

Table 1. Recommendations by Agency and Implementation Timeline

Recommendation 1: Facilitate proactive use of efficient restoration permitting pathways statewide	Agency/Authority										Implementation Timeline	
	Legislative	CDFW	CEQA	CNRA	Flood Board	SHPO	Water Boards	Army Corps	NOAA	USFWS	Short-term 1-2 year	Long-term 3+ years
1.1 Agency leadership continues to provide direction and policy guidance to staff to support the use of efficient restoration permitting pathways. (e.g., <i>CNRA Sec Crowfoot's memo</i>)		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	X	
1.2 Develop additional guidance materials and ongoing training for agency staff and applicants/consultants to further support the proactive and consistent use of efficient restoration permitting pathways, including for projects with multiple benefits. <i>Immediate needs identified include:</i>												
1.2.1 Guidance and training to effectively utilize the different CEQA tools for restoration (i.e., SERP, SRGO PEIR, Categorical Exemptions), and assign staff to assist with determining the appropriate CEQA lead agency and pathway.		•	•				•				X	
1.2.2 Guidance and training on the use of Restoration CDs and RMPs to accelerate CESA permitting.		•									X	X
1.2.3 Guidance and training on how to use SHRP and HREA processes to efficiently authorize small restoration projects.		•					•				X	X
1.2.4 Guidance and training on how to use the SRGO and SRGO PEIR to accelerate large-scale restoration.			•				•				X	X
1.2.5 Collaborate with agency staff, California Tribes, and project proponents to develop effective guidance and training on conducting Tribal consultation processes for SERP, SRGO, SRGO PEIR, AB 52, and Section 106/SHPO, aimed at reducing duplication, improving efficiency, and achieving meaningful consultation.		•	•	•		•	•	•			X	X
1.2.6 Guidance and training on how to effectively use the USFWS Restoration PBO to accelerate habitat restoration and species recovery.							•		•		X	X
1.3 Plan for and develop guidance and training for any new restoration-specific permitting pathways. (i.e., Recommendation 4.)		•		•	•	•	•	•	•			X
1.4 Promote early engagement from project proponents to foster collaboration with funding and regulatory agencies on technical assistance, coordinated funding, and efficient permitting.		•		•	•	•	•	•	•		X	

A list of abbreviations can be found [here](#).

Recommendation 2: Create dedicated restoration teams within all regulatory agencies

2.1 Use the CDFW Cutting Green Tape program and NOAA Restoration Center as models to create dedicated teams/units to efficiently permit and fund restoration projects and help roll out restoration permitting tools agency-wide (i.e., teams where funding, efficient permitting tools, and technical assistance are all housed in one program with a mission to accelerate restoration).

2.1.1 Dedicate additional Cutting Green Tape staff at CDFW to help meet increased restoration permitting needs statewide. (CDFW)

2.1.2 Develop a Cutting Green Tape program at the State and Regional Water Boards with a dedicated lead and regional staff.

2.2 Assign USFWS staff with a mission to advance restoration to review and permit Sacramento River Basin restoration projects, utilizing efficient permitting tools whenever possible.

2.3 Appoint Army Corps Section 408 staff dedicated to accelerating permitting for restoration projects, with continued coordination with Army Corps Section 404 permitting staff for Section 106 and Section 7 compliance. (Army Corps) (See also Recommendation 4 below.)

2.4 Convene a roundtable of Floodplain Forward MOU participants and key agencies to optimize funding and regulatory processes for habitat restoration in the Sacramento River Basin.

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	Legislative	CDFW	CEQA	CNRA	Flood Board	SHPO	Water Boards	Army Corps	NOAA	USFWS	Short-term 1-2 year	Long-term 3+ years
2.1 Use the CDFW Cutting Green Tape program and NOAA Restoration Center as models to create dedicated teams/units to efficiently permit and fund restoration projects and help roll out restoration permitting tools agency-wide (i.e., teams where funding, efficient permitting tools, and technical assistance are all housed in one program with a mission to accelerate restoration).	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		X
2.1.1 Dedicate additional Cutting Green Tape staff at CDFW to help meet increased restoration permitting needs statewide. (CDFW)		●									X	
2.1.2 Develop a Cutting Green Tape program at the State and Regional Water Boards with a dedicated lead and regional staff.							●				X	
2.2 Assign USFWS staff with a mission to advance restoration to review and permit Sacramento River Basin restoration projects, utilizing efficient permitting tools whenever possible.									●			X
2.3 Appoint Army Corps Section 408 staff dedicated to accelerating permitting for restoration projects, with continued coordination with Army Corps Section 404 permitting staff for Section 106 and Section 7 compliance. (Army Corps) (See also Recommendation 4 below.)								●				X
2.4 Convene a roundtable of Floodplain Forward MOU participants and key agencies to optimize funding and regulatory processes for habitat restoration in the Sacramento River Basin.		●		●		●	●	●	●	●	X	

A list of abbreviations can be found [here](#).

Recommendation 3: Expand successful accelerated restoration permitting pathways

	Agency/Authority										Implementation Timeline	
	Legislative	CDFW	CEQA	CNRA	Flood Board	SHPO	Water Boards	Army Corps	NOAA	USFWS	Short-term 1-2 year	Long-term 3+ years
3.1 Remove the 500 linear foot stream length limit from the SWRCB's SHRP to enable more projects to utilize both the SHRP and CDFW's HREA processes.		•					•					X
3.2 Permanently remove the legislative sunset date for the SERP so agencies and applicants can continue to utilize this CEQA exemption to advance beneficial habitat restoration projects more quickly and efficiently.	•	•	•								X	
3.3 Allow restoration project proponents to provide alternative maps or information in lieu of formal wetlands delineations for Army Corps or Water Board permit applications (e.g. NWP's, Individual Permits, General Orders, etc.).							•	•			X	
3.4 Increase the size limit of the Army Corps Section 408 categorical permission for environmental restoration to allow for coverage of larger-scale projects.								•				X
3.5 Update Army Corps NWP 27 to allow for conversion of habitat type or relocation of tidal waters to restore degraded habitat and address sea level rise from climate change without requiring mitigation. <i>(Also see Recommendation 5.3 regarding mitigation for restoration)</i>								•			X	
3.6 To facilitate species recovery, reissue RGP 12 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, San Francisco District to model the more comprehensive RGP 16 Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement, Sacramento District.								•			X	
3.7 Create an efficient mechanism to cover newly listed species under the USFWS Restoration PBO, without limiting or pausing the ability for projects to utilize the authorization.								•	•	•	X	

A list of abbreviations can be found [here](#).

Recommendation 4: Create new restoration permitting pathways or efficiencies where gaps exist

	Agency/Authority										Implementation Timeline	
	Legislative	CDFW	CEQA	CNRA	Flood Board	SHPO	Water Boards	Army Corps	NOAA	USFWS	Short-term 1-2 year	Long-term 3+ years
4.1 Develop an HREA/SHRP-modeled process for larger-scale projects that works in coordination with the SWRCB's SRGO.	●	●					●				X	
4.2 Develop a programmatic or other efficient permitting process for floodplain and riparian restoration for the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. <i>(Note: a new process should work in coordination with Army Corps Section 408 review, as applicable).</i>					●			●				X
4.3 Dedicate SHPO staff to work with agencies and project implementers to create a set of equitable measures for inclusion in Programmatic Agreements for restoration and to help develop the Programmatic Agreements.						●		●				X
4.4 Develop and implement a Programmatic Agreement between SHPO and the Army Corps with equitable measures to ensure Section 106 compliance for restoration projects; design the agreement to allow other federal lead agencies to join or adopt these measures for their own agreements. <i>(See also associated dedicated staffing in Recommendation 4.3 above and designating a lead federal agency to complete Section 106, in Recommendation 4.5, below.)</i>						●		●	●	●		X
4.5 Federal agencies designate a single entity to complete Section 106 consultation with SHPO to avoid multiple consultations for the same project.								●	●	●		X
4.6 New restoration permitting pathways should be consistent with terms and protection measures included in existing coordinated permitting processes such as the Statewide Restoration General Order (SWRCB) and USFWS/NOAA Programmatic Biological Opinions for Restoration.	●	●			●	●		●	●	●		X

A list of abbreviations can be found [here](#).

Recommendation 5: Advance solutions to ongoing restoration challenges

	Agency/Authority										Implementation Timeline	
	Legislative	CDFW	CEQA	CNRA	Flood Board	SHPO	Water Boards	Army Corps	NOAA	USFWS	Short-term 1-2 year	Long-term 3+ years
5.1 Modify agency practices and policies to ensure that habitat restoration projects that will have a net environmental benefit are not required to provide compensatory mitigation.		●					●	●	●	●		X
5.2 Convene agencies to collaborate on efficiently permitting mitigation, and establishing mitigation banks and in-lieu fee programs, ensuring restored habitat and strategically supporting species recovery.		●					●	●	●	●	X	
5.3 Establish a stable, permanent State funding source for restoration project planning and implementation.	●			●							X	X
5.4 To incentivize restoration, ensure restoration permitting pathways are not cost-prohibitive and omit or otherwise minimize fees.		●					●				X	X
5.4 Explore the development of Safe Harbor Agreements, conservation easements, tax incentives, and other actions to increase restoration on private lands.	●	●		●					●	●	X	X

A list of abbreviations can be found [here](#).