

**California Wetlands Portal**  
**Fact Sheet**  
**San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board**

1. What is the California Wetlands Portal?  
(aka Wetland Tracker)

Since 2007, applicants applying for 401 certification whose impacts directly affect wetlands and streams have been required to submit a Wetland Tracker form for projects that require monitoring. Information is collected and entered into SFEI's Wetland Tracker GIS database.

In 2009, a separate shorter form was developed for projects with *temporary impacts* to streams. In 2010, the Wetland Tracker database was renamed the California Wetlands Portal and the former 'Wetland Tracker' forms have been renamed the "Wetland and Riparian Project Form and Habitat Maps" (long form) and the "Riparian Repair and Maintenance Project Form and Habitat Map" (short form). The Water Board will continue to informally use and recognize the Wetland Tracker nomenclature when it is referred to by that name—the two terms are synonymous.

The Applicant can find these forms and instructions for use at:  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/certs.shtml>. All applicants are required to use the Wetland and Riparian Project Form and Habitat Maps (long form) or the Riparian Repair and Maintenance Project Form and Habitat Map (short form) to provide project information describing impacts and mitigation measures within 14 days from the date of the certification unless otherwise specified in the certification. The completed forms can be submitted electronically to [habitatdata@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:habitatdata@waterboards.ca.gov) or it can be submitted as a hard copy to the Water Board at 1515 Clay St. Suite 1400 Oakland, CA 94612-1242 to the attention of California Wetlands Portal.

2. Which form to use? Short vs. Long form (short for projects with no long-term *permanent* impacts and no increase or decrease in project footprint).

**California Wetlands Checklist: Long v. Short form.**

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Use SHORT* Form?</b>	<b>Use LONG Form?</b>
Riparian Habitat	Yes	Yes
Wetland Habitat	No**	Yes
Temporary Impacts	Yes	No
Permanent Impacts	No	Yes
Net Gain (Restoration or Creation)	No	Yes
Change in Project Footprint	No	Yes

\* The short form is intended only for **temporary impacts** and **no net loss**.

\*\* It is sometimes sensible to allow wetland habitats to use the short form, such as when seeps will be impacted along a creek temporarily and will be replaced after impacted with no net loss or gain (i.e., enhanced). In those cases, 401 staff can allow the applicant to use the short form.

If you have any questions, please contact [habitatdata@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:habitatdata@waterboards.ca.gov).