (HREA)*	Currently ≤ 5 acres and 500 cumulative linear feet of stream segment or coastline (linked to SHRP)	Aquatic and riparian habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects	Statewide	> Faster/simpler process: approval in up to 30 days with SWRCB 401, otherwise 60 days > Covers CA Endangered Species Act (CESA) and 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSAA) > <a href="#">CDFW HREA web page</a> > <a href="#">HREA Guidance Document and Training Videos for Applicants (by Sustainable Conservation)</a>
Resource Conservation District (RCD) Permit Coordination Programs (PCP)	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	Alameda County RCD Marin RCD Santa Cruz RCD	>RCDs obtain permits on behalf of project proponents > <a href="#">Alameda County RCD</a> includes USFWS, ACOE, RWQCB, Alameda County Grading Department, NMFS, and CDFW > <a href="#">Marin RCD PCP</a> can provide CEQA compliance > <a href="#">Santa Cruz RCD</a> can assist with SC County, CDFW, CEQA, RWQCB, Army Corps, Coastal Commission
US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)	Regional General Permit (RGP) 16  RGP 41	No Size Limits	<a href="#">RGP 16</a> – Anadromous Salmonid Fisheries Restoration  <a href="#">RGP 41</a> – Invasive Plant Removal	Sacramento District (RGP 16)  Los Angeles District (RGP 41)	> Faster approval than Nationwide Permits > Efficient way to acquire Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permitting

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

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US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)	Nationwide Permits (NWP) 13, 27, 33, 54	NWPs 13 & 54 - 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 NWP 54 – Living Shorelines	Statewide	> Efficient way to acquire Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 Clean Water Act permitting when other regional general permits aren't available > Multiple NWPs can be used for a single project
US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Programmatic Biological Opinions for Listed Species and Limited Geographic Regions	Small to Large	Aquatic and riparian habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects	Regions throughout the State	> Can save substantial time/resources since individual Biological Opinion not needed > <a href="#">Several aquatic/riparian species for NRCS conservation practices in Napa, Sonoma, Solano, and Marin Counties</a> > <a href="#">CA red-legged frog (Ventura FWO)</a> > PBO for the <a href="#">East Alameda County Conservation Strategy</a>
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Biological Opinions for the <a href="#">North Coast</a> <a href="#">Central Coast*</a> <a href="#">Central Valley*</a> <a href="#">Suisun Marsh</a>	Small to large projects in some cases limited to ≤ 1,000 feet of dewatering	Salmonid habitat and related upland restoration, tidal marsh restoration	CA-OR border to SLO County; Delta, San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys	> Faster/lower cost process: individual Biological Assessment/Biological Opinion not needed > Most require US Army Corps Permit or NOAA Restoration Center (RC) involvement
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 through San Diego County	> Faster/lower cost process: individual Biological Assessment/Biological Opinion not needed > Requires US Army Corps Permit or NOAA RC involvement
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/lower cost alternative to obtaining a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) or individual project CD > Can be used with NMFS Programmatic Biological Opinions (see above); requires NOAA Restoration Center involvement > <a href="#">North and Central Coast CD*</a> , <a href="#">South Coast CD*</a>

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