Manage California’s diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for the ecological values, and for their use and enjoyment by the public.
You must notify CDFW before beginning any activity that may:
- Substantially **divert or obstruct** the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake;
- Substantially **change or use any material** from the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake; or
- **Deposit debris, waste, or other materials** containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake.

Fish and Game Code section 1602
Any River, Stream, or Lake?

**Perennial Streams**: Flow year-round

**Ephemeral Streams**: Flow seasonally and are dry for periods of time

**Episodic Streams**: Flow in response to precipitation events and are dry for periods of time.
All CDFA applications must include:

A. Final Lake or Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement, .....or

B. Written verification that an LSA Agreement is not required
When is an LSA Agreement Required?

CDFW determines the activity may **substantially adversely affect** existing fish or wildlife resources.
Example Activities That May Require an Agreement

- Water Diversions & Impoundments (e.g., ponds and dams)
- Stream Crossings (e.g., bridges and culverts)
- Bank Stabilization/Armoring
- Channel or Lakebed Modifications
- Riparian Vegetation Management
- In-Channel Maintenance
How Do I Get an LSA Agreement or Verification One is Not Required?

[Link to webpage: www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cannabis]

Cannabis Program

- Learn about permitting for cannabis projects.
- Learn about the General Agreement for cannabis cultivation projects.
- Begin your online notification.
- Learn about the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program.
- Have questions about our Environmental Permit Information Management System (EPIMS)?
How Do I Get an LSA Agreement or Verification One is Not Required?

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cannabis/Permitting

Cannabis Cultivation Permitting

Cannabis cultivators applying for an Annual License from the California Department of Food and Agriculture must have a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement or written verification that one is not needed. CDFW requires an LSA Agreement when a project activity may substantially adversely affect fish and wildlife resources. LSA Agreements provide actions to avoid and minimize adverse impacts and provide protections to California's fish and wildlife resources.

To apply for an LSA Agreement or verification that an Agreement is not required, notify CDFW of your cannabis cultivation activities.

Have questions about our Environmental Permit Information Management System (EPIMS)?

Other permits and environmental review may be necessary:
- California Endangered Species Act (CESA): for projects that may impact listed species
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): public disclosure process for projects with environmental impacts
Register Online!

Environmental Permit Information Management System (EPIMS)

https://epims.wildlife.ca.gov/index.do
Self-Certification

• Provide property location, project description, water source, project maps

• Answer a few questions about your project
  – Infrastructure
  – Construction
  – Water source

• CDFW determines:
  – Project qualifies = written verification that an LSA Agreement is not necessary
  – Project does not qualify = notify for an LSA Agreement

• No fee required
This message will appear if your project is not Eligible for Self-Certification.
General Agreement

• Only for stream crossings (bridge, culvert, or rock ford) or water diversions on non-finfish streams or lakes
• Pre-written agreement
• CEQA exempt
• Must comply with terms & conditions
• Term of 5 years

Read the General Agreement
https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cannabis/Permitting
General Agreement

Provide:

• Project location, description, water source, etc.
• Biological Resources Assessment
• Design Plans (if applicable)
• Property Diagram

* Fees vary by project cost. Fee schedule is online
Standard Agreement

• Based on project and site-specific conditions
• Applicant works with CDFW to avoid or minimize project impacts

Provide information:
• Project location, description, water source, etc.
• Detailed maps (aerial, plot maps, driving maps)
• Water sources
CDFW Review

- May request additional detailed information
- May request a site visit
- Must comply with CEQA
- Fees vary by project cost. Fee schedule is online
Help Yourself — Avoid Common Delays

Plan your project
• Allow sufficient time
• Work with the Regional Office serving your project area
• Review permitting options online before you begin

Provide detailed information
• Identify all activities associated with your cultivation project
  – Include activities not taking place within a river, lake, or stream
• Provide a detailed project description
Help Yourself—Avoid Common Delays

Access your EPIMS account
• Working with a consultant? Make sure you can access your online account

Submit the correct fees
• Fees vary by project cost. Fee schedule is online
• Cannabis remediation fees may be required in addition to LSA fees
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- Applies to all projects approved by California public agencies
- Includes LSA Standard Agreements
California Endangered Species Act (CESA)

If cultivation activities may result in take of a threatened, endangered, or candidate species, a separate CESA permit may be required.

https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/CESA
Other Fish and Game Code Sections

- Rare native plants (§ 1908)
- Fully protected species (§§ 3511, 4700, 5050, 5515)
- Migratory nongame birds (§ 3513)
- Bird nests and eggs (§ 3503
- Birds of prey (§ 3503.5)
- Water pollution (§ 5650)
- Refuse disposal into water (§ 5652)
- Fish passage (§ 5901)
- Sufficient water for fish (§ 5937)
- Obstruction of a stream (§ 5948)
- For projects on private timberlands, requirements set forth in the Forest Practice Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 4511 et seq)
Fines and Penalties

Enhanced fines for violations of Fish & Game Code violations related to cannabis cultivation

Substantial diversion/obstruction/use of stream without notification:

- $8,000-10,000 per violation, per day

Water pollution and disposal of trash within 150 feet of a water body:

- $20,000-$40,000 per violation, per day
Start your permit process!

Work with your regional CDFW office to permit your activities

Protect your investment

Protect California’s Fish and Wildlife

wildlife.ca.gov/Cannabis
Additional Information

www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/cannabis

Northern Region (Redding)  (530) 225-2300
Northern Region (Eureka)   (707) 445-6493
North Central Region       (916) 358-2900
Central Region             (559) 243-4005 x 151
South Coast Region         (858) 467-4201
Inland Deserts Region      (909) 484-0167