




A Brief Introduction To CDFW's Environmental Review Programs And Mitigation Relative To CDFW Permits

Region 6 – Inland Deserts




Introduction

- * *Why Are We Here ?*
- * *Limited scope and focus on San Bernardino County*
- * *Interactive, please ask.*




CDFW Environmental Review Programs

The Environmental Review and Permitting Programs are responsible to fulfill the mission of the State to encourage the preservation, conservation and maintenance of wildlife resources under the jurisdiction and influence of the State, including the conservation, protection and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species.




The California Endangered Species Act (CESA)

- * *CESA allows CDFW to authorize project proponents to take state-listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species if certain conditions are met.*
- * *CESA emphasizes early consultation to avoid potential impacts to rare, endangered, and threatened species and to develop appropriate mitigation planning to offset project caused losses of listed species.*




California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA is California's broadest environmental law and it applies to all discretionary projects proposed to be conducted or approved by a California public agency, including private projects requiring discretionary government approval. CEQA helps to guide CDFW during issuance of permits and approval of projects.




The (abbreviated) Purpose of CEQA

- * *Disclose to the public the significant environmental effects...;*
- * *Prevent or minimize damage to the environment through development of project alternatives, mitigation measures, and mitigation monitoring;*
- * *Disclose to the public the agency decision-making process...;*
- * *Enhance public participation in the environmental review process...; and*
- * *Improve interagency coordination ...*

 

Responsibilities Under CEQA

The Department and other agencies have different responsibilities under different capacities/roles:

- * Trustee Agency
- * Lead Agency and
- * Responsible Agency

 

CDFW Responsibilities Under CEQA

The Department is a Trustee Agency, and also acts in the capacity of a Responsible Agency when issuing a California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit, or a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

 

"Mitigation" defined in Section 15370 of CEQA Guidelines

- * Avoiding the impact altogether ...;
- * Minimizing the impact ...;
- * Rectifying the impact...;
- * Reduce or eliminate the impact...; and
- * Compensating for the impact...

 

Lake and Streambed Alteration Program

- * CDFW "Streambed permits" authorized under Fish and Game Code Section 1600;
- * Requires notification to CDFW of any proposed activity that may substantially modify a river, stream, or lake; and
- * Often part of an "aquatic permits" package including a Federal Clean Water Act USACE 404 Permit and a RWQCB 401 Certification

 

Other Programs

- * Renewable Energy Program created to meet EO S-14-08 and provide 33% of CA energy from renewable resources;
- * Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) takes a broad-based ecosystem approach to planning for the protection and perpetuation of biological diversity.
- * Federal Habitat Conservation Planning (HCP and MSHCP)

 

Recap

- * A significant part of our environmental review is spent first on avoiding impacts, and finally on mitigating unavoidable impacts;
- * There are three main programs that generate mitigation in this area (CESA, CEQA, and LSA);
- * It is possible to generate a mitigation requirement from a variety of local, state and federal programs; and
- * We are currently engaged in Due Diligence Review of entities to hold lands and funds for mitigation generated under our permits.



CDFW Goals



- * Enhance coordination within planning and permitting actions;
- * Better understand the needs of other agencies;
- * Help build better partnerships between the planning community, resource agencies; and permittees (our "customers"); and
- * Better serve our public



Department Website and Regional Office Staff Contact Info



Most of this information came from the Resource Management tab on the CDFW website:
www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/envirRevPermit

Contact Information for Ontario CDFW Staff:
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Thank you for your time!