

## CalPBR Member Meeting (Via Zoom)

March 4, 2026

Permitting Resources  
Questions from chat and  
Q&A after presentations

Q: Are there any examples of the Forest Service joining the USFWS PBO as a late arriving agency?

**A: Stephanie Falzone:** None on the list of projects I have, but my project list is incomplete, so it's possible there's a project I don't know about.

Q: Q for Brad: how is performance of restoration projects (for RMP eligibility) assessed? Is there a minimum monitoring period to ensure projects are successful?

**A:** RMPs will include monitoring and reporting. We try to match this obligation with the size, complexity, and other needs of a project. So a PBR project in a meadow will have relatively short and simple monitoring/reporting requirements, whereas the Klamath Dams Removal project would have a much longer and more detailed strategy. We also look at grant funding cycles, in the hope that monitoring and reporting can be covered by existing grant funding.

**A: Jake Shannon 2:02 PM** I'd like to echo what Brad said here from the Water Board's perspective

Q: Rose Ledford SYRCL: Can SRGO be paired with SERP to secure 401 compliance rather than a CEQA PEIR?

**A: Stephanie Falzone, Sustainable Conservation 1:59 PM (Edited)**

SRGO can be used with the SERP (for projects that qualify), and many projects have done that.

**BHenderson 2:00 PM** SRGO permitting can be used with the SERP CEQA platform, and the RMP Permit can use the SRGO PEIR as its CEQA platform.

Q:Matt Berry 2:00 PM For the 401 Small habitat --I heard that the 500 linear ft may change to something larger?

**A: Jake Shannon 2:10 PM** Hi Matt, Expanding or removing the 500 linear feet limits of the SHRP is supposed to be on the horizon, but I do not have a timeline for when that would happen. It'll be great when that happens, but in the meantime, the SRGO/CEQA Categorical Exemption 15333 is easy to work through, and it offers benefits that the SHRP doesn't, namely, no linear feet limit and no 5 year project duration limitations.

Q:Chris Katopthis 1:55 PM Can Jake clarify what 401 can/cannot be used for RGP 16, we have been advised SHRP does not work for that permit.

**A: Jake Shannon 2:07 PM** Hi Chris, There is no link between the SHRP and a specific Army Corps 404 permit. Quite often, we see NWP 27 used, but RGP 16 could be used as well. Feel free to reach out directly if you'd like to talk about your experience.

**A: Stephanie Falzone:** Brad let us know last fall that the Corps said that the State Water Board waived their Clean Water Act 401 authority for RGP 16 due to inaction, and you can see that on the Sac District RGP page. Under RGP 16 it says, "CWA 401 Water Quality Certification

(California) - Waived". <https://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/General-Permits/>

So, the Central Valley RWQCB can still assert authority under Porter Cologne and regulate RGP 16 activities under WDRs, including the SRGO if the project qualifies. However, they cannot issue an NOA under the SHRP for projects that use RGP 16, since the SHRP doesn't include WDRs.

**Q:Karen Jamgochian** 2:18 PM For Jennifer: Do you still need to get an Army Corps 404 permit for USFS projects?

**A: jenniferwomack** 2:21 PM Karen - please excuse some of my ignorance with this response but as I understand it with our coordination with the Waterboard we will be applying for NP27 with the Army Corp, enrolling under SRGO with the waterboard for the CEQA compliance, then notifying the EPA of NP27 use. Then the waterboard will be notified of implementation commencement.

**Side note: Jake Shannon:** Another note to add (that I should've made a slide for) is that, when quantifying the project size for a BDA project, you do not need to include the length of the inundated areas that will result from the BDAs. We're interested in the temporary disturbance areas associated with constructing the BDAs, not the entire length of the treatment reach being restored. That typically allows quite a few BDAs to fit into 500 linear feet.

**Q: Stephanie Falzone, Sustainable Conservation** 2:21 PM Jake, is that large wood project size calculator still good to use? I see the Wood for Salmon Working Group website that was hosting it is under construction.

**A: Jake:** yes, working on one that's more BDA specific.

**Q: Jen Pauldi:**How do we gain agency support when there are many different treatments? As relates to mitigation banking.

**A: jake:** quantifying benefits for mitigation banking are more strict/stringent than straight restoration

**A: Brad:** CDFW has its own mitigation banking program. In short, it's possible, needs uplift over and above mitigation required

**Q: Brock:** beneficial biomass budget. Pbr is on the demand side of biomass, supply side comes through calfire. CGT Opportunity? Cal VTP water lake protection zones, when doing non commercial limbing and thinning they put a 50'-100' buffer, is there an opportunity to loosen the restrictions when not doing commercial timber harvesting, but doing forest thinning to reduce wildfire severity.

**A: Brad:** yes, the fuels reduction projects should qualify for serp

**Q: brian clark:** doing outreach to pvt landowners re: process based restoration. Theme: LO concerned about fire but not comfortable applying for a permit and bringing in regulatory agencies. Non commercial thinning and limbing, private projects. What should I anticipate being responsible for from a regulatory perspective

**A: brock:** if staying out of the waterways, (ie not 401 or 1600 triggering) will a registered forester be required? Onsite disposal/reuse, i don't believe there's any private non commercial regulatory requirement if it's self funded. Limits on DBH, working in nesting bird windows, Nepa nexus? O

**A: brad:** safe harbor agreement through the state or feds. It's a way to provide protection to land owners for regulatory actions related to covered species,

**Q: Lia 2:19 PM** is there an exemption for wetland delineation for RWQCB permits?

**A: Jake Shannon 2:33 PM** Hi Lia, There may be some regional variability among the Regional Water Boards on this, so my response really only applies to the North Coast Region. The need for a wetland delineation for a restoration project is dependent on what actions and what outcomes are occurring in wetlands/potential wetlands. For example, if a project is temporarily impacting wetlands while restoring them (or other important water/habitat resources) we would not require a delineation. However, if a restoration project is spoiling excavated materials in an area that may have wetlands, we'll need a delineation to determine if wetlands would be impacted by "non-restoration" actions and those impacts may need to be mitigated for. Happy to help dig into this more here or one-on-one.

**Q: Paige:** lead agency, finding, securing, who's the right choice?

**A: Brad:** Lead Agency could be a city, county, special district state agency, must have the greatest discretion, who goes first, via permit, via funding. It all depends, feel free to reach out to cutting the green tape. It's been a problem, it's getting better, the tools are getting better, See 15378 section of CEQA guidelines. It's a long term problem

**A: jake:** historically, a hot potato, a lot of work. Now with the tools we have now, the agency issuing one of the permits discussed today, they're likely going to be the lead agency. w/ ARGO and PEIR, developed that any lead agency could use, but because it's so closely tied with RWQB, it almost always falls on the RWQB. with SERP, lots of agencies can step up to be lead.

**Q Brian Clark 2:55 PM** Jake- does the state/regional Water Quality Board have any funding momentum/cost-shares to leverage momentum to work with private landowners that have sediment related water quality issues?

**A: Jen Paludi 2:57 PM** EQIP is an NRCS (fed) program... reimbursement of 50-75% costs.

**Q:** Related to RGP 16 and not being able to use it with the SHRP

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So, the Central Valley RWQCB can still assert authority under Porter Cologne and regulate RGP 16 activities under WDRs, including the SRGO if the project qualifies. However, they cannot issue an NOA under the SHRP for projects that use RGP 16, since the SHRP doesn't include WDRs. I had forgotten about this situation.

## **Select links from presentations:**

**Stephanie Falzone, Sustainable Conservation** 2:44 PM

### **Accelerating Restoration links**

My email: [sfalzone@suscon.org](mailto:sfalzone@suscon.org)

To email all three of us on the team at once, and for technical assistance requests:

[restoration@suscon.org](mailto:restoration@suscon.org)

- AB 2045 Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260AB2045](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2045)
- USFWS Statewide Restoration Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO)  
<https://acceleratingrestoration.org/permits/usfws-restoration-programmatic-biological-opinion/>
- We will post a restoration-related subset of new and updated Army Corps Nationwide Permits here: <https://acceleratingrestoration.org/find-permits/by-agency/>
- AR website <https://acceleratingrestoration.org/>
- Sac Basin Permitting Roadmap <https://acceleratingrestoration.org/find-permits/sacramento-river-basin-roadmap/>
- Example projects by type: <https://acceleratingrestoration.org/example-projects/by-type/>
- Protection Measures Selection Tool: <https://tool.acceleratingrestoration.org/>
- Newsletter sign up <https://acceleratingrestoration.org/resources/subscribe/>
- National Wetlands Inventory: <https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>

### **Brad Henderson**

Link to cutting the green tape Guide

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=240015&inline>

Cutting Green Tape website <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape>

New statewide direction on accelerating restoration! <https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Initiatives/Green-Tape/CGT-Secretarial-Memo-20260227.pdf>

### **Announcements:**

**Brian Clark** 2:43 PM

<https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8716.pdf>

Planning & Permitting Fuel-Reduction on Private Lands in CA by UCANR

### **cooper/audrey in slo**

SLO Beaver fest April 11

Movie screening: Hopper march 14

Bda workshop march 12

Pixar movie Hopper release march 6

**Tabor Herds:** bio char workshops coming up. [biocharcoalition.org](http://biocharcoalition.org) → events. Reachout and we'll come to you.

<u>Regional Water Board</u>	<u>Contact</u>
<b>Region 1 - North Coast</b>	Jake Shannon: Jacob.Shannon@waterboards.ca.gov
<b>Region 2 - San Francisco Bay</b>	Liz Morrison: Elizabeth.Morrison@waterboards.ca.gov
<b>Region 3 - Central Coast</b>	Phil Hammer: Phillip.Hammer@waterboards.ca.gov
<b>Region 4 - Los Angeles</b>	Celine Gallon: Celine.Gallon@waterboards.ca.gov
<b>Region 5 - Central Valley</b>	Lynn Coster: Lynn.Coster@waterboards.ca.gov
	Butte, Glenn, Lassen portions, Modoc portions, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou portions, and Tehama
	Stephanie Tadlock Stephanie: Tadlock@waterboards.ca.gov
	Alameda portions, Alpine portions, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa portions, Colusa, El Dorado portions, Lake portions, Napa portions, Nevada portions, Placer portions, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra portions, Solano portions, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba
	Matt Scroggins: Matt.Scroggins@waterboards.ca.gov
	Fresno, Kern portions, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Tulare, and San Benito
<b>Region 6 - Lahontan</b>	Liz van Diepen: Elizabeth.vanDiepen@waterboards.ca.gov
<b>Region 7 - Colorado River Basin</b>	Kai Dunn: Kai.Dunn@waterboards.ca.gov
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