Increasing Regulatory Efficiencies: Ideas for Discussion

Develop statewide approach to facilitate local/county restoration permitting (26)

Create new efficiencies in Water Rights Permits to expedite implementation of projects that result in increased ecological stream flows and groundwater recharge (37)

Require State agencies acting as CEQA leads to follow CEQA timelines - concern is letting the process go to long (13).

Improve Coordination, Accountability and Project Delivery Within and Between Agencies (27,28,29,31,32,33,35)

- Create clear guidance on jurisdictions to reduce redundancy and designate 1 lead agency (for a given effort)
- Increase coordination between technical, compliance, and funding staff within and between Resource Agencies
- Evaluate potential for creating a separate "track" for permitting restoration work across state agencies
- Make all permit applications and status information available online
- Create dedicated funding source for restoration focused agency staff (planning, permitting, funding)
- Create regional or statewide Inter-agency collaborative compliance teams For restoration projects (Strike Teams)
- Create unified application and review process for beneficial actions (JARPA 2.0)

Create an exemption in the Coastal Act to enable vegetation management for fuel load reduction (16)

Create funding source to enable reduced fee structure (ideally free) for F&G Code 1600 Agreements for Restoration Projects (HREA and non-HREA) (20)

Elevate role and opportunity for trusted regional entities (RCDs, Conservancies, land trusts) to drive regional restoration collaboration, investments, compliance and function as permit ambassadors (30)

Fully Protected Species (21,39)

- Incorporate Fully Protected Species into CESA to reduce barriers to species recovery
- Legislation to authorize take of Fully Protected Species for restoration projects.

Improve Small Habitat Restoration Tools (2,3,7,23)

- Secure clear interpretations by CNRA and OPR on specific language in CEQA Cat Ex Class 33 that will result in the exemption being fully utilized
- Remove 500lf limit for 401/WDR & HREA (existing 5 ac limit stays in place)
- Clarify inclusion of Fully Protected Species under HREA
- Develop unified 401/WDR & HREA application

Eliminate redundancy between 401/WDR process and NPDES/SWPPP process for restoration actions that require a 401/WDR (6)

Improve Use of Existing Mechanism for to Increase Efficiencies and Project Delivery (4,18,25)

- Ensure better utilization of existing permit streamlining tools such as Voluntary Local Program and Safe Harbor
- Ensure planning efforts such as RCIS/TMDL/ NCCP/Recovery Plans more effectively "cut green tape" by incentivizing implementation actions though regulatory efficiencies
- Extend CDFW's programmatic permits for its Fisheries Restoration Grant Program to non-FRGP funded habitat restoration projects.

Ensure that new environmental and administrative pathways or policies are reviewed to avoid intentional or unintentional regulatory action that will create new barriers. (36)

Support AB2518 to indemnify private landowners for unforeseen impacts resulting from implementation of restoration or conservation actions (22) (in progress)

Develop Executive Order from Governor prioritizing restoration/conservation and directing state agencies to create efficiencies (17)

Other?

Expand Small Habitat Restoration Tools (8, 14, 43)

- Expand 5 acre limit for upland project from 5 to ? acres For CEQA Cat Ex Class 33
- Create parallel process to SWRCB and CDFW (HREA) for Coastal Commission and BCDC
- Modify language in HREA and 401/WDR to allow mitigation projects to utilize this tool

Allow state grant funded projects to utilize those funds as meeting "financial assurances" for CESA take (41)

Develop New Programmatic Permits for Large Scale Restoration & Stewardship Work (1,5,14,15, 19, 24)

- Support SWRCB's Development of Statewide Large Scale Restoration Programmatic General Order (in progress)
- Create programmatic permits for restoration/ stewardship activities carried out by the state (including coverage for State-funded projects).
- Have USFWS request federal consistency with the Coastal Act for the new USFWS Programmatic Biological Opinion for restoration projects
- Develop companion state or regional CESA compliance documents for programmatic federal ESA authorizations from NMFS and FWS for restoration work (CD or MOUs)
- Create CDFW Statewide Permit for Habitat Restoration Projects (CESA & 1600) companion to new General Order
- Create Coastal Commission/BCDC processes to create new efficiencies

Statewide CEQA Compliance for Largen Restoration Projects (9, 10,11,12)

- Amend language in CEQA Cat Ex Class 7&8 to exclude eco restoration from definition of "construction" (Action by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Resources)
- Create certified regulatory program to provide CEQA compliance for large/landscape scale conservation actions
- Develop Programmatic Compliance/Permits for State Funding Programs .
- CEQA statutory exemption for restoration and stewardship activities.