Sustainable Conservation’s *Essential* Guide for Accelerated Restoration Permitting

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<th>Agency/Authority</th>
<th>Permit/Approval</th>
<th>Project Size Limits</th>
<th>Activities Covered</th>
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<tr>
<td>California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)</td>
<td>Categorical Exemption 15333* and 15304</td>
<td>≤ 5 acres for Sec. 15333 and No acreage limit for Sec. 15304</td>
<td>Fish, plant, and wildlife habitat restoration; minor alterations to land</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>&gt; Faster/lower cost alternative to CEQA document (i.e., Initial Study/Negative Declaration)</td>
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<td>State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)</td>
<td>401 Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects (SHRP)</td>
<td>≤ 5 acres and 500 cumulative linear feet of stream segment or coastline (length subject to change with updates)</td>
<td>Aquatic and riparian habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>&gt; 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 &gt; Must be eligible for CEQA categorical exemption 15333, though other CEQA compliance methods can be used</td>
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<td>California Department of Fish &amp; Wildlife (CDFW)</td>
<td>Habitat Restoration and Enhancement (HREA)*</td>
<td>Currently ≤ 5 acres and 500 cumulative linear feet of stream segment or coastline (linked to SHRP)</td>
<td>Aquatic and riparian habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>&gt; Faster/simpler process: approval in up to 30 days with SWRCB 401, otherwise 60 days &gt; Covers CA Endangered Species Act (CESA) and 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSAA) &gt; CDFW HREA web page &gt; HREA Guidance Document and Training Videos for Applicants (by Sustainable Conservation)</td>
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<td>Resource Conservation District (RCD) Permit Coordination Programs (PCP)</td>
<td>A variety of permits available (e.g., SWRCB, US FWS, NMFS BOs)*</td>
<td>Size Limits Vary</td>
<td>Fish, plant and wildlife habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects</td>
<td>Alameda County RCD, Marin RCD, Santa Cruz RCD</td>
<td>&gt;RCDs obtain permits on behalf of project proponents &gt; Alameda County RCD includes USFWS, ACOE, RWQCB, Alameda County Grading Department, NMFS, and CDFW &gt; Marin RCD PCP can provide CEQA compliance &gt; Santa Cruz RCD can assist with SC County, CDFW, CEQA, RWQCB, Army Corps, Coastal Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)</td>
<td>Regional General Permit (RGP) 16 RGP 41</td>
<td>No Size Limits</td>
<td>Fish, plant and wildlife habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects, Anadromous Salmonid Fisheries Restoration, Invasive Plant Removal</td>
<td>Sacramento District (RGP 16), Los Angeles District (RGP 41)</td>
<td>&gt; Faster approval than Nationwide Permits &gt; Efficient way to acquire Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permitting</td>
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* Sustainable Conservation provided technical assistance on this authorization or earlier versions of this authorization.

To setup a free permitting consultation, email restoration@suscon.org updated 4/1/21
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| US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) | Nationwide Permits (NWPs 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 Restoration  
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  
> Several aquatic/riparian species for NRCS conservation practices in Napa, Sonoma, Solano, and Marin Counties  
> CA red-legged frog (Ventura FWO)  
> PBO for the East Alameda County Conservation Strategy |
| National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) | Biological Opinions for the North Coast Central Coast* Central Valley* Suisun Marsh | 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) | Biological Opinion South Coast* | 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  
> North and Central Coast CD*, South Coast CD* |

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