



Cutting the *Green Tape*

Report to the Legislature in Compliance with Item
3600-001-0001, Section 2.00, of the Budget Act of 2021
(SB 129, Budget Committee, Ch. 69, Statutes of 2021)

OCTOBER 2025

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COVER PHOTO: Tahoe Yellow Cress at Lake Tahoe shore, Photo by B. Henderson, CDFW

GLOSSARY

CD – Consistency Determination (Fish & G. Code, § 2080.1)

CDFW – California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CEQA – California Environmental Quality Act

CESA – California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, §§ 2050-2089.25)

CGT – Cutting the Green Tape Initiative

CNRA – California Natural Resources Agency

FRGP – Fisheries Restoration Grant Program

HREA – Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act

ITP – Incidental Take Permit

LCCP - Landscape Conservation Planning Program

LSA – Lake and Streambed Alteration

NCCP – Natural Community Conservation Plan

NCSP – North Coast Salmon Project

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

PBO – Programmatic Biological Opinion

PRAM – Permit for Recovery and Management

RMP – Restoration Management Permit (the previous RMP was replaced by the new RMP on January 1, 2025 as a result of Assembly Bill 1581)

RCIS – Regional Conservation Investment Strategies

RLC – Restoration Leaders Committee

SCP – Scientific Collecting Permit

SERP – Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects

SHaRP – Salmonid Habitat Restoration Priorities

SRGO - Statewide Restoration General Order

SWRCB – State Water Resources Control Board

Executive Summary

“[Cutting Green Tape](#)” is an initiative throughout the State of California to make substantial progress increasing the pace and scale of ecological restoration, conservation, climate adaptation, and stewardship. Within the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), Cutting Green Tape (CGT) is focused on improving regulatory processes and policies so that ecological restoration and stewardship can occur more quickly, simply, and cost-effectively. CGT also supports and complements CNRA’s “[30 by 30](#)” initiative, a commitment to achieving the goal of conserving 30 percent of California’s lands and coastal waters by 2030.

With the support of the Legislature and the Administration, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) established its own CGT initiative with several new approaches to support improved and enhanced restoration activities within its granting and environmental review programs. First supported with one-time funding in the Budget Act of 2020, CDFW carried out the direction “*to increase the scale and pace of restoration work, incorporate efficiencies into grant programs, and incorporate the use of programmatic permitting options.*”¹ CDFW’s pilot initiative created several new improvements to CDFW’s granting and restoration permitting procedures as described in our pilot year [Report to the Legislature](#).

Following the success of CDFW’s pilot CGT initiative during the 2020-2021 fiscal year (FY 20-21), CDFW received permanent funding to create a new statewide CGT Program beginning in the 2021-22 fiscal year (FY 21-22), as documented in our FY 21-22 [Report to the Legislature](#), FY 22-23 [Report to the Legislature](#), and FY 23-24 [Report to the Legislature](#).

This report summarizes the outcomes that CGT achieved in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (FY 24-25) and responds to the reporting mandates identified in Provision 3 of Section 84 of Senate Bill (SB) 129 (Skinner, Chapter 69, Statutes of 2021, which amended SEC. 84. Item 3600-001-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2021. This report also meets the CNRA reporting requirements under Public Resources Code section 21080.56 (h) which states that “the Natural Resources Agency shall, in accordance with Section 9795 of the Government Code, report annually to the Legislature all determinations pursuant to this section.”

In its fourth year (FY 24-25), the CGT Program continued to develop the tools and efficiencies supporting our grant programs as well as awarding much of the \$200 million in new grant funding initiatives allocated to CDFW in the Budget Act of 2022. The Program’s restoration permitting strike team (CGT Strike Team) is hard at work across the state, matching restoration projects with the most efficient permitting tools. **During FY 24-25, CDFW funded, permitted, or assisted with environmental review exemptions for 151 projects, 134,499 acres enhanced, and 88 stream miles enhanced, saving an estimated \$4,205,490 with an average processing time of 42 days.**

¹ May Revision to the Governor’s Budget, Revised Budget Summary

FY 24-25 accomplishments build on cumulative improvements over previous years and include instances where individual projects received multiple types of support; therefore, some figures reflect overlapping benefits:

- During FY 23-24, CDFW funded, permitted, or assisted with environmental review exemptions for 180 projects, 42,416 acres enhanced, 5,518,227 acres of terrestrial habitats reconnected, and 95 stream miles enhanced, saving an estimated \$3,985,934 with an average processing time of 46 days.
- During FY 22-23, CDFW funded, permitted, or assisted with environmental review exemptions for 217 projects, 18,728 acres enhanced, and 477 stream miles enhanced, saving an estimated \$2,533,110 with an average processing time of 45 days.
- During FY 21-22, CDFW funded, permitted, or assisted with environmental review exemptions for over 146 projects, 134,515 acres enhanced, and 103 stream miles enhanced, saving an estimated \$1,552,600 with an average processing time of 70 days.
- Since FY 21-22, CDFW has funded, permitted, or assisted with environmental review exemptions for over 550 projects, 320,000 acres enhanced, 5,518,227 acres of terrestrial habitats reconnected, and 740 stream miles enhanced, saving an estimated \$12,500,000 with an average processing time of 47 days².

See **Appendix A Cost Comparisons** for discussion of CGT cost savings by project proponents compared to traditional permitting and environmental review costs. At the same time, the CGT Program has continued to develop and support new initiatives, including completing all applicable directives in Secretary Crowfoot's [CGT memorandum](#) as summarized below:

- The CGT Program has clarified that the presence of endangered, rare or threatened species, or the use of mechanized equipment, respectively, does not preclude application per se of the CEQA Guidelines Class 33 categorical exemption for small habitat restoration projects (Recommendation 1 in the CGT memorandum) and staff are regularly using the exemption where appropriate.
- The CGT Program has supported completion and implementation of the Statewide Restoration General Order (SRGO) and its Program Environmental Impact Report (SRGO PEIR) and uses the SRGO PEIR regularly as a CEQA platform for CDFW permitting (Recommendation 2 in the CGT memorandum).
- With passage of the Restoration Management Permit Act on September 27, 2024, described below, the CGT Program now has a powerful new tool to permit large-

² This summary should be considered an estimate. The figures account for projects that received more than one benefit (funding, permitting, or environmental review) and projects that cross over fiscal years. For example, a project may be funded in one FY and permitted the following FY.

scale restoration projects by means of combining all CDFW permits into a new streamlined Restoration Management Permit, developed to be consistent with SRGO (Recommendation 3 in the CGT memorandum). The new Restoration Management Permit (new RMP) represents the most significant addition to the CGT portfolio of efficient restoration permitting tools to date and includes new opportunities for qualifying restoration projects regardless of origin, including mitigation related projects.

- The CGT Program collaborates regularly with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and Regional Boards in monthly interagency meetings to discuss processing, prioritizing, and permitting restoration projects (Recommendation 5 in the memo).

The pace, scale, and quality of habitat restoration and climate adaptation must continue to increase as quickly as possible to preserve and restore biodiversity. CDFW is leading the way during this vital moment in the history of restoration in California.

Background

The CGT Program follows the guiding principle of maintaining the integrity of regulatory oversight while efficiently streamlining processes and reducing costs for restoration projects. CDFW was able to develop and implement improvements in areas with direct benefits to existing projects while demonstrating a proof-of-concept for how a multidisciplinary team of granting and permitting specialists can focus efforts on increasing the pace and scale of restoration. CDFW CGT staff continue to work to apply these tools and move towards a broader application of the program across the state.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

As part of the approval of the CGT Program in the Budget Act of 2021, Provision 3 of Section 84 of SB 129 mandates that:

By October 1 of each year, beginning in 2021 and ending in 2026, the department [CDFW] shall submit to the fiscal committees of the Legislature and the Legislative Analyst's Office a report summarizing outcomes of its Cutting the Green [Tape] Initiative. The report shall include information related to the results of this initiative, beginning with the baseline year of 2020–21 and for each fiscal year thereafter, including: (1) a list and description of the restoration projects initiated, (2) average restoration permit processing times, (3) the number of restoration permits issued, (4) specific strategies and changes implemented as part of the initiative, (5) lessons learned to improve ongoing permitting processes and restoration work, and (6) counties and watersheds in which the department has focused related efforts.

Additionally, per Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivision (h), which pertains to the CEQA Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP), CNRA must “in accordance with Section 9795 of the Government Code, report annually to the Legislature all determinations pursuant to this section.” Table C1 of this legislative report includes a list of SERP determinations for FY 24-25 and CDFW maintains a [public website](#)³ that provides details on all SERP concurrences meeting this reporting requirement.

In response to SB 129, Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivision (h), and the specific information requested, CDFW provides the following information for each requirement above:

1. A LIST AND DESCRIPTION OF THE RESTORATION PROJECTS INITIATED

In FY 24-25, CDFW initiated permitting or environmental review for 163 restoration projects (of which 151 were completed during FY 24-25) across seven categories of project or permitting types as follows: restoration management permits, permits for recovery and management, restoration consistency determinations, Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act projects, lake and streambed alteration agreements, statutorily exempt restoration projects, and restoration grants. The lists of restoration projects are identified in Appendices B through D.

Restoration Management Permits (RMPs)

Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 1581 (Kalra, Chapter 681, Statutes of 2024), the Restoration Management Permit Act of 2024 on September 27, 2024, creating the new RMP. This new permitting authority became effective on January 1, 2025, resulting in replacement of the previous RMP by the new RMP. The new RMP consolidates up to four types of CDFW authorizations for “take⁴” and restoration work in rivers, streams, and lakes, into a single streamlined permit expressly designed for restoration projects. The new RMP authorizes take of 1) endangered, threatened, and candidate species protected by the California Endangered Species Act (CESA); 2) fully protected species; 3) plants designated as rare under the Native Plant Protection Act; and 4) plants or animals otherwise protected by the Fish and Game Code. The new RMP can also authorize restoration work in rivers, streams, or lakes that would otherwise be subject to section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code. The new RMP therefore covers up to five separate types of CDFW permit authorizations. This “one project, one permit” approach has already proven to be a game-changer for restoration projects.

Throughout 2025, CDFW will continue piloting the new RMP. Approximately 60 restoration project teams expressed interest in using the new RMP during FY 24-25 following implementation in early 2025. The new RMP currently does not require an application fee, making it both free and fast. CGT has set an initial new RMP

³ Cutting Green Tape SERP website: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape/SERP>

⁴ “Take” means hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.

processing time goal of 120 days. The [CGT website](#) has much more information on the new RMP.

The original Restoration Management Permit (old RMP), in use from 2019 to the end of 2024, consolidated two CDFW “take” authorizations into a single streamlined permit for restoration projects under preexisting Fish and Game authorities. The old RMP authorized take of 1) endangered, threatened, and candidate species pursuant to the CESA; and 2) fully protected species.

After January 1, 2025, the term “restoration management permit” can only be used to describe the new RMP created by AB 1581. Therefore, CDFW created a new name, “Permit for Recovery and Management” (PRAM), to refer to any permits executed after January 1, 2025, using existing RMP authorities under Fish and Game Code Section 2081, subdivision (a). In early 2025, CDFW executed four PRAMs, primarily for restoration projects that were previously seeking old RMPs prior to January 1, 2025. This approach maintained permit processing continuity and avoided the need for applicants to repeat the permit application process. CDFW expects that the need for PRAM permitting will substantially subside in future FYs.

CDFW initiated 14 and approved six old RMPs, four PRAMs, and two new RMPs in FY 24-25. A total of 36 RMPs (old and new) and PRAMs have been approved from FY 20-21 through FY 24-25.

Restoration Consistency Determinations (CDs)

CDFW created new procedures in FY 20-21 to issue Consistency Determinations (CDs) using federal Programmatic Biological Opinions (PBO) in response to strong interest from the restoration community to develop programmatic permitting options. CDFW worked closely with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries to develop a new process for issuing CDs that involves CDFW’s “pre-approval” of PBOs to ensure general consistency with CESA coupled with an expedited review of project-specific applications. Under this process, possible conflicts between CESA and PBOs are resolved at the front end, resulting in an expedited CD process that focuses solely on project-specific review of an application for consistency with PBOs. The Restoration CD is also used for project-specific biological opinions. CDFW initiated and approved four Restoration CDs in FY 24-25. A total of 19 Restoration CDs have been approved from FY 20-21 through FY 24-25.

Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act (HREA) Projects

The Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act (HREA) established permitting efficiencies for any person, public agency, or nonprofit organization seeking to

implement a habitat restoration or enhancement project. By combining multiple CDFW approvals into a single approval, HREA expedites small voluntary habitat

restoration and enhancement projects. HREA is an excellent permitting option for small restoration projects smaller than five acres in size, and under 500 linear feet of impact to streams or shorelines. A total of 33 HREA approvals were initiated and 36 were completed in FY 24-25⁵.

Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreements for Restoration Projects

Fish and Game Code section 1602 requires any person, state or local governmental agency, or public utility to notify CDFW prior to beginning any activity that may do one or more of the following:

- Divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake;
- Change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake;
- Use material from any river, stream, or lake; or
- Deposit or dispose of material into any river, stream, or lake.

CDFW requires a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement when a project activity may substantially adversely affect fish and wildlife resources. A total of 23 LSA agreements for restoration projects were initiated and 21 were approved in FY 24-25⁶, for which the average processing time was 41 days. With new RMP authority in place, CDFW generally expects significantly fewer restoration projects to be authorized via LSA in the future. A total of 138 LSA agreements for restoration projects have been completed from FY 20-21 through FY 24-25.

Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP)

Governor Newsom signed [SB 155](#) (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 258, Statutes of 2021) on September 23, 2021, adding Section 21080.56 to the California Public Resources Code. This section provides a CEQA statutory exemption until January 1, 2030 (originally 2025, extended by SB 174), for fish and wildlife restoration projects that meet certain requirements. CDFW's CGT Program is responsible for coordinating with lead agencies seeking SERP concurrence. CDFW initiated 29 SERP requests⁷ and completed 17 SERP concurrences for projects in FY 24-25. On average, SERP has saved approximately 8.1 months of time and \$127,145 per project. A total of 70 SERP concurrences have been approved from FY 20-21 through FY 24-25.

⁵ The HREA program is not currently managed within CGT, but CGT staff often prepare HREA approvals. CDFW's statewide HREA coordination position is also funded by CGT.

⁶ CDFW's LSA program is not currently managed within the CGT program, but information is provided here for reference.

⁷ CEQA lead agencies often initiate SERP consultations with CDFW several months or more in advance of submitting a formal SERP concurrence request.

New Restoration Projects Funded by CDFW

CDFW's Watershed Restoration Grants Branch (WRGB) oversees the CGT Program and administers several grant programs to fund science-informed projects for restoration of ecological function and conservation and assesses the success of those efforts at a large-scale. These granting programs include state bond funded programs through Proposition 1 and Proposition 68, the federally funded Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP), as well as new funding initiatives addressing Drought, Climate Resiliency, and Nature Based Solutions. Throughout FY 24-25, WRGB also worked with CDFW's Cannabis Program to support \$34.8M in projects funded by the Cannabis Restoration Grant Program.

In November 2022, CDFW announced the availability of over \$200 million in new grant funding for multi-benefit ecosystem restoration and protection projects under Drought, Climate, and Nature Based Solutions initiatives. To support these new initiatives and increase the pace and scale of grant funding, CDFW developed and launched a new, single application available on an ongoing basis, allowing applicants to submit one application for consideration under multiple funding streams. The application itself was pared down to a simpler and shorter concept format, and applicants were able to schedule consultations to engage with CDFW regional and headquarters staff to receive and incorporate real-time feedback to develop project proposals more aligned with program priorities.

In FY 24-25, CDFW awarded a total of \$91 million in new grant funding with projects receiving approval as frequently as monthly, which allowed projects to start implementation within months of award instead of the historical one award cycle per year with projects starting an average of six months later. CDFW received positive feedback from project applicants on this new streamlined approach to awarding grant funding and continues to refine processes to support restoration.

See **Appendix B New Restoration Projects Funded by CDFW** for a list and description of 81 Restoration Projects funded by CDFW in FY 24-25.

2. AVERAGE RESTORATION PERMIT PROCESSING TIMES

CDFW has made major strides to help consolidate and streamline permitting processes, and to educate partners about the most effective vehicle for permitting a given restoration project. CDFW has made significant improvements in timelines for permitting take of species for complex, large-scale restoration projects, which historically took between one and three years. In contrast, CDFW's new restoration permits have much shorter processing times.

For example, CDFW is now targeting issuing new RMPs for projects within 120 days or less of permit initiation, HREAs within 60 days (Fish and Game Code Section 1652) or 30 days (Fish and Game Code Section 1653), Restoration CDs within 30 days or less,

and SERP concurrences within 60 days or less, and continue to strive for additional improvements whenever possible. **Appendix C Average Restoration Permit Processing Times** identifies FY 24-25 project timelines working towards these targets. As can be expected, occasional longer permit processing durations often include factors outside the control of both CDFW and the Applicant.

3. THE NUMBER OF RESTORATION PERMITS ISSUED

CDFW issued a total of 90 permits and SERP concurrences for restoration projects between July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Table 1 provides the total by permit or exemption type for FY 24-25.

Table 1: CDFW Permits and SERP Concurrences Issued for Restoration Projects, July 2024-June 2025

Permit or Exemption Type	New RMP	CD	Old RMP/ PRAM	HREA	LSA	SERP
Number	2	4	10	36	21	17

4. SPECIFIC STRATEGIES AND CHANGES IMPLEMENTED AS PART OF THIS INITIATIVE

CDFW's CGT Program continues to focus efforts on increasing the pace and scale of restoration work through the development and implementation of efficiencies in our granting and permitting programs while supporting the efforts of other agencies. The CGT Program also applies an adaptive management approach to adopting and supporting new initiatives, including developing a new approach to efficiently administer over \$200 million new grant funding, which resulted in a reduced grant award timeline to more timely implement restoration projects.

Previously reported granting improvements included an overhaul of CDFW's solicitation and application process, which now allows grantees to apply through a single application portal for multiple funding sources. Amendment and contingency request processes were also revised to increase flexibility and reduce processing time.

In FY 24-25, the CGT Program expanded relationships with other CDFW programs, with grantee organizations, and with funding partners to increase and propagate process improvements. CGT grant programs rely heavily on coordination with CDFW's Budgets and Accounting Services Branches to achieve core functions; regular communication with these internal branches speeds processing times for all grant transactions. This coordination has enabled real time prioritization and response to grants requiring urgent attention based on project need.

Innovations developed in the CGT granting process have also been leveraged by other CDFW grant programs to create alignment with grant program practices in other departments. Projects submitted through the CGT Program's application portal are now also considered for Cannabis Restoration Grant Program (CRGP) funding, expanding the funding available to applicants through a single application and review process. This streamlines processes, avoids duplicate submissions and reviews, and saves time and resources for applicants and CDFW staff while accelerating restoration efforts. Time saved through internal efficiencies allows CGT-trained grant managers to manage CRGP grants while that program hires and trains new staff.

The CGT Program has also provided increased technical assistance to grantee organizations, particularly during the grant development and maintenance phases. With a large influx of new grants beginning in FY 22-23, CDFW's awardees included several less experienced grantee organizations, including organizations from underserved communities. CGT staff have assisted these organizations with reporting, invoicing, and other grant management tasks, allowing the organizations to develop their own internal processes to manage State grants. With internal processes in place, the organizations now have expanded capacity to apply for and manage additional State grants.

CDFW's FRGP has maintained its own application process tied to an annual federal grant application. This year, the program implemented modifications to the pre-application period to assist new applicants and increase applicant diversity. The 2024 FRGP Solicitation saw the first increase in application numbers since 2020. Additionally, FRGP saw applications from nine new organizations who have never previously applied to FRGP. In 2024, FRGP began collecting applicant demographics to help evaluate the diversity and distribution of their grant funding.

CDFW created a Strike Team that transcends organizational boundaries between traditional CDFW regions, headquarters, and programs. Operating in this space has provided unprecedented opportunities for streamlining, innovation, and collaboration on complex issues. The Strike Team utilizes a cooperative approach to develop permits and procedures in real time, which continues efforts to streamline and expedite project review and permitting.

The Landscape Conservation and Advance Mitigation Planning Program (LCAMP) has also continued to evaluate and reprioritize current efforts across counties with a focus on moving several Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) projects towards major milestones. Six planning efforts are currently underway, including two in the early stages of planning. LCAMP staff continue to support two permitted plans through major amendments and provide support for other plans considering amendments.

On top of the \$4.4 million granted last year under the NCCP Local Assistance Grant Program, this year LCAMP finalized grant agreements for \$402,480 under the NCCP Local Assistance Grant Program, which assists local partners in implementing plans. In addition, this year the NCCP program transferred nearly \$18 million to escrow to fund

projects from the 2023 30x30 Grant Program for land acquisitions. Through the federal Nontraditional Section 6 grant program, LCAMP facilitated grant awards for over \$17.5 million in federal funding to local partners for land acquisition, which combined with over \$16 million in local and state matching funds which would support over \$35 million in conservation land acquisition statewide. Additionally, through the same federal program, LCAMP facilitated conservation planning grants for local partners worth over \$1 million.

The Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) Program continues to expand, and as of June 2025, CDFW has a total of ten approved RCISs. Two more are in the process to be reviewed and approved in the next year. Each approved RCIS now allows for the development of Mitigation Credit Agreement (MCA) credits, which encourage strategic habitat enhancement and conservation actions outlined in a respective RCIS. CDFW is working on multiple MCAs throughout the state with various MCA sponsors.

Aligned with both the Mitigation and Conservation Banking Program as well as the MCA Program, staff released the Connectivity Advance Mitigation (CAM) Guidelines required by Senate Bill 790 (Stern, Chapter 738, Statutes of 2021) in September 2024. These guidelines promote advance mitigation planning and create incentives for improving habitat connectivity projects in California.

The Banking Program streamlines the regulatory process by providing advance mitigation sites for parties needing compensatory mitigation for impacts from their projects. A conservation or mitigation bank is permanently protected land that is conserved and managed for its natural resource values in exchange for mitigation credits and therefore results in durably protected lands that furthers the goals of 30x30.

During the time of this report, CDFW established six banks around the state, permanently protecting 2,254 acres and resulting in over 2,200 credits for advance mitigation. CDFW now has over 100 total established banks and has conserved almost 74,000 acres.

Other FY 24-25 strategies and accomplishments include:

- Continued coordination between internal CDFW granting and environmental review functions. From a granting perspective, having in-house CEQA and permitting capabilities creates regulatory certainty that allows funding of innovative projects, such as design/build, that would be more challenging with a greater separation of functions. For fast-moving, dynamic projects being implemented under complex or changeable conditions, having a core group of dedicated CGT permitting staff allows CDFW to pivot quickly as project circumstances evolve.
- Continued improvements to grant amendments, including expansion of note-to-file modifications to reduce the need for signed amendments.

- CDFW's advanced payment process is now available to grantees and is being implemented for multiple projects. This provides smaller organizations with the support necessary to initiate beneficial restoration projects sooner.
- To further speed reimbursement and assist with cash flow, CDFW has expanded monthly or flexible invoice submittal language in our grant templates, encouraging grantees to bill CDFW more frequently during peak expense periods.
- Continued internal grant manager training and centralized resources to ensure consistency, as well as sharing of these resources with other CDFW programs and funding partners.
- In 2024 and 2025, CGT staff presented during the [CNRA Secretary Speaker Series](#) and a specialized CGT webinar series for practitioners to increase awareness of new permitting and environmental review pathways for restoration projects.
- Deploying the new RMP and existing Restoration CD to consolidate authorizations into a single permit whenever possible, standardize permitting practices within CDFW, facilitate more efficient permitting, and minimize permit applications and fees.
- Ongoing coordination with the SWRCB and Regional Boards to implement the General Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Implementation of Large Habitat Restoration Projects Statewide, also known as the Statewide Restoration General Order (SRGO). This includes utilizing multi-agency permitting and environmental review consultations with CDFW, project proponents, CEQA lead agencies, and the Water Boards.
- CDFW and the SWRCB and Regional Boards attended an interagency summit in 2023 to further collaboration, resulting in increased coordination and monthly meetings to advance efficient restoration permitting. The next interagency summit is tentatively planned for March 2026.
- Continued implementation of SERP. Processes and templates are well established and CDFW anticipates continued routine SERP coordination with lead agencies across California until the new SERP sunset date of January 1, 2030.
- Ongoing maintenance of CDFW's CGT Website to provide project proponents additional information and resources regarding CGT efforts.
- Developing and updating StoryMaps to highlight restoration projects that received [grant funding, permits, and CEQA exemptions](#).
- Participation in CGT outreach, training, and interagency coordination events, collaborating with restoration practitioners and interested parties across the state.

- Implementation of the California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future, including increasing awareness of CGT options for salmon restoration projects, and looking at CGT permitting actions for salmon restoration and water infrastructure projects to benefit salmon populations.
- Continuing to explore and utilize use of CGT tools for vegetation treatments that restore ecosystem processes, vegetation health, and wildfire resiliency. To date, 24 permits or CEQA exemptions have been issued for projects that prevent or respond to threats of wildfire.
- Issuing the first SERP Concurrence for a project intended to establish a mitigation bank. The [Johnson Cosumnes Mitigation Bank Floodplain Restoration Project](#) is expected to restore 204 acres of habitat for native fish and wildlife in Sacramento County.

5. LESSONS LEARNED TO IMPROVE ONGOING PERMITTING PROCESSES AND RESTORATION WORK

The CGT Program continues to be guided by an adaptive management approach to how and where CDFW should continue to focus or expand its efforts. Continuing to implement permitting tools while incorporating and developing initiatives like SERP and the new RMP required an adaptive and collaborative approach. The lessons learned center around several key areas that support continued collaboration internally and with our partners, continued development of new initiatives, a focus on ongoing education, outreach, and personal attention to each project, continued self-assessment, and adaptation to changing conditions.

Continue Collaboration – CDFW focused much of its efforts this past year on engagement with the restoration community through public workshops, interagency meetings, newsletters, conferences and webinars, and many CGT consultations directly with project proponents. This open and transparent dialogue increased our ability to understand what issues and barriers are facing the restoration community along with what CDFW could and should be focused on in the near-and long-term. These efforts also provided a renewed sense of collaboration and commitment to the restoration community to support continued investigations into ways in which CDFW can improve and accelerate restoration efforts. Finally, The CGT Program is focused on accelerating restoration in areas that may be underserved by current restoration efforts. This includes tribal lands, urban habitats, and disadvantaged communities who may have limited access to healthy ecosystems. As nature is healed across California, the CGT Program is committed to reaching out to underserved communities to ensure their participation and ability to access grant funding and CGT tools.

Continued Development of New Initiatives - In 2025, CDFW started implementing the new RMP, established by AB 1581, that provides up to five separate CDFW authorizations in a single permit designed for beneficial management and restoration activities, with no permit application fee. While CDFW is still in a pilot phase of implementing this new tool, regional and headquarters staff have been busy consulting with potential applicants and spreading awareness of this new permitting option. To date, over 60 projects have expressed interest in the new RMP.

Focus on Education, Outreach, and a Personalized Approach – The main issues surrounding delays in restoration granting and permitting often center around project proponents not being fully aware of the suite of streamlined permitting processes available, or which pathways to choose. In response to this problem, another key component in FY 24-25 involved continuing our education and outreach efforts, along with a personalized approach to Strike Team staff proactively working through project options with proponents. This work also includes continuing to build consistency within CDFW regions on their understanding and implementation of these streamlining tools. Working with restoration leaders from the state, federal, and private sectors, CDFW led and participated in multiple public venues to discuss restoration activities and approaches to permitting. The participation and positive feedback from these events were overwhelming with approximately 1,600 participants attending CGT outreach opportunities during FY 24-25. Continued outreach efforts coordinated with pre-project consultations for as many restoration projects as possible will also increase restoration pace and scale across the state. CGT organized several multi-agency permitting consultations during FY 24-25 including the Water Boards, project proponents, and CEQA lead agencies.

Continued Self-Assessment – Problem solving often requires repeated and varied attempts to reach success. Many of the innovations that have come from CGT stem from CDFW's willingness to try new ways of conducting business, evaluating the outcomes, receiving stakeholder feedback, and quickly adjusting as needed. Learning from the projects that we are assisting in our SERP, new RMP, and Restoration CD processes, in addition to the projects that have been funded by CDFW, we expect to continue learning and making additional refinements to improve efficiencies. Implementation of improved tools and processes will require ongoing refinements to restoration permitting templates, maintaining and training CDFW staff, preparing external restoration permitting guidance, holding additional workshops for the restoration community, and providing restoration permitting expertise for early project consultation statewide. Additionally, project proponents have indicated that given three years of successful implementation of permit streamlining tools like SERP, they would value increased certainty in these tools with the removal of current sunsets on HREA and SERP.

Adaptation to Changing Conditions – With the urgent need to address the climate and biodiversity crises, the CGT Strike Team will need to quickly adapt to permitting more projects, larger projects, and in some cases, experimental restoration projects that may be unable to fully address every uncertainty. For example, CGT has started to engage in large-scale habitat resiliency projects designed to restore vegetation and forest health and reduce the risk of future catastrophic fire. CGT is also engaging with restoration projects related to improved flows, instream flow enhancement, and other restoration projects funded by a variety of sources.

CGT staffing challenges increased during FY 24-25 with high demand for CGT staff time and several vacancies pending budget resolution. CDFW may need to augment and supplement the capacity and efforts of the CGT Program to grow and meet future demands for increased restoration work throughout the state as new tools and expectations change related to statewide priorities and new initiatives.

6. COUNTIES AND WATERSHEDS IN WHICH CDFW HAS FOCUSED RELATED EFFORTS

The CGT pilot program initially focused on accelerating restoration in the North Coast Salmon Project focus areas of Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin counties and the Lagunitas, Russian, Mendocino (Coast), and South Fork Eel watersheds. However, our emphasis has now extended throughout California. **Appendix D Restoration Projects Initiated by County, Figure D1**, and **Figure D2** illustrate areas of focus to date.

Conclusion

CDFW's CGT Program continues to demonstrate significant achievements in increasing the pace and scale of restoration and conservation efforts across California. In its fourth year, trends in CGT progress begin to emerge, indicating an overall greater awareness of CGT efficiency tools, continued progress to develop new tools to support restoration, as well as more grant funding reaching more projects with greater efficiency and speed.

CDFW's implementation of the rolling solicitation and the successful award of nearly \$200 million in new grant funding serves as proof of concept for a model for efficiently administering grant funding going forward. CDFW has significantly reduced granting processing times and created new efficiencies for supporting the timelines of restoration projects.

The continued success and support of SERP is additionally highlighted by the extension of the original five-year sunset date, providing a path forward for more projects to benefit from time and cost savings. A notable use of SERP this year includes a programmatic restoration project where SERP efficiencies saved an estimated \$750,000 and five years of environmental review.

The new RMP is one of the most significant legislative initiatives in several years, creating unprecedented opportunities for qualifying restoration projects to reduce costs and speed up implementation.

Work continues to implement and refine permitting tools like HREA, the new RMP and the Restoration CD, while CDFW engages with stakeholders in the restoration community to further establish continuity and consistency in permitting. The coming fiscal year promises more progress in how projects are supported and towards the important conservation goals reached.

Appendix A

ESTIMATED COST SAVINGS

It is widely recognized that reducing environmental review and permitting timelines and costs will help increase the pace and scale of restoration. Realizing time and cost savings for project proponents also preserves funds that can be used to implement restoration work, thus accomplishing additional restoration without increasing costs. This Appendix is an effort to provide conservative estimates of time and dollars saved by the restoration community using expedited restoration permitting tools compared with traditional permitting.

TRADITIONAL TAKE AUTHORIZATION PERMIT COST ESTIMATES

Although there is wide variation in traditional permitting costs between projects, the estimates below provide rough estimates based on the most recent traditional take permits issued by CDFW. For example, California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) application fees for development projects currently range from \$7,504 to \$43,770 (average \$25,637). CESA start-up and other costs necessary to implement required compensatory mitigation for recent ITPs ranged from \$102,240 to \$369,440 (average \$235,840). Mitigation credit purchases to satisfy ITP requirements currently range from \$15,000 per credit to over \$1,000,000 per credit (one credit typically equals one acre). Additional costs associated with permit compliance such as mitigation site installation, management, monitoring, reporting, and consulting costs are not always known by CDFW, but we believe that these costs can be considerable. Finally, in many cases the Permittee must fund an endowment to pay for compensatory mitigation site management in perpetuity. Total implementation costs, not including ITP fees, for ITPs issued for development projects in FY 24-25 ranged from \$22,500 to \$10,126,264.

Considering the sizable cost variation between different projects, CDFW is assuming a very *conservative* cost of approximately \$32,222 per restoration project to obtain a traditional ITP and \$21,482 to obtain a traditional CESA Consistency Determination.

HABITAT RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT (HREA)

HREA fees mirror Lake or Streambed Alteration notification fees, but because HREA approvals are issued in lieu of any other CDFW permits, including CESA permits, each HREA approval avoids the need to pay CESA fees or incur CESA implementation costs and Scientific Collection Permit (SCP) fees and implementation costs. Therefore, CDFW is assuming a conservative estimate of approximately \$32,222 saved for each restoration project permitted via HREA.

OLD RESTORATION MANAGEMENT PERMIT (OLD RMP) AND PERMIT FOR RECOVERY AND MANAGEMENT (PRAM)

The old RMP or PRAM, issued through 2024 and in the early months of 2025, substitutes for a CESA ITP, CD, and/or a traditional Fully Protected Species take authorization, and CDFW does not charge a fee. No old RMPs or PRAMs executed during FY 24-25 included compensatory mitigation requirements. Therefore, CDFW is assuming a very conservative estimate of approximately \$32,222 saved for each project permitted via an RMP.

NEW RESTORATION MANAGEMENT PERMIT (NEW RMP)

CDFW does not currently charge an application fee for the new RMP and expects that project applicants will save both time and money by using this tool. Like the old RMP, CDFW generally does not anticipate requiring compensatory mitigation for projects authorized via the new RMP. CDFW polled the permittees for the two new RMPs issued in FY 24-25 and found an average cost savings of \$71,175 and average time savings of 2.25 months⁸. As more permits are issued, we expect to further refine these estimates.

RESTORATION CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION (RESTORATION CD)

Restoration CDs also take the place of a CESA ITP or CD, and CDFW does not charge a fee for RMPs. Therefore, CDFW is assuming a conservative estimate of approximately \$21,482 saved for each project permitted via a Restoration CD. Like traditional CDs, Restoration CDs must be completed within 30 days.

STATUTORY EXEMPTION FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS (SERP)

We estimate that projects receiving a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exemption via SERP generally realize a significant time and cost savings compared to a traditional CEQA process. CDFW has an internal goal of no more than 60 days processing time for each SERP request submitted, and our average processing time in FY 24-25 was approximately 41 days. Because CEQA costs can vary substantially by project type, lead agency, and location, CDFW has polled every lead agency that has completed the SERP process. Of 17 SERP exemptions completed during FY 24-25, 15 project lead agencies provided financial and time savings estimates to CGT. On average, SERP saved approximately 12.2 months of time and \$191,923 per project during FY 24-25.

⁸ With a sample size of 2 projects, these figures should be considered preliminary and not indicative of any trends.

Appendix B

NEW RESTORATION PROJECTS FUNDED BY CDFW

Table B1: Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 24-25

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Allen Property Watershed and Oak Woodland Restoration	Mule Deer Foundation	\$472,490
San Diego National Wildlife Restoration (Shinohara)	Friends of San Diego Wildlife Refuges, Inc.	\$1,518,800
Kuulanapo Wetland Preserve Restoration	Lake County Land Trust	\$1,118,867
Integrating Meadow and Forest Restoration for Quantifiable Carbon, Water, Wildlife, and Energy Benefits in the Glass Mountains of California	California Trout, Inc.	\$308,054

Table B2: Nature Based Solutions – Wetlands/Meadows Restoration Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 24-25

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Beaver Habitat Restoration Project 2024-2027	San Luis Obispo Beaver Brigade	\$455,132
Xabenapo (Old Robinson) Stream Habitat Enhancement	Robinson Rancheria Pomo Indians of California	\$1,285,491
Restoring Mountain Meadows with Effective Grazing Management	Scott River Watershed Council	\$445,844
Mid French Creek Comprehensive Restoration Project- Transforming French Creek for Coho and Beaver	Scott River Watershed Council	\$1,620,603
Dixie Fire Meadow Restoration Planning, North Fork Feather River Watershed	Sierra Institute for Community and Environment	\$416,891
Modoc Plateau Meadow Restoration Design	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$962,888
Lower Klamath Refuge Water Deliveries	California Waterfowl Association	\$1,894,426

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Cottonwood Meadow Hydrologic Improvement Project - Phase 1	Tuolumne River Trust	\$244,882
Tunnel Meadow Restoration & CA Golden Trout Conservation Project	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$813,760
Design and Permitting for the White Mallard Dam Improvements and Butte Creek Flow Enhancements	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	\$740,547
Windler Floodplain Habitat Enhancement	Salmon River Restoration Council	\$2,000,000
Integrating Meadow and Forest Restoration for Quantifiable Carbon, Water, Wildlife, and Energy Benefits in the Glass Mountains of California	California Trout, Inc.	\$1,415,794
Dismal Swamp Meadow Restoration & Redband Trout Conservation Project	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$499,953
Ackerson Meadow Restoration Project - Phase 2 Implementation	American Rivers	\$100,000

Table B3: Nature Based Solutions – Wildlife Corridors Restoration Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 24-25

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Chileno Valley Road Newt Passage Project	Chileno Valley Newt Brigade	\$30,219
Clear Lake Hitch Habitat Improvement Planning and Design in Cole Creek, Big Valley Basin, Lake County, CA, USA	Lake County Watershed Protection District	\$500,122

Table B4: Fisheries Restoration Grant Program Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 24-25

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Albion River Instream Coho Habitat Enhancement Project	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$1,281,076
Basso / Ingalls Restoration Project - Design and Plan	Tuolumne River Trust	\$751,028
California Conservation Corps Watershed Stewards Program in partnership with AmeriCorps - Year 32	California Conservation Corps Watershed Stewards Program in partnership with AmeriCorps	\$688,041
CCC Fortuna Fish Habitat Assistant	California Conservation Corps - Fortuna	\$273,374
CCC Steelhead Restoration Team	California Conservation Corps - Camarillo	\$491,771
Chamberlain Creek Fish Passage Implementation Project	Mendocino Land Trust	\$1,378,920
Eel River Arundo Eradication Phase 4	Eel River Watershed Improvement Group (ERWIG)	\$91,837
Enhancing Environmental Education: Trout in the Classroom Expansion in San Diego County	The Escondido Creek Conservancy	\$183,424
Huckleberry Creek Coho Refugia Project	Eel River Watershed Improvement Group (ERWIG)	\$194,030
LA River California Environmental Flows Framework-Sections B and C Study (Fisheries Restoration)	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	\$785,000
Maria Ygnacio Creek Fish Passage Implementation Project--UPRR Crossing	Earth Island Institute	\$1,844,585
Middle Stotenburg Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Project, Riparian Restoration	Smith River Alliance	\$440,527
North Fork Elk River Channel Instream Habitat and Upslope Restoration Project	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$1,455,436

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Northern CA Rural Land and Water Best Management Practices Education Series: Phase 2	Salmonid Restoration Federation	\$99,967
Robinson Creek Instream Habitat Enhancement	The Conservation Fund	\$236,622
Sebbas Creek Off-Channel Project	Eel River Watershed Improvement Group (ERWIG)	\$799,895
Soda Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$1,452,926
South Fork Usal Creek Log Jam-boree	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$1,669,436
Southern Steelhead Coalition: Santa Monica Mountains to Santa Maria River	California Trout, Inc.	\$357,146
SRF 2025 and 2026 Coho Confabs	Salmonid Restoration Federation	\$46,940
Upper Lawrence Coho Habitat Design Project	Eel River Watershed Improvement Group (ERWIG)	\$48,550
Ventura River Arundo Removal & Riparian Restoration - South Santa Ana Site (HR)	Ojai Valley Land Conservancy	\$846,598
Windler Floodplain Habitat Enhancement	Salmon River Restoration Council	\$3,888,060

Table B5: Prop 68 Fish and Wildlife Improvement Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 24-25

PROJECT TITLE	APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Lower Klamath Refuge Water Deliveries	California Waterfowl Association	\$355,574
Ormond Beach Perkins Road Area Restoration Project	City of Oxnard	\$251,945
Prairie Creek Floodplain Restoration Project	Yurok Tribe	\$3,100,168
Riparian Buffer Fencing on Iron Gate Reservoir and Copco 1 Reservoir	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$800,862

Table B6: Prop 68 Rivers and Streams Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 24-25

PROJECT TITLE	APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Scott Tailings RKM 85-85.2 Phase 2	Scott River Watershed Council	\$219,382
Cutting the Green Tape for Watershed Scale Restoration in the Scott River Watershed	Scott River Watershed Council	\$127,873
Middle Stotenburg Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Project	Smith River Alliance	\$517,943
MWCD- Main Canal Lining Project	Montague Water Conservation District	\$110,000
Maria Ygnacio Creek Fish Passage Implementation Project--UPRR Crossing	Earth Island Institute	\$137,972
Southern Steelhead Coalition: Santa Monica Mountains to Santa Maria River	California Trout, Inc.	\$148,988
Eden Landing North Creek Marsh Enhancement	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	\$417,522
Santa Margarita River Bridge Replacement and Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project - 2021	California Trout, Inc.	\$31,266

Table B7: Prop 68 Southern Steelhead Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 24-25

PROJECT TITLE	APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Santa Margarita River Bridge Replacement and Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project - 2021	California Trout, Inc.	\$1,900,000
Harvey Diversion Fish Passage Remediation Project	California Trout, Inc.	\$4,147,492
Fish Passage Construction on Trabuco Creek	California Trout, Inc.	\$5,155,944
Santa Margarita River Bridge Replacement and Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project - 2021	California Trout, Inc.	\$1,752,398
Wheeler Gorge Campground Fish Passage Project--Implementation - 2022	Earth Island Institute	\$1,023,221

Table B8: Cannabis Restoration Grant Program Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 24-25

PROJECT TITLE	APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Streamflow Conservation Strategies for North Coast Timberlands	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$3,348,924
Rock Creek Culvert Removal Fish Passage Project	Western Shasta Resource Conservation District	\$749,389
Wood Creek Phase III: Felt Ranch Off-Channel Rearing Habitat	Northcoast Regional Land Trust	\$6,740,000
MWCD - Parks Creek Flow Enhancement Through Diversion Modification	Montague Water Conservation District	\$1,850,000
Upper Green Valley Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Planning Project	Sonoma Ecology Center	\$302,870
Upper Russian River Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem and Interconnected Surface Water Study	Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	\$1,359,500
Restore Wildcat Creek at Brook Road	East Bay Regional Park District	\$750,000
Fish Passage Construction on Trabuco Creek	California Trout, Inc.	\$4,149,180
Recovery of the Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog in the Tuolumne and Merced River Watersheds	Yosemite Conservancy	\$368,777
Enhancing Dune Habitat and Ecosystem Function within Northern Monterey County State Parks	San Jose State University Research Foundation	\$467,728
Weaver Creek Habitat Restoration Implementation	Yurok Tribe	\$1,464,508
Fish Passage and Habitat Improvements to Dry Creek Yuba and Nevada Counties, California	Sierra Streams Institute	\$991,393
Los Peñasquitos Watershed Assessment & Invasive Plant Management Plan	Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation	\$1,073,280
Tribal Landscape for Climate Resilience and Watershed Restoration Project	Mooretown Rancheria	\$1,019,812
Riparian Buffer Fencing on Iron Gate Reservoir and Copco 1 Reservoir	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$600,000
Ormond Beach Perkins Road Area Restoration Project	City of Oxnard	\$24,119

PROJECT TITLE	APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Fish Passage and Habitat Improvements to Dry Creek Yuba and Nevada Counties, California	Sierra Streams Institute	\$558,716
Dos Rios Norte	River Partners	\$2,116,204
Basso/Ingalls Restoration Project: Design and CEQA	Tuolumne River Trust	\$644,077
Restoring Nur (Chinook salmon) and the Winnemem Wintu Tribe to the Winnemem Waywaket (McCloud River) via Volitional Fish Passage	Indian Cultural Organization	\$3,500,000
Eel River Basinwide Restoration and Conservation Planning and Implementation	California Trout, Inc.	\$2,695,625

Appendix C

AVERAGE RESTORATION PERMIT PROCESSING TIMES

Table C1: Restoration Permit and SERP Concurrence Processing Times

PROJECT TITLE	INITIATED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	PROCESSING TIME
Little Butano Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement	1/2/2025	4/4/2025	92
Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Project	3/19/2025	6/6/2025	79
Average new RMP Processing Time			86
Santa Margarita Bridge Replacement and Fish Passage Removal Project	5/21/2024	9/17/2024	119
Basso/La Grange Reach Floodplain and Spawning Habitat Restoration Project	6/5/2024	8/14/2024	70
Tuolumne River Mainstem Channel Restoration Project Upstream of Old La Grange Bridge	6/13/2024	8/19/2024	67
Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Management Project	7/9/2024	11/5/2024	119
Agricultural Road Crossing #4 Project	8/8/2024	10/15/2024	68

PROJECT TITLE	INITIATED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	PROCESSING TIME
Southern Los Cerritos Wetland Restoration Project	9/12/2024	2/7/2025	148
OH_DC_601 Project	10/3/2024	10/17/2024	14
Wadulh Lagoon Tidal Wetland Enhancement Project	11/12/2024	3/7/2025	115
East Bay Regional Park District Maintenance and Restoration Program	1/30/2025	6/12/2025	96
Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration Project	4/1/2025	6/3/2025	35
Average old RMP or PRAM Processing Time			85
Redwood Siphon Repair and Replacement Project	9/5/2024	10/3/2024	28
Pescadero Marsh Habitat Restoration and Resiliency Project: North Marsh and North Pond	10/8/2024	11/7/2024	30
Ten Mile River Habitat Enhancement Phase 2 Mainstem and Mill Creek	11/7/2024	12/4/2024	27
Sunol Valley Fish Passage Project	4/1/2025	4/29/2025	28
Average CD Processing Time			28
Lodge Road Wildlife Resilience and Large Tree Restoration Demonstration Project	5/24/2024	7/24/2024	61
Capinero Creek Restoration Project	6/17/2024	8/2/2024	46
Santa Monica Beach Dunes Restoration Project- Phase 3	6/20/2024	8/2/2024	43
Buena Vista Creek Restoration and Disadvantaged Community Stewardship Planning Project	8/13/2024	10/31/2024	46 ⁹
El Puente Floodplain Reconnection Project	8/21/2024	9/26/2024	36
Wetland Reserve Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resiliency Project	9/3/2024	10/9/2024	36
Sunol Valley Fish Passage Project	11/7/2024	12/11/2024	34
Pickel Meadow Restoration Project	11/7/2024	12/11/2024	34
Restore Hayward Marsh (Former USD Treatment Marsh) Update	11/14/2024	11/26/2024	12
Skey-wok Kee' we Mech (It Needs Fire) Project	11/21/2024	12/31/2024	40

⁹ Processing time was paused for lead agency to provide supplemental application information.

PROJECT TITLE	INITIATED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	PROCESSING TIME
Salmon and Packer Creek Aspen Restoration Project	1/9/2025	2/19/2025	41
Ventura River Watershed Riparian Resilience Program	1/10/2025	3/27/2025	76
Deer Creek Meadows/ North Fork Deer Creek Bridges Restoration Project	1/14/2025	3/14/2025	59
Zanker Farm Salmonid Restoration Project	1/23/2025	3/27/2025	63
Johnson Cosumnes Mitigation Bank Floodplain Restoration	4/14/2025	5/23/2025	39
McKenzie Meadows Restoration Project Phase 1	4/18/2025	5/23/2025	35
Western Joshua Tree Conservation Plan	6/4/2025	6/6/2025	2
Average SERP Processing Time			41
Johnson Ranch Riparian Restoration Project - 1653	5/7/2024	7/3/2024	57
San Gregorio Creek Habitat Enhancement Phase 3 - 1653	6/7/2024	7/9/2024	32
Grouse Meadows Restoration Project - 1652	5/14/2024	7/10/2024	57
Calero Reserve Pond 17 Desedimentation and Restoration Project - 1653	6/12/2024	7/10/2024	28
North Fork South Fork Noyo River Large Wood Enhancement Project - 1653	6/25/2024	7/19/2024	24
Middle Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Project Phase 1 - 1653	6/28/2024	7/19/2024	21
San Gregorio Creek Habitat Enhancement at Apple Orchard, Phase 2 - 1653	7/8/2024	7/22/2024	14
Scott River Watershed Process Based Restoration Repair & Maintenance Project - 1653	6/29/2024	7/29/2024	30
El Jaro Creek Rancho San Julian Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project - 1652	7/10/2024	8/12/2024	33
Butano Creek Habitat Enhancement at Camp Butano - 1653	8/7/2024	8/16/2024	9
Tenmile Creek Sediment Source Control - Varnhagen Meadow - 1653	7/29/2024	8/27/2024	29
Donner Creek Restoration - 1653	8/13/2024	8/28/2024	15
Willow Creek Stage 0 Low Tech Habitat Enhancement - 1653	8/13/2024	8/29/2024	16

PROJECT TITLE	INITIATED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	PROCESSING TIME
Maria Ygnacio Creek Fish Passage Project Implementation- Patterson Ave Bridge - 1652	7/31/2024	9/9/2024	40
Richmond Ranch Reserve Pond 1 Desedimentation and Restoration Project - 1653	8/20/2024	9/11/2024	22
South Fork Scott River Floodplain Connectivity Project Phase IV - 1653	8/23/2024	9/18/2024	26
Chicken Ranch Beach Wetland Enhancement Project - 1653	10/23/2024	11/6/2024	14
Sheep Corral Stream Restoration - 1653	10/28/2024	11/12/2024	15
Redding Riffle Spawning Habitat Project - 1653	11/19/2024	12/16/2024	27
Jamala Canyon Landscape Restoration and Rehydration Project - 1652	12/6/2024	1/2/2025	27
Deep Cut Creek BDAs - 1653	2/26/2025	3/25/2025	27
Elks Lodge Floodplain Project - 1653	2/24/2025	3/25/2025	29
Hunewill Land & Livestock: USDA NRCS Bank Restoration and Stabilization Project - 1652	2/21/2025	3/27/2025	34
Lake City BDA Project (Andrew Bertotti Ranch) - 1653	3/14/2025	4/11/2025	28
Máyyan 'Ooyákma Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve (MOCR) Pond Desedimentation and Restoration Project - 1653	4/8/2025	4/29/2025	21
Storm Damage Repair And Restoration Of Ponds D2, D5, H6, K3, & M1 Project - 1653	4/16/2025	4/29/2025	13
Tomato Stand Fish Passage Project - 1652	4/8/2025	5/15/2025	37
Steppingstone Wetland Enhancement Project - 1653	5/9/2025	5/29/2025	20
American River Debris Removal Project - 1652	2/19/2025	6/6/2025	107
Upper Baechtel Streamflow Enhancement Project - 1653	5/9/2025	6/9/2025	31
Upper Noyes Valley Creek Process-Based Restoration - Bringing the Beaver Back, Phase I - 1653	5/20/2025	6/19/2025	30
Wheeler Gorge Campground Aquatic Organism Passage and Stream Restoration Project - 1653	5/27/2025	6/23/2025	27

PROJECT TITLE	INITIATED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	PROCESSING TIME
Honey Lake Wildlife Area Water Delivery Improvement Project - 1653	5/8/2025	6/6/2025	29
Walters Creek Streamflow and Habitat Enhancement Project - 1653	6/3/2025	6/30/2025	27
Tenmile Creek Sediment Reduction & Roadway Removal Project - 1653	3/5/2025	4/4/2025	30
Lower Thompson Creek Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project - 1653	5/9/2025	6/6/2025	28
Average HREA Processing Time			29
Lindsay Creek Coho Barrier Removal Project	7/19/2024	7/22/2024	3
Yale Creek Fisheries Restoration Implementation Project	7/5/2024	7/24/2024	19
Stenner Creek Watershed Enhancement Project	7/10/2024	9/9/2024	61
Dos Rios Restoration Rubble Removal and Revegetation	7/19/2024	9/17/2024	60
Keefer Ranch Meadow Restoration Project	6/27/2024	9/6/2024	71
Lower Topanga State Park Arundo Removal and Restoration Project	9/10/2024	9/10/2024	0
Clover Creek Hitch Habitat Restoration Project	9/11/2023	10/10/2023	29
Graves Stream Crossing	9/9/2024	9/24/2024	15
Lower Gabilan Creek Erosion Control and Habitat Restoration Project	4/11/2024	6/10/2024	60
Iris Canyon Erosion Repair and Creek Enhancement Project	9/30/2024	11/27/2024	58
Mainstem Ten Mile River and Mill Creek Habitat Enhancement Project	10/9/2024	12/4/2024	56
El Puente Floodplain Restoration Project	10/7/2024	12/6/2024	60
Snake Marsh Wetland Restoration	2/18/2025	4/14/2025	55
Sunol Valley Fish Passage Project	11/1/2024	12/19/2024	48
Lower Bear Creek Habitat Enhancement Implementation	12/20/2024	2/14/2025	56
Freshwater Off-Channel Habitat: Phase 2, Orchard Pond	4/10/2025	5/16/2025	36
Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration Project	12/24/2024	3/3/2025	69

PROJECT TITLE	INITIATED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	PROCESSING TIME
Great Valley Grasslands Floodplain Restoration	10/25/2024	12/19/2024	55
Upper South Fork Little River Instream Habitat Improvement Project	5/23/2025	6/6/2025	14
Upper Long Bar Juvenile Salmonid Habitat Restoration on the Yuba River	4/3/2025	5/6/2025	33
Duffy Gulch Fish Passage Improvement Project	6/23/2025	6/23/2025	0
Average LSAA Processing Time⁹			41

⁹ Processing times were determined based on number of days to issue a draft agreement to applicant.

Appendix D

Figure D1: Projects Initiated by County



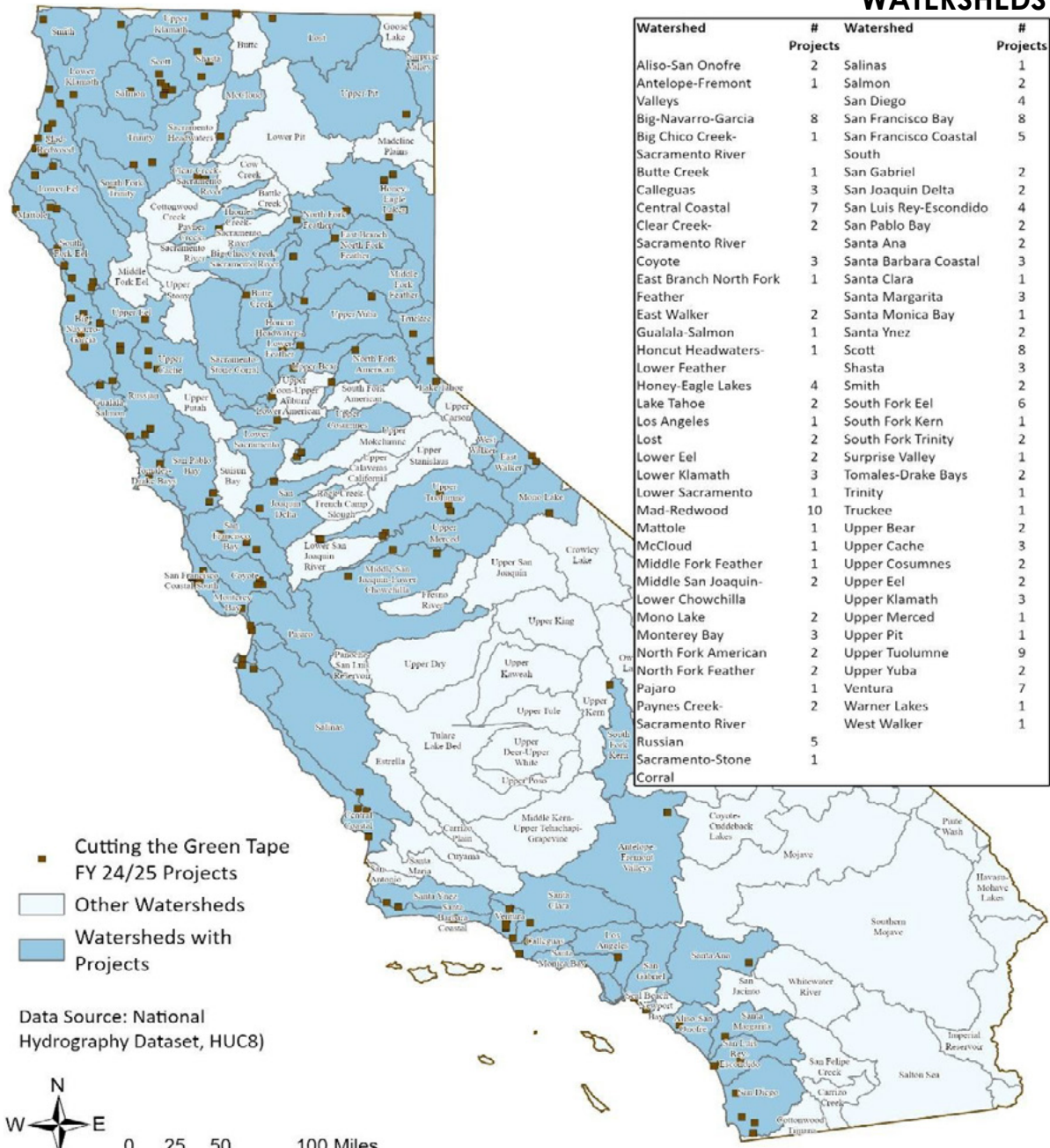
Figure D2: Projects Initiated by Watershed



Cutting the Green Tape

WATERSHED RESTORATION GRANTS BRANCH

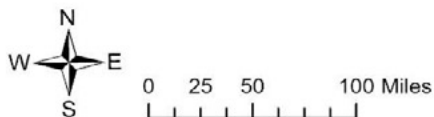
Cutting the Green Tape - FY 24/25 Projects



WATERSHEDS

Watershed	# Projects	Watershed	# Projects
Aliso-San Onofre	2	Salinas	1
Antelope-Fremont	1	Salmon	2
Valleys		San Diego	4
Big-Navarro-Garcia	8	San Francisco Bay	8
Big Chico Creek-	1	San Francisco Coastal	5
Sacramento River		South	
Butte Creek	1	San Gabriel	2
Calleguas	3	San Joaquin Delta	2
Central Coastal	7	San Luis Rey-Escondido	4
Clear Creek-	2	San Pablo Bay	2
Sacramento River		Santa Ana	2
Coyote	3	Santa Barbara Coastal	3
East Branch North Fork	1	Santa Clara	1
Feather		Santa Margarita	3
East Walker	2	Santa Monica Bay	1
Gualala-Salmon	1	Santa Ynez	2
Honcut Headwaters-	1	Scott	8
Lower Feather		Shasta	3
Honey-Eagle Lakes	4	Smith	2
Lake Tahoe	2	South Fork Eel	6
Los Angeles	1	South Fork Kern	1
Lost	2	South Fork Trinity	2
Lower Eel	2	Surprise Valley	1
Lower Klamath	3	Tamales-Drake Bays	2
Lower Sacramento	1	Trinity	1
Mad-Redwood	10	Truckee	1
Mattole	1	Upper Bear	2
McCloud	1	Upper Cache	3
Middle Fork Feather	1	Upper Cosumnes	2
Middle San Joaquin-	2	Upper Eel	2
Lower Chowchilla		Upper Klamath	3
Mono Lake	2	Upper Merced	1
Monterey Bay	3	Upper Pit	1
North Fork American	2	Upper Tuolumne	9
North Fork Feather	2	Upper Yuba	2
Pajaro	1	Ventura	7
Paynes Creek-	2	Warner Lakes	1
Sacramento River		West Walker	1
Russian	5		
Sacramento-Stone	1		
Corral			

Data Source: National Hydrography Dataset, HUC8)



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