



Certified Regulatory Programs

Regulations and Requirements

Certified Regulatory Program (CRP)

Public agencies with regulatory programs may prepare a plan or other written documentation in lieu of an environmental impact report (EIR) or negative declaration (ND) once the Secretary for the California Natural Resources Agency certifies the regulatory program. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21080.5, subd. (a); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15250.) A list of the regulatory programs certified by the Secretary for Natural Resources may be found in the CEQA Guidelines¹. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251, subds. (a)-(p).)

Review Requirements for CRP Documents

A plan or other written documentation prepared pursuant to a CRP (i.e., a functional equivalent environmental document) must be made available for a reasonable time for review and comment by other public agencies and the general public. (See generally Pub. Resources Code, § 21080.5, subd. (d)(2)-(3).)

Filing Requirements for CRP Documents

A lead agency that approves a project relying on a functional equivalent environmental document prepared pursuant to a CRP must file a notice of decision (NOD) with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA). NODs filed with CNRA are posted on a weekly basis and available for public inspection. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21080.5 subd. (d)(2)(E); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15252, subd. (b).)

Environmental Document Filing Fees Requirements for CRP Documents

For projects subject to a CRP, lead agencies shall remit a filing fee directly to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) before filing an NOD with CNRA. (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subds. (c)(1), (d)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subds. (a)(6), (b)(5).)

- Current filing fees can be found on the CDFW webpage at – CEQA Environmental Document Filing Fees.
- Projects approved under a CRP are not operative, vested, or final until the filing fees pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 711.4 are paid. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21089 subd. (b); see also Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (c)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subd. (a)(7).)
- Filing fees are not required for projects in certain instances, including where the project is approved relying on a CEQA statutory or categorical exemption or where the project will have no effect on fish and wildlife resources based on a No Effect Determination (NED) issued by CDFW. (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subds. (c)(2), (d)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subds. (c), (d).)

¹ The 'CEQA Guidelines' are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

Instructions for Lead Agencies

Circulating the CRP Document to CDFW:

CRP functional equivalent documents must be made available for a reasonable time for review and comment by other public agencies and the general public. (See generally [Pub. Resources Code, § 21080.5, subd. \(d\)\(2\)-\(3\).](#))

A lead agency proposing to carry out or approve a project based on a CRP document should submit a copy of the public review draft document to CDFW whenever the project may impact fish and wildlife.

CDFW also encourages lead agencies with CRPs to consult with CDFW to determine whether a proposed project may have such an effect and to inform the agency's determination regarding the substance of the CRP document.

For projects located in a single CDFW region, CRP documents should be sent to the appropriate CDFW [regional office](#).

For statewide projects or projects that include multiple CDFW regions, CRP documents should be sent to each CDFW [regional office](#) within the project boundary and to the CDFW statewide CEQA Program Office at CEQA@wildlife.ca.gov.

Paying the CRP Environmental Document Filing Fee:

Filing fees for CRP documents should be paid directly to CDFW before filing the NOD with CNRA, unless CDFW has issued a No Effect Determination (NED) for the project.

- CRP lead agency requests for an NED should be submitted in writing to CDFW when the document is released for public review or as soon thereafter as reasonably possible.
- To pay the [Environmental Document Filing Fee](#), submit a check or money order payable to the **Department of Fish and Wildlife** by mail or hand delivery. You can find mailing addresses and requirements at the [CDFW CEQA Q&A website](#).

When the filing fee is received by CDFW, CDFW will issue a receipt of payment to the lead agency. Agencies can expect to receive their receipts 3-5 business days after CDFW deposits the payment.

Filing the Notice of Decision:

Consistent with CEQA generally, CDFW encourages state and local agencies relying on a CRP document to file a NOD with CNRA, along with a copy of the Environmental Document Filing Fee receipt or NED from CDFW, within five days of project approval.