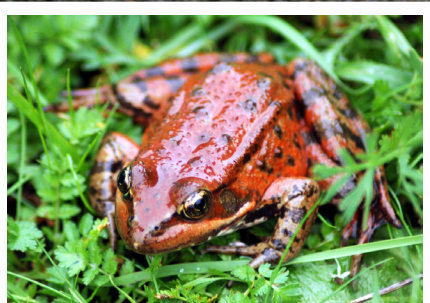


Statewide Aquatic Habitat Restoration Permitting Initiative



THE NEED TO ACCELERATE HABITAT RESTORATION

In California, close to 350 species are listed as threatened or endangered, 90% of wetlands and riparian areas have been lost, and 2/3 of assessed water bodies are impaired. There's a critical need for more projects that restore degraded habitats, increase habitat connectivity, improve water quality, sequester carbon, and increase our resilience to climate change, which benefits wildlife and people.

There is also significant new funding for habitat restoration available through Proposition 1, 68, and other sources, as well as efforts to restore the Bay-Delta and more – all leading to an increase in projects in the coming years.

However, this funding generally does not come with the necessary permits to get the work done. Project proponents must currently go to as many as nine or more agencies to get permits to begin environmentally beneficial projects, using the same process as development projects. It can take many months to years for each project to receive approval, involving substantial cost and complexity.

Programmatic permits written in advance can simplify the process and reduce time and cost for both agencies and project proponents, while ensuring essential environmental protections and design standards are in place.



THE STATEWIDE INITIATIVE

Sustainable Conservation is working in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Restoration Center, and the State Water Resources Control Board to develop two statewide simplified and coordinated authorizations that will cover a common set of environmentally beneficial aquatic and riparian restoration project types and related environmental protection measures.

These authorizations will build off of existing National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinions for restoration already in place along the Coast and Central Valley, as well as a related Consistency Determinations with the California Coastal Commission for projects in the Coastal Zone.

We are providing technical assistance to the agencies, soliciting targeted feedback from restoration project implementers, coordinating the process, and developing key permitting and environmental compliance documentation. **All four agencies are actively participating in the Initiative, and the approvals are expected to be completed in 2022.**

- Contact us: restoration@suscon.org
- Join our email list: suscon.org/restoration-updates
- Explore permitting guidance resources: suscon.org/technical-resources

Funders of the Statewide Aquatic Habitat Restoration Permitting Initiative include: California Department of Water Resources, California Natural Resources Agency, California State Coastal Conservancy, California State Parks, Delta Stewardship Council, Wildlife Conservation Board, Adams Legacy Foundation, S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, Mary A. Crocker Trust, Flora L. Thornton Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Joseph and Vera Long Foundation, Sand Hill Foundation, The Cygnet Foundation, The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, The Kingfisher Foundation, The Land-Sea Connection Program of Resources Legacy Fund, State Water Contractors Association, Northern California Water Association, Water Foundation, Anonymous foundation, and individual donors.