

Agenda Item 3: Recommendations for Regulatory Improvements to Accelerating Restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Suisun Marsh



Whale's Mouth Subsidence Reversal and Carbon Sequestration Project on Sherman Island. Ken James/DWR

Accelerating Restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh: Progress and Next Steps

Katie Haldeman, Project Director

Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee

Restoration Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

setting **restoration** on a separate path from development



Sustainable Conservation

Expedited Permitting Toolbox

Small Projects

Currently ≤ 5 acres and 500 cumulative linear feet

- Order for Small Projects (SHRP)
- CEQA CatEx 15333 (no linear ft limit)
- Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act (HREA)

*Have coordinated conditions

Small or Larger Projects

- CDs for NOAA Programmatic BOs
- Programmatic BOs*
- Statewide Programmatic BO*
- CWA Coverage: RGP 16, NWP 27, etc.
- Federal ESA Coverage through PBOs

Larger Projects

- Statewide Restoration General Order (SRGO)*
- CEQA SRGO PEIR*
- Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP)
- Restoration Consistency Determination (CD) (For federal/state listed species)
- Restoration Management Permit (RMP)* (Up to 5 separate CDFW authorizations in a single permit)

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Accelerating Restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh

Progress and Next Steps to Cut Green Tape

Sustainable Conservation

Prepared by Sustainable Conservation in Collaboration with The Nature Conservancy

Key Report Themes and Recommendations

Informed by interviews with 27 organizations

01

Use Efficient Permitting Pathways to their Full Potential

02

Develop New Restoration Permitting Tools Where Gaps Remain

03

Convene Agencies and Interests to Resolve Delta Specific Issues

04

Expedite Creation of Advance Mitigation and Permit it Faster

Key Report Themes and Recommendations

Informed by interviews with 27 organizations

05

Lack of Sufficient Funding for Restoration and Monitoring

06

Coordinate with Local Interest and Land Use Planning

07

Conduct Early, Often, and Meaningful Tribal Engagement

08

Shrinking Federal Nexus for Compliance Under Section 7 of ESA

Key Report Themes and Recommendations

Informed by interviews with 27 organizations

01

Use Efficient Permitting Pathways to their Full Potential

Use Efficient Permitting Pathways to their Full Potential

1.1

Agency leaders actively **implement** the Secretarial **Memo on Institutionalizing Cutting Green Tape** Improvements to guide and support staff in the consistent and effective use or restoration-specific permitting tools, including for mitigation projects.

CNRA and CalEPA Secretarial Memo February 2026

1. Make existing Cutting Green Tape improvements permanent standard practice.

2. Continue to simplify funding pathways.

3. Find new ways to improve our regulatory processes.

4. Move projects forward while managing risk and temporary impacts.

CNRA and CalEPA Secretarial Memo February 2026

5. Uphold early, often, and meaningful tribal consultation.

6. Assess opportunities to create dedicated restoration teams.

7. Utilize Cutting Green Tape improvements in mitigation projects.

8. Improve coordination with other entities that have overlapping regulatory oversight or program delivery.

Key Report Themes and Recommendations

Informed by interviews with 27 organizations

03

Convene Agencies and Interests to Resolve Delta Specific Issues

Convene Agencies and Interests to Resolve Delta Specific Issues

3.1

CNRA, in collaboration with DSC and Delta Conservancy, convene agencies to resolve conflicts to enable restoration in the Delta, while also protecting special-status species, supporting climate resilience, and maintaining viable agriculture.

(*The DPIIC RSC could be a potential existing forum for these convenings).*

Moving from Progress to Action

- ✓ Use the Permitting Tools
- ✓ Act on the Recommendations
- ✓ Keep Solving Barriers Together



Permitting Tools & Resources
AcceleratingRestoration.org

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Xavier Mascareñas/California Department of Water Resources