



# LAKE & STREAMBED ALTERATION PROGRAM

## What is an LSA Agreement?

A lake and streambed alteration (LSA) agreement is a discretionary permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for certain activities that may affect any river, stream, or lake.

## When Do I Notify CDFW About My Project?

CDFW must be notified before starting any project or activity that will:

- 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 that could pass into any river, stream, or lake.

Examples of activities:

- Vegetation removal
- Grading
- Construction of bridges or culverts
- Water diversions
- Bank stabilization

## How Do I Notify for an LSA Agreement?

Please refer to the Notification Form and Instructions link on our webpage at [wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/LSA](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/LSA).

## What is the Cost?

The Notification cost varies depending on the cost of the proposed project. To view the full fee schedule, please visit the website above.



*Perennial*



*Episodic*

A river, stream, or lake can be episodic (dry for periods of time) or perennial (flow year round). This includes ephemeral and intermittent streams, watercourses with subsurface flow, and may include flood plains.

## Who Must Notify?

Any person (including natural persons, partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, trusts, and other associations), state or local governmental agency, or public utility is subject to notification requirements pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602.

## What Happens After I Notify?

After notifying CDFW of a project and submitting the appropriate fee, CDFW has 30 days to review and issue an incomplete letter. Once a notification is considered complete, CDFW has 60 days to either issue a draft agreement to the applicant, or issue a letter stating the project will not substantially adversely effect fish and wildlife resources.

## What is in an LSA Agreement?

An agreement contains avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures to protect fish and wildlife and their habitat. By signing an agreement, an applicant commits to implementing these measures for the term of the agreement. A standard agreement is valid for up to five years, with the option for a one-time extension of up to five additional years. Once an agreement is finalized, changes will likely need an amendment with a fee.



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