

## Chapter 8: PERMITS AND TURNAROUND TIMES

The following table provides an overview of the permitting mechanisms that are potentially required for IWRP projects. Appendix B goes into more detail describing the jurisdiction of each agency and typical project “triggers” that may result in the need for a particular permit or other approval from the permitting agencies. This is for preliminary planning purposes only. The actual permits required for each project will be determined by the D/P TAC after reviewing the Project Design & Permit Plans and attending the site visits. Table 1 summarizes the permits and approvals applicable to IWRP projects and approximately how long each permit/approval process takes.

**Table 1. Summary of Permitting Timelines for Each Type of Permitting Approval**

Agency	Permitting Mechanism	Application Turnaround Timeline (once complete application is received by the permitting agency)
US Army Corps of Engineers	Regional General Permit (RGP) 1	~60 days (includes consultation with NOAA Fisheries and Public Notice)
	RGP <sub>CDFG manual</sub> <i>(Trying to get in place this summer)</i>	~60 days (includes consultation with NOAA Fisheries and Public Notice)
	Nationwide Permit (Corps)	~2-3 months
NOAA Fisheries	RGP1/ tiering letter	30-day turnaround
	RGP <sub>CDFG manual</sub> /tiering letter <i>(under revision, trying to get in place this summer)</i>	Likely similar to RGP 1 turnaround time
	NOAA Consultation on Nationwide Permit:  Formal Consultation	135 day turnaround (~5-6 months) (Biological Opinion)
	Informal Consultation	Informal-much quicker turnaround (~5 weeks) (Letter of Concurrence)

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Agency	Permitting Mechanism	Application Turnaround Timeline (once complete application is received by the permitting agency)
US Fish and Wildlife Service	If there is a federal nexus <sup>1</sup> (i.e. a Corps permit required):	
	Informal Consultation	4-5 weeks (Letter of Concurrence)
	Formal Consultation	135 days (~4-6 months) (Biological Opinion)
RWQCB	If there is no federal nexus:	
	Habitat Conservation Plan	Undetermined (could take anywhere from 2-5 years)
	Safe Harbor Agreements	
California Dept. of Fish and Game	Individual 401 Water Quality Certifications	~60-day turnaround
	1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement	After notification is received, expect 2-4 months
	2081 (Incidental Take Permits)	After notification is received, expect 2-5 months
County of Santa Cruz	<p>For relatively simple projects requiring the following types of permits, turnaround times are estimated at approximately 3-weeks from submittal of a <u>completed</u> permit application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Grading Permit</li> <li>b) Riparian Exception</li> <li>c) County of Public Works Encroachment Permit</li> </ul>	<p>From submittal of application to issuance of grading permit ~ three weeks if CEQA is exempt and at least 2 months if CEQA is required</p> <p>From submittal of application to issuance of riparian exception ~ three weeks if CEQA is exempt and at least 2 months if CEQA is required</p> <p><i>(Depends on complexity of the project) Assume two weeks</i></p>

<sup>1</sup> A “federal nexus” is established if an activity is authorized, funded, or carried out by a federal agency. Under IWRP, most Project Leads are not federal agencies. However, if a project requires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, this constitutes a federal nexus and makes the consultation process with other federal agencies (U.S. FWS or NOAA Fisheries) much easier and usually faster.

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<b>Agency</b>	<b>Permitting Mechanism</b>	<b>Application Turnaround Timeline (once complete application is received by the permitting agency)</b>
	If a project requires either a building permit or a Coastal Development Permit (a discretionary approval that incorporates the various permits above for projects taking place in the coastal zone), the permit turnaround times will be greater since review/approvals/permits occur outside of the Planning Department.	If a Building Permit is required, project review could take up to two months.  If the project requires a Coastal Development Permit, allow at least 6 months for approvals.
<i>CEQA Review</i>	<i>If CEQA review is triggered</i>	Assume at least 2 months to complete CEQA review

*These process time approximations assume that applications are complete once they reach the agencies. Incomplete applications can result in longer timelines for issuance of permits and approvals.*

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