



# CALIFORNIA ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Coho salmon (juvenile)  
CDFW photo by Derek Acomb



## Threatened, Endangered, and Rare Species

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Bay Delta Region is home to nearly 100 state threatened, endangered, and rare plants and animals.

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) protect these species by requiring authorization from CDFW for "take." Take means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, kill, or to attempt these actions.

## Do I Need Authorization?

Determine if the activity may cause "take":

- Review available species presence information (e.g., CDFW's Biogeographic Information and Observation System including the California Natural Diversity Database ([wildlife.ca.gov/Data/BIOS](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/BIOS)) and local conservation plans)
- Determine if habitat for CESA or NPPA species may be impacted directly or indirectly
- Hire an environmental consultant, which is highly recommended for site-specific analysis
- Contact CDFW for further information\*

*\*For Federal Endangered Species Act permit information, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/Permits/](http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/Permits/)*

## Applying for Authorization

Visit CDFW's CESA webpage to learn about different CESA and NPPA authorization types ([wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/CESA](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/CESA)). The most common type is an incidental take permit. To apply, submit the required information and fee to the CDFW Bay Delta Region Office.

Full mitigation may include protecting habitat in perpetuity or purchasing conservation bank credits ([wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/planning/banking/approved-banks](http://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/planning/banking/approved-banks)). Financial security must be provided to CDFW if full mitigation will not be completed before project impacts occur.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance will be required (see insert card); the city or county is typically the lead agency.

## Why Should I Care?

Threatened, endangered, and rare species, and their habitats, provide:

- Recreational and educational opportunities
- Water quality improvements
- Ecosystem-wide benefits
- Greenhouse gas reductions
- Pharmacological and genetic resources
- And more!



Sebastopol meadowfoam  
CDFW photo by Melanie Day

California tiger salamander  
CDFW photo by Margaret Mantor

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