



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)

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COVER PHOTO: Iron Gate site on the Klamath River, 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

RMP – Restoration Management Permit

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 a priority 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 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](#) and FY 22-23 [Report to the Legislature](#).

In its third year (FY 23-24), the CGT Program continued to develop the tools and efficiencies supporting our grant programs as well as awarding out 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 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 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, and 477 stream miles 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, and 103 stream miles saving an estimated \$1,552,600 with an average processing time of 70 days. In general, restoration permitting efficiencies are helping to save more time and money every year.

¹ 2020-21 May Revision to the Governor’s Budget, Revised Budget Summary

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 advancing the directives in Secretary Crowfoot's [CGT memorandum, and the California Environmental Quality Act \(CEQA\) Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects \(SERP\)](#), which resulted in CDFW concurring with 25 restoration project exemptions in FY 23-24, 22 restoration project exemptions in FY 22-23, and six restoration project exemptions in FY 21-22, as noted above in summary totals by FY. The pace and scale of habitat restoration and climate adaptation must 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.

This report summarizes the outcomes that CGT achieved in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY 23-24) and responds to the reporting mandates identified in Provision 3 of Senate (SB) Bill 129, which amended SEC. 84. Item 3600-001-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2021.

BACKGROUND

CDFW's ongoing CGT initiatives all follow 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, with more restoration happening faster.

Legislative Reporting Requirements

As part of the approval of the CGT Program in the Budget Act of 2021, Provision 3 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.

In response to SB 129 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 23-24, CDFW initiated permitting or environmental review for 198 restoration projects (of which 180 were completed during FY 23-24) across six categories of project or permitting types as follows: restoration management permits, 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)

The Restoration Management Permit (RMP) consolidates two CDFW “take²” authorizations into a single streamlined permit. The RMP authorizes take of 1) endangered, threatened, and candidate species pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA); and 2) fully protected species. CDFW initiated and approved 11 RMPs in FY 23-24. A total of 24 RMPs have been approved from FY 20-21 through FY 23-24.

RESTORATION CONSISTENCY DETERMINATIONS (CDS)

CDFW created new procedures 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 the PBO 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 the PBO. The Restoration CD is also used for project-specific biological opinions. CDFW initiated and approved four Restoration CDs in FY 23-24. A total of 15 Restoration CDs have been approved from FY 20-21 through FY 23-24.

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 35 HREA approvals were initiated and 33 were completed in FY 23-24³. From FY 20-21 through FY 23-24, 124 HREA approvals have been completed.

² “Take” means hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.

³ 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.

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 33 LSA agreements for restoration projects were initiated and 30 were approved in FY 23-24⁴, for which the average processing time was 39 days, down from 50 days in FY 22-23. A total of 128 LSA agreements for restoration projects have been completed from FY 20-21 through FY 23-24.

STATUTORY EXEMPTION FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS (SERP)

Governor Newsom signed SB155, 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 33 exemptions and completed 25 SERP concurrences for projects in FY 23-24. On average, SERP has saved approximately 6.7 months of time and \$107,000 per project. A total of 53 SERP concurrences have been approved from FY 20-21 through FY 23-24.

⁴ CDFW's LSA program is not currently managed within the CGT program, but information is provided here for reference.

NEW RESTORATION PROJECTS FUNDED BY CDFW

CDFW's Watershed Restoration Grants Branch 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, and the federally funded Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP).

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. The result was a streamlined and expedited process wherein CDFW awarded approximately \$198 million from these new initiatives to 106 new projects over two fiscal years. In FY 23-24, CDFW awarded a total of \$168 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.

See **Appendix B New Restoration Projects Funded by CDFW** for a list and description of 95 Restoration Projects funded by CDFW in FY 23-24.

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 RMPs for projects within 120 days or less of permit initiation, HREAs within 60 days (Fish and Game Code 1652) or 30 days (Fish and Game Code 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 23-24 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 103 permits and SERP concurrences for restoration projects between July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. Table 1 provides the total by permit or exemption type for FY 23-24.

TABLE 1: CDFW Permits and SERP Concurrences Issued for Restoration Projects, July 2023-June 2024

Permit or Exemption Type	RMP	CD	HREA	LSA	SERP
Number	11	4	33	30	25

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 in FY 2023-24, which resulted in a reduced grant award timeline to more timely implement restoration projects.

The CGT Program has continued efforts to improve the expediency and efficiency of grant administration policy and process. CDFW's amendment process was vastly improved to both reduce the need for amendments by structuring initial grants with more budget line-item adjustment flexibility; and maintaining an expedited amendment process when amendments are truly required. The Contingency Request process for current CDFW funded grants experiencing budget shortfalls, developed last fiscal year, has been successful in supporting projects without stoppage, enabling CDFW to maximize use of available funding, and reducing the overall volume of new funding requests with each grant cycle while ensuring successful completion of restoration projects that benefit our natural resources.

The most significant change implemented to CDFW's granting under CGT has been the rolling solicitation for new grant funding. Historically CDFW administered a separate solicitation for each grant program for a set amount of time wherein applications could be submitted before being reviewed and awarded. The solicitation, application submittal, review, and award processes would typically take six to nine months with a backlog of applications exceeding available funding. Subsequent development of grant agreements and would take an additional average of three to six months to develop and finalize. With the new rolling solicitation, applicants can request a consultation with CDFW staff or proceed with a brief proposal concept for consideration under each of CDFW's new funding initiatives as well as its bond funded programs. CDFW accelerated the review and approval process under this funding, reviewing and approving the award for grants for most projects within 30 days of receipt of an application. Starting in March 2023 CDFW has awarded approximately \$198 million over two fiscal years, more than double the amount of what would have previously been awarded within a similar time frame.

CDFW's FRGP has maintained its own application process as it is tied to an annual federal grant application, however the program this year 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 was the first CDFW grant program, to our knowledge, to collect applicant demographics to help evaluate the diversity and distribution of their grant funding.

CDFW created a Strike Team that transcends historical 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.

CDFW's Landscape Conservation Planning Program (LCPP) 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. Four planning efforts have made significant progress in the early stages of the NCCP planning process. LCPP Staff have also begun supporting two existing plans through major amendments.

In addition, this year CDFW finalized grant agreements for \$4.4 million in NCCP Local Assistance Grants and 30x30 Implementation grants. CDFW has also moved \$24.5 million in land acquisition projects towards final approvals by the Wildlife Conservation Board. In addition, CDFW facilitated over \$15.7 million in federal funding to local partners for land acquisition statewide through nontraditional Section 6.

The Regional Conservation Investment Strategies (RCIS) Program continues to expand, and as of May 2024, CDFW has a total of ten approved RCIS Projects statewide. The San Bernadino County RCIS was finalized in April 2024 and the North Bay Baylands RCIS was finalized in May 2024. Each approved RCIS now allows for the development of Mitigation Credit Agreement (MCA) credits which encourage strategic habitat enhancement and restoration actions outlined in a respective RCIS.

Aligned with both the Mitigation and Conservation Banking Program as well as the MCA Program, staff have completed a draft of the new Wildlife Connectivity Mitigation Guidelines required by Senate Bill 790 which was enacted in January 2022. When finalized, these guidelines will promote advance mitigation planning and create incentives for improving habitat connectivity projects in California.

CDFW's 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.

To meet legislative timelines, the Banking Program uses November 1 to October 31 as its banking year. As of the end of our most recent banking year (November 1, 2022, to October 31, 2023), the Banking Program had 92 total established banks and three new banks were established which required 2,560 acres resulting in 2,452.06 additional advance mitigation credits.

Other FY 23-24 strategies and accomplishments include:

- Continued improvements to how CDFW processes grant agreements and amendments. Formal amendments are processed within two weeks on average, resulting in an expected process time reduction of approximately 30%. New grant agreements are now structured to allow more streamlined and expedited note-to-file amendments.
- Development of new grant agreements has been further streamlined. In FY 2023-24, 65 new agreements were developed and executed within one month.
- CDFW continues to evaluate its invoice processing practices to ensure timely reimbursement. While the majority of our undisputed invoices are paid within 30 days, disputes can cause payment delays. We are training our grant managers in strategies to avoid and/or quickly resolve dispute situations.
- CDFW has developed procedures and is testing a new advanced payment process.
- Continued internal grant manager training and centralized resources to ensure consistency and expediency in reimbursements.
- In 2023, CDFW hosted four CGT workshops focused on the Southern and Central regions to further promote awareness of new grant programs and restoration permitting tools like SERP, the RMP, and Restoration CD. In all, 400+ people combined in-person and online attended, resulting in additional proposals from areas like the Inland Desert Region.
- CDFW worked to improve Tribal engagement within existing grant programs. This resulted in close to \$23 million awarded directly to Tribes in 2023. CDFW also streamlined the granting process to enable a single grant agreement for multiple tribal projects.
- Revised grant application processes to create a more simplified and expedited application experience for project applicants that includes early consultation with CDFW staff.
- Continued engagement and coordination with other grant funders and the restoration practitioner community at large to implement and further develop recommendations to improve granting practices.
- Continued deploying the RMP and Restoration CD to consolidate take 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 State Water Resources Control Board (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.
- 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 a [CGT StoryMap](#) 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.

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 our efforts. Continuing to implement new permitting tools while incorporating and developing new initiatives like SERP 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 the Restoration Leaders Committee (RLC), public workshops, interagency meetings, 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 – CDFW has learned that additional solutions may be helpful to move beyond the initial phases of CGT tool development. For example, the RMP could be improved by incorporating take coverage for common species and species of special concern and adding LSA authorization to the RMP. CDFW is actively pursuing options to incorporate these RMP improvements as soon as possible. Restoration stakeholders have also pointed out that LSA agreement notification fees can run as high as approximately \$100,000 for a single restoration project. CDFW is actively pursuing options to address restoration permit costs while ensuring that any changes do not deplete essential revenue necessary to protect California's wildlife from non-restoration activities.

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 23-24 involved increasing our education and outreach efforts, along with a personalized approach to Strike Team staff proactively working through project options with proponents. 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 2,000 participants attending CGT outreach opportunities during FY 23-24. 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 23-24 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, and quickly adjusting as needed. Learning from the projects that we are assisting in our SERP, 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 per-

mitting templates, 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, CDFW identified the need and is actively exploring strategies to improve the LSA agreement process for restoration projects and look for ways to integrate restoration project LSA agreements with our new take permitting tools.

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 largescale habitat resiliency projects designed to restore vegetation and forest health and reduce the risk of future catastrophic fire. We are also engaging with restoration projects related to improved flows, instream flow enhancement, and other restoration projects funded by a variety of sources.

Another factor is the addition of SERP to the CGT Strike Team's duties, which currently accounts for roughly half of the workload for the entire CGT Program. Although the CGT Program quickly developed procedures to implement SERP, as more restoration projects utilize SERP as an option, the risk increases that the CGT Program could have a difficult time meeting its primary funded and mandated responsibilities described in this report. CDFW may need to augment the CGT Program to adequately address future demands of 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 third 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 a proof of concept for a model for 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 this year 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 coastal restoration project where SERP efficiencies saved an estimated \$1.3 million.

Work continues to implement and refine permitting tools like HREA, the 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 23-24 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 \$31,657 per restoration project to obtain a traditional ITP and \$21,104 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 \$31,657 saved for each restoration project permitted via HREA.

RESTORATION MANAGEMENT PERMIT (RMP)

RMPs can take the place of a CESA ITP, CD, and/or a traditional Fully Protected Species take authorization, and CDFW does not charge a fee for RMPs. No RMPs executed during FY 23-24 included compensatory mitigation requirements. Therefore, CDFW is assuming a very conservative estimate of approximately \$31,657 saved for each project permitted via an RMP.

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 \$21,104 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 avoid much of the time and money resources of the level of effort needed to complete 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 23-24 was approximately 45 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 25 SERP exemptions completed during FY 23-24, 20 project lead agencies provided financial and time savings estimates to CGT. On average, SERP saved approximately 7.4 months of time and \$139,367 per project during FY 23-24.

Appendix B

NEW RESTORATION PROJECTS FUNDED BY CDFW

Table B1: Addressing Climate Restoration Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 23-24

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Mohave Ground Squirrel - Pilot Study Survey Design	Mohave Ground Squirrel Conservation Council	\$140,127
Arroyo Seco River Concrete Ford Fish Passage Alternative Design Project - Sycamore Flats	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$264,829
Spring-run Chinook Salmon Donor Stock Collection	US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$139,176
Huseman Ditch Pipeline and Water Efficiency Improvement Project	Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District	\$250,125
Pepperwood Post Fire Upland Habitat Restoration Project II	Pepperwood Foundation	\$875,587

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Yuba River Daguerre Point Dam Nature-like Fishway	Yuba County Water Agency	\$10,000,000
MWCD- Main Canal Lining Project	Montague Water Conservation District	\$39,874

Table B2: Drought Resiliency - Protecting Salmon Restoration Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 23-24

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Sisar Creek Bridge Construction Project	Friends of the Santa Clara River	\$2,114,359
Upper Butte Basin Habitat Restoration Project	River Partners	\$1,005,280
Meamber Fish Screen	Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District	\$184,220
Lagunitas Creek Coho Enhancement Project Phase II	Marin Municipal Water District	\$4,659,898
Clear Creek Gravel Augmentation Project	Yurok Tribe	\$800,747
Clear Creek Wood Structure Supplementation Project	Yurok Tribe	\$226,327
Clear Creek Horsetown Restoration Project	Yurok Tribe	\$698,137
Study of Physical Data Gaps to Inform the Implementation of Nur Reintroduction/Rematriation Upstream of Shasta Dam	Jubilee Gift Galaxy	\$2,078,162
Study of Biological Data Gaps to Inform the Implementation of Chinook salmon (Nur) Reintroduction/Rematriation Upstream of Shasta Dam	U.S. Geological Survey	\$1,497,759
Yuba River Daguerre Point Dam Nature-like Fishway	Yuba County Water Agency	\$20,000,000
Juvenile Salmonid Collection System	DWR	\$6,580,000
Winnemem Wintu Tribe Participation in McCloud River Salmon Restoration Projects 2024 - 2025	Indian Cultural Organization	\$3,749,423
McCloud River Winter Run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Implementation and Monitoring	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	\$1,579,356

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
L.A. River Fish Habitat Pilot Project-Reach 8A	City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering	\$2,093,840
MWCD - Main Canal Lining Project	Montague Water Conservation District	\$1,264,668
Little Butano Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement	San Mateo Resource Conservation District	\$3,743,263
Enhancing Climate-Resilient Fish Production: A Collaboration Between Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District and California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Sacramento - Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control	\$150,000
ACID Point of Diversion Change	Sacramento River Settlement Contractors	\$200,000
Clear Lake Hitch Monitoring Plan Phase II	Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake Tribe	\$115,630
Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Conservation Propagation Program	LA Zoo	\$75,020
Clear Lake Habitat Improvement and Monitoring Project	Robinson Rancheria Citizens Business Council	\$204,561
Big Valley Subbasin Water Resources Monitoring and Data Analysis Project - Phase II	Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of the Big Valley Rancheria	\$157,288
Tuolumne River Mainstem Channel Restoration Upstream of Old La Grange Bridge Project	Turlock Irrigation District	\$2,732,065

Table B3: Nature Based Solutions – Wetlands/Meadows Restoration Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 23-24

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Monache Meadow Restoration and Engagement Project	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$998,839
Van Norden Meadow Restoration Project: Phase 2 - Lytton Fan Restoration	South Yuba River Citizens League	\$2,491,889
Boney Flat Meadow Restoration Project	Tuolumne River Trust	\$338,193
Beaver Haven Acquisition Project	Scott River Watershed Council	\$146,649
Climate-Informed Meadow Restoration to Support Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout Recovery	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$1,871,356
Shiloh Ranch Regional Park Riparian Restoration Supplemental Funding	Sonoma County Regional Parks	\$436,921

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Corral Gulch Meadow Restoration	The Watershed Research and Training Center	\$1,379,644
Ackerson Meadow Restoration Project - Phase 2 Implementation	American Rivers	\$8,974,408
California Beaver Coexistence Training and Support Program	Occidental Arts and Ecology Center	\$2,000,000
Pope/Jensen Ranch Acquisition	Western Rivers Conservancy	\$3,010,000
Sugar Creek Ranch Acquisition	Scott River Watershed Council	\$1,272,088

Table B4: Nature Based Solutions – Wildlife Corridors Restoration Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 23-24

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Arroyo Grande Stream Gage Fish Passage Improvement	Creek Lands Conservation	\$388,660
Las Piletas Ranch Habitat and Resiliency Improvement Project	The Nature Conservancy	\$594,362
Little Sur River Fish Passage Dam Removal Alternative Design Project - Pico Blanco Dam	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$337,685
Duffy Gulch Fish Passage Improvement Project	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$1,967,735
Robinson Rancheria Pomo Indians of California Lakefront Property Habitat Restoration	Robinson Rancheria Pomo Indians of California	\$522,250
I-15 Mojave Wildlife Overcrossings	California Department of Transportation	\$20,000,000

Table B5: Fisheries Restoration Grant Program Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 23-24

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
McMullen Creek Coho Stream Enhancement Project - Large Wood Implementation	California Conservation Corps	\$356,864
Neefus Gulch Fish Passage Improvement (Phase II), Earthen Dam Barrier Removal	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$1,370,805

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Cooper Mill Creek Fish Passage & Instream Habitat Improvement Project	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$797,688
WF Sproul Snip and Grip Wood Loading Project	Eel River Watershed Improvement Group (ERWIG)	\$361,009
Piercy Creek Coho Habitat Restoration Project	Eel River Watershed Improvement Group (ERWIG)	\$277,259
Upper Tryon Creek Restoration Project, Phase 2	Smith River Alliance	\$286,025
Duffy Gulch Fish Passage Improvement	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$2,185,471
Lagunitas Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Plan - 100% Designs for Phase 2 Sites (7, 8, 9, 10,11)	Marin Municipal Water District	\$599,689
Seiad Creek at Panther Gulch Coho Habitat Enhancement Project	Mid Klamath Watershed Council	\$1,570,341
Elk Creek Beaver Dam Analogue (BDA) and Wetland Habitat Enhancement Project	Smith River Alliance	\$97,700
Little Van Duzen Habitat Design Project	Eel River Watershed Improvement Group (ERWIG)	\$131,528
Freshwater Off-Channel Habitat: Phase 2 Implementation (Orchard Pond)	Redwood Community Action Agency	\$905,828
Little River Off Channel Design Project	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$772,898
Sebbas Creek Salmonid Habitat Assessment and Enhancement Planning and Design Project	Eel River Watershed Improvement Group (ERWIG)	\$532,300
Moody Creek Channel Reconfiguration and Complex Structure Design Project	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	\$381,891
Wilson Creek Instream Habitat Improvement Design Project	Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association	\$337,867
North Fork Mad River Instream Salmonid Habitat Improvement Design Project	Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association	\$455,815
Upper Savoy Creeks Salmonid Habitat Improvement Design Project	Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association	\$376,429

PROJECT TITLE	ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Salmon Creek (Humboldt Bay) Instream Salmonid Habitat Improvement Design Project	Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association	\$279,823
Lassen Tributaries Post- Dixie Fire Watershed Assessment	Sierra Institute for Community and Environment	\$456,373
FRGP 2023 Funding Opportunity	California Conservation Corps Watershed Stewards Program in partnership with AmeriCorps	\$678,656
2025 and 2026 Salmonid Restoration Conferences	Salmonid Restoration Federation	\$146,124
SRF Fish Passage Design and Engineering Field Schools	Salmonid Restoration Federation	\$81,477
Central Coast Best Management Practices Education Series and Steelhead Summit	Salmonid Restoration Federation	\$64,132
Salmon River Public Involvement in Restoration	Salmonid Restoration Federation	\$99,597
Chadd Creek Channel Restoration Planning Project	Eel River Watershed Improvement Group (ERWIG)	\$244,477

Table B6: Prop 1 Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 23-24

PROJECT TITLE	APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Green and White Sturgeon in the San Francisco Estuary: using fin ray geochemistry to reconstruct habitat use and migration throughout the Delta, and to estimate population-level impacts of harmful algal blooms	Regents of the University of California, Davis	\$889,842
Can the Sacramento Deep-Water Shipping Channel be a source of nutrients to Delta Smelt and their prey or will contaminants spoil the party? A contaminant prospective.	Regents of the University of California, Davis	\$749,984
Putah Creek Bypass for Salmon Passage at Los Rios Check Dam (LRCD)	Solano County Water Agency	\$825,000

PROJECT TITLE	APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Delta Islands and Levees	East Bay Regional Park District	\$750,000
Building on lessons learned: Broadening our understanding of causes, impacts and treatments of Thiamine deficiency in CA salmon	Regents of the University of California, Davis	\$1,200,000
Feather River Sunset Pumps Sturgeon and Salmon Passage Project	DWR	\$9,000,000
Knightsen Wetland Restoration Project	East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy	\$9,701,999
Lower Stotenburg Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Project	Smith River Alliance	\$59,376
Snell Valley Main Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition	Land Trust of Napa County	\$2,000,000
Folsom Dam Temperature Control Shutters Planning Project	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency	\$2,015,000
Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline Tidal Wetland Restoration Project	K to College dba SupplyBank.org	\$88,448
The South Fork Eel River Seasonal Fish Weir	California Trout, Inc.	\$158,000
Dillon Beach Ranch	Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria	\$4,000,000

Table B7: Prop 68 Projects Awarded by CDFW in FY 23-24

PROJECT TITLE	APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Sulphur Creek Contingency	California Trout, Inc.	\$129,544
Whipple Family Ranch Restoration Planning and Nature Based Restoration Proposal	Scott River Watershed Council	\$1,382,304
Indian Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project	Yurok Tribe	\$228,848
Tuolumne River Mainstem Channel Restoration Upstream of Old La Grange Bridge Project	Turlock Irrigation District	\$2,732,064

PROJECT TITLE	APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	AWARDED AMOUNT
Redwood Creek Estuary CAP 1135 Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study	Humboldt County	\$1,084,237
Tenmile Creek Sediment Reduction and Roadway Removal Project	Eel River Watershed Improvement Group	\$787,250
Santa Anita Creek Fish Passage Project	Earth Island Institute	\$1,614,119
South Fork Scott River Comprehensive Management Planning and Design Project	Scott River Watershed Council	\$848,403
Final Fish Passage Design for I5 and Metrolink at Trabuco Creek.	California Trout, Inc.	\$333,826

Appendix C

AVERAGE RESTORATION PERMIT PROCESSING TIMES

Table C1: Restoration Permit and SERP Concurrence Processing Times

PROJECT TITLE	INITIATED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	PROCESSING TIME
Big Canyon Coastal Restoration & Resiliency Project – Phase 3	2/16/2023	7/10/2023	144
San Francisco Garter Snake Recovery Action Plan	4/7/2023	8/14/2023	129
Red Bank Habitat Enhancement Project	5/2/2023	8/9/2023	99
Increasing Climate Resiliency through Restoration on the North Coast	6/21/2023	8/28/2023	68
Wood Creek Phase III - Felt Ranch Off-Channel Rearing Habitat Project	7/5/2023	12/12/2023	160
“Palo Alto Horizontal Levee Pilot Project	7/19/2023	12/15/2023	149
“	7/25/2023	9/29/2023	66
Pacheco State Park Pig Pond & Bear Hide Lake Dam Failure	9/25/2023	12/27/2023	93
Mount Diablo State Park Vegetation Treatment Project	12/4/2023	5/14/2024	162
Deer Island Basin Complex Tidal Wetland Restoration Project – Phase 1 Bird Ponds	2/6/2024	3/11/2024	34
Dangermond Iceplant Treatment Project	2/7/2024	6/25/2024	139
Average RMP Processing Time			113

PROJECT TITLE	INITIATED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	PROCESSING TIME
Ten Mile River Habitat Enhancement Phase 2 - South Fork	3/8/2024	4/8/2024	30
Lagunitas Creek Watershed Enhancement Project	4/18/2024	5/20/2024	30
Agricultural Road Crossing #4 & Upper Swanston Ranch Fish Passage Improvement Project	5/15/2024	6/12/2024	30
Tenmile Creek Restoration	5/23/2024	6/24/2024	30
Average CD Processing Time			30
Snake Marsh Restoration Project	11/23/2023	12/20/2023	27
Lagunitas Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Project	5/24/2023	7/6/2023	43
Inskip Diversion Dam Removal Project	6/5/2023	7/12/2023	37
Sulphur Creek Fish Passage Project	6/27/2023	8/7/2023	41
Sierra Foothills Forest Resilience Project	6/30/2023	8/7/2023	38
Taylor Ranch Arundo Removal Project Phase 4	8/14/2023	9/13/2023	30
Santa Ana River Riparian Restoration, Recreation and Protection Project	8/15/2023	9/13/2023	29
Caltrans I-15 Mojave Wildlife Overcrossings Restoration Project	8/28/2023	10/13/2023	46
Staten Island Restoration Project	10/4/2023	10/20/2023	16
Prescott Preserve Ecological Restoration Project	9/20/2023	11/8/2023	49
Santa Clara River Restoration	9/25/2023	11/21/2023	57
Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Plan (OBRAP)	10/9/2023	1/2/2024	85
Battle Creek Restoration Project – New Phase 2	12/14/2023	1/26/2024	43
Pond A4 Restoration Ecotone Project	1/16/2024	2/5/2024	20
Volcan Mountain Foundation Nature Center Montane Forest Habitat Resilience Project	9/26/2023	11/13/2023	48
East Fork Mill Creek Floodplain Restoration Project	11/7/2023	12/20/2023	43
Big Chico Creek Iron Canyon Fish Passage Project	11/13/2023	1/9/2024	57
Wadulh Lagoon Tidal Wetland Enhancement Restoration Project	12/4/2023	1/17/2024	44

PROJECT TITLE	INITIATED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	PROCESSING TIME
Tahoe Gateway Forest Health Implementation	12/7/2023	1/19/2024	43
Pescadero Marsh Restoration and Resiliency Project - North Marsh North Pond	1/18/2024	2/14/2024	27
Cannibal Island Restoration Project	2/7/2024	4/29/2024	82
Lower Klamath NWR Unit 2/3 Reroute	2/1/2024	4/11/2024	70
Prairie Creek at Elk Meadow Cabins Habitat Enhancement Project	4/26/2024	5/28/2024	32
Mattole Headwaters Instream Habitat Planning Project	5/23/2024	6/19/2024	27
Russian River Floodplain Restoration Project	2/28/2024	5/28/2024	90
Average SERP Processing Time			45
Santa Anita Fish Passage Project - 1652	6/30/2023	7/28/2023	28
Talley Farms Riparian Restoration - 1652	7/6/2023	7/24/2023	18
Hollister Hills SVRA Sycamore Basin Downstream Restoration - 1652	7/17/2023	12/6/2023	142
Quiota Creek Fish Passage Enhancement Project - 1652	8/15/2023	9/26/2023	42
Emergency Bank Stabilization and Stream Restoration Project at Wolff Vineyards - 1652	8/30/2023	10/2/2023	33
Elk Valley Road Fish Passage Project - 1652	10/2/2023	11/28/2023	57
Mud Slough/Arroyo Canal and Agatha Extension Canal Water Conveyance Enhancement Project - 1652	2/23/2024	4/2/2024	39
Arroyo Grande Creek Stream Gauge Modification Project - 1652	3/11/2024	4/29/2024	49
Monache Meadow Restoration & Engagement Project Phase 1 - 1652	5/2/2024	6/25/2024	28
Q2240402 Bradley (Ringer) Cachagua Creek Fish Passage Project - 1652	5/6/2024	6/25/2024	28
Las Encinas Crossing Replacement and Restoration Project - 1653	5/26/2023	7/28/2023	63
Mill Creek Campground Accessibility and Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project - 1653	6/14/2023	7/21/2023	37
Dry Dock Gulch Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project - 1653	6/20/2023	7/17/2023	27
Beith Creek Livestock Bridge Crossing Project - 1653	6/28/2023	7/28/2023	30

PROJECT TITLE	INITIATED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	PROCESSING TIME
Gallo CTS Ponds and Creek Enhancement - 1653	7/13/2023	7/19/2023	6
John Smith Creek Large Wood Enhancement Project - 1653	7/14/2023	8/7/2023	24
Bear Haven Creek Large Wood Enhancement Project - 1653	7/14/2023	8/7/2023	24
Hollow Tree Creek Large Wood Enhancement Project - 1653	7/14/2023	8/7/2023	24
Iron Horse Vineyards Fish Screen Implementation Project - 1653	7/17/2023	8/8/2023	22
San Benito River Restoration Project at Paicines Ranch - 1653	7/20/2023	8/4/2023	15
Lower Seiad Creek Off Channel Fish Passage Improvement Project - 1653	7/27/2023	8/25/2023	29
Cottonwood Creek Beaver Dam Analogue Project - 1653	7/27/2023	8/22/2023	26
Middle Creek Salmon Spawning Habitat Project - 1653	8/14/2023	8/30/2023	16
Lower Tryon Creek Fish Passage and Off-Channel Habitat Project - Crossing 1 - 1653	8/29/2023	9/29/2023	31
Improving the Structural Integrity of Beaver Dams and Log Jams in Mid-French Creek Project - 1653	9/5/2023	10/11/2023	36
South Fork Ten Mile River Large Wood Enhancement Project - 1653	10/12/2023	11/7/2023	26
Chamberlain Creek Restoration Project - 1653	10/17/2023	10/30/2023	13
Sisson Meadow Wetland and Pollinator Project - 1653	1/24/2024	3/8/2024	44
Patterson Creek Engineered Log Jams - 1653	2/6/2024	3/8/2024	31
Leek Springs Meadow Restoration Project - 1653	3/6/2024	4/3/2024	28
Los Banos Wildlife Area Mud Slough Unit Wetland Enhancement Project - 1653	4/4/2024	4/26/2024	22
Five Springs and Deep Creek Project - 1653	4/9/2024	5/9/2024	30
French Creek 2024 RKM 3.2-3.3 Restoration Project - 1653	4/30/2024	5/28/2024	28
Average HREA Processing Time			33

PROJECT TITLE	INITIATED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	PROCESSING TIME
Bianchi Lake Restoration	2/28/2023	4/27/2023	58
McMurray Project	5/24/2023	7/7/2023	44
First Slough Fish Passage, Floodplain Restoration, and Coastal Habitat Connectivity Project	4/14/2023	6/9/2023	56
Scott Bar Mill Creek Fish Passage Project	6/16/2023	6/21/2023	5
Beard Ranch Riparian Restoration	1/4/2023	3/3/2023	58
Mountain Meadows Creek Restoration Project	6/29/2023	8/30/2023	62
South Fork Lost River Flow and Habitat Enhancement Project	6/15/2023	7/7/2023	22
Beaver Creek Wood Loading Project	7/27/2023	10/2/2023	67
South Fork Cottaneva Creek Watershed Habitat Enhancement	8/1/2023	8/14/2023	13
Canebrake ER Footbridge and Culvert Repair Project	7/25/2023	8/2/2023	8
Tally Ho Stream Restoration	6/14/2023	8/8/2023	55
Stone Lakes Restoration Project (Serra Property)	4/21/2023	6/30/2023	70
Wood Creek Phase III	8/10/2023	10/9/2023	60
Pescadero Creek Habitat Enhancement at Pescadero Creek County Park	7/5/2023	8/14/2023	40
San Ysidro Debris Basin Modification	9/11/2023	11/13/2023	63
Sulphur Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project - 2023	6/1/2023	7/31/2023	60
South Fork Ten Mile River Salmonid Enhancement Project	2/4/2024	2/9/2024	5
Tuolumne River Mainstem Channel Restoration Upstream of Old La Grange Bridge Project	1/8/2024	3/8/2024	60
Brandon Gulch Coho Stream Habitat Enhancement Project	2/14/2024	2/16/2024	2
Butte Creek House Meadow Restoration	12/18/2023	2/16/2024	60
Merced Irrigation District Diversions and Fish Habitat Enhancement Project - Cuneo	12/21/2023	2/27/2024	68
Merced Irrigation District Diversions and Fish Habitat Enhancement Project - Cowell 1	1/5/2024	3/6/2024	61
Little Case Two Barrier Removal Project	3/13/2024	4/2/2024	20

PROJECT TITLE	INITIATED DATE	COMPLETED DATE	PROCESSING TIME
Upper Tryon Creek Restoration Project	3/7/2024	3/14/2024	7
Lagunitas Creek Watershed Enhancement Project - Phase 1	1/5/2024	2/28/2024	54
Bellota Weir Modification Project	7/25/2023	9/8/2023	45
Willits Creek Instream Restoration Project	5/15/2024	5/28/2024	13
Neefus Gulch Fish Passage Improvement (Phase II), Earthen Dam Barrier Removal	5/20/2024	5/29/2024	9
Chimney Rock Creek Watershed Habitat Restoration Project	5/30/2024	6/6/2024	7
Albion River and Tom Bell Creek Instream Habitat Enhancement Project Large Wood	6/20/2024	6/25/2024	5
Average LSAA Processing Time⁶			39

⁶ Processing times were determined based on number of days to issue a draft agreement to applicant.

Appendix D

Figure D1: Projects Initiated by County

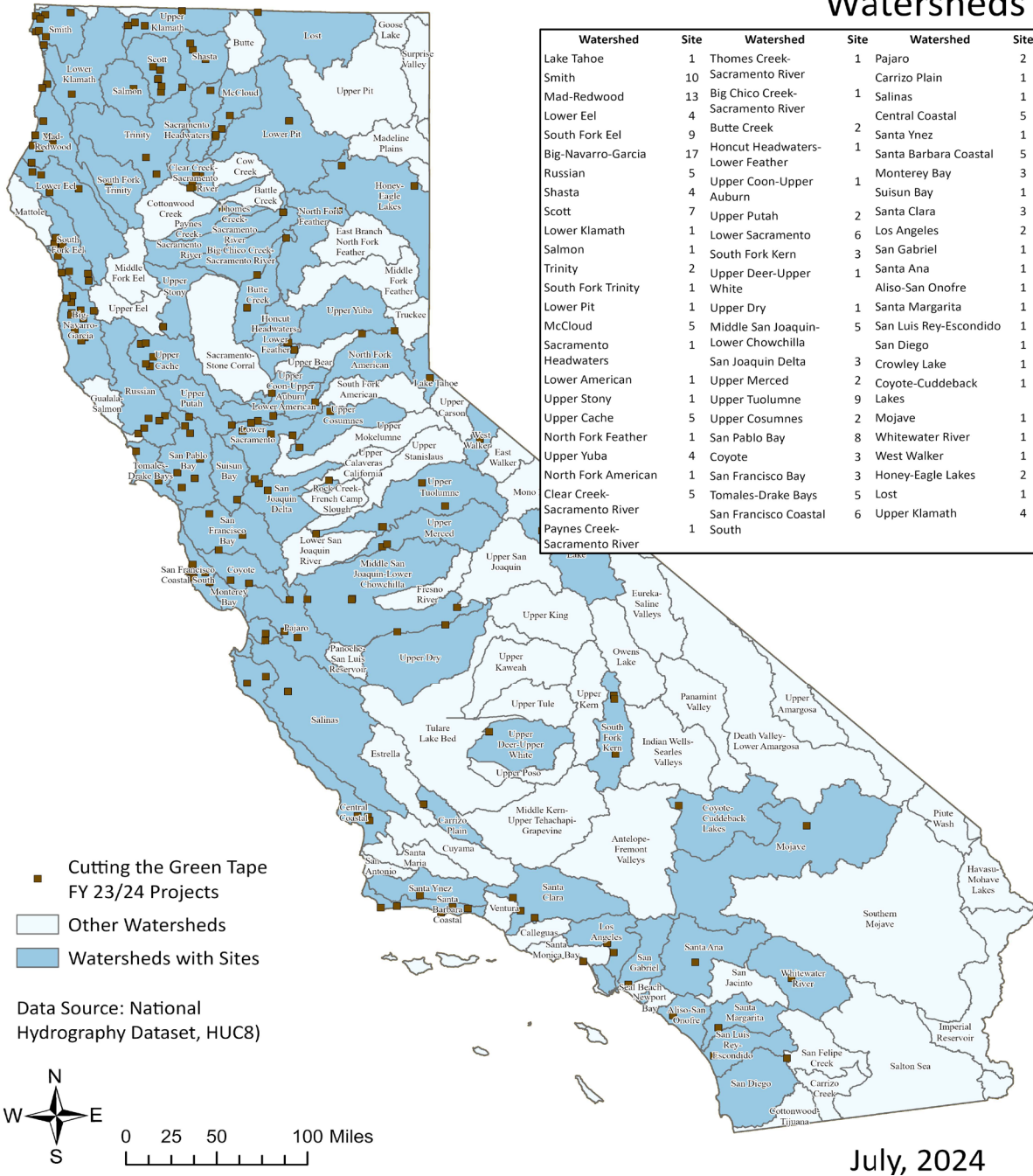


Figure D2: Projects Initiated by Watershed



Cutting the Green Tape

WATERSHED RESTORATION GRANTS BRANCH
Cutting the Green Tape - FY 23/24 Projects

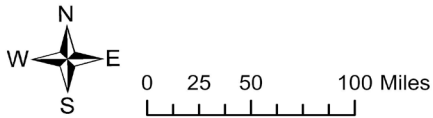


Watersheds

Watershed	Site	Watershed	Site	Watershed	Site
Lake Tahoe	1	Thomes Creek-	2	Pajaro	2
Smith	10	Sacramento River	1	Carrizo Plain	1
Mad-Redwood	13	Big Chico Creek-	1	Salinas	1
Lower Eel	4	Sacramento River	5	Central Coastal	5
South Fork Eel	9	Butte Creek	2	Santa Ynez	1
Big-Navarro-Garcia	17	Honcut Headwaters-	1	Santa Barbara Coastal	5
Russian	5	Lower Feather	3	Monterey Bay	3
Shasta	4	Upper Coon-Upper	1	Suisun Bay	1
Scott	7	Auburn	2	Santa Clara	3
Lower Klamath	1	Upper Putah	6	Los Angeles	2
Salmon	1	Lower Sacramento	3	San Gabriel	1
Trinity	2	South Fork Kern	1	Santa Ana	1
South Fork Trinity	1	White	1	Aliso-San Onofre	1
Lower Pit	1	Upper Dry	1	Santa Margarita	1
McCloud	5	Middle San Joaquin-	5	San Luis Rey-Escondido	1
Sacramento	1	Lower Chowchilla	1	San Diego	1
Headwaters	1	San Joaquin Delta	3	Crowley Lake	1
Lower American	1	Upper Merced	2	Coyote-Cuddeback	1
Upper Stony	1	Upper Tuolumne	9	Lakes	1
Upper Cache	5	Upper Cosumnes	2	Mojave	1
North Fork Feather	1	San Pablo Bay	8	Whitewater River	1
Upper Yuba	4	Coyote	3	West Walker	1
North Fork American	1	San Francisco Bay	3	Honey-Eagle Lakes	2
Clear Creek-	5	Tomales-Drake Bays	5	Lost	1
Sacramento River	1	San Francisco Coastal	6	Upper Klamath	4
Paynes Creek-	1	South			
Sacramento River					

■ Cutting the Green Tape
FY 23/24 Projects
 Other Watersheds
 Watersheds with Sites

Data Source: National Hydrography Dataset, HUC8)



July, 2024

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Watershed Restoration Grants Branch. M. Tydlaska. 20240717