



CAL/ EPA Consolidated Permit Fact Sheet

What is Consolidated Permitting?

The consolidated permit process is set forth in the CA Public Resources Code § 71020 et seq., and in the CA Code of Regulations, Title 27 §10200 et seq.

“A permit applicant may request the Secretary to designate a consolidated permit agency to administer the processing and issuance of a consolidated permit.”

Consolidated Permitting is a process whereby a permit applicant can request to have all of their state environmental permits coordinated by one agency.

This can make the process easier by providing a single point of contact for multiple permits, and by helping to identify needed permits earlier in the process. It may also reduce the need to provide duplicate information to various permitting agencies.

California has an environmental permit consolidation process in statute that directs Cal/EPA to coordinate permitting at the request of an applicant.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code § 71020: Cal/EPA has established an administrative process which may be used, at the request of a permit applicant to designate a consolidated permit agency for a project.”

§ 71021: a permit applicant may request the Secretary to designate a consolidated permit agency to administer the processing and issuance of a consolidated permit.

Unfortunately, it is not within the power of Cal/EPA to bring local agencies into the consolidated permitting process.

How does the process work?

1. **Pre-meeting.** Applicant meets with the Cal/EPA consolidated permit team to discuss proposed project and existing permit process.
2. **Submission.** Applicant submits a consolidated permit notification to the Secretary of Cal/EPA, requesting a consolidated permit for the project.
3. **Designation.** Cal/EPA Secretary reviews the notification and designates a consolidated permit agency within 30 days of receipt of a complete notification.
4. **Notification and Meeting.** Consolidated Permit Agency will notify applicant of designation within five days and schedule the pre-permit meeting
5. **Pre-permit meeting.** Within 15 days, all permitting agencies will meet with applicant. Consolidated Permit agency gives ALL information needed to complete permits to each participating agency and applicant and agrees upon an “Action Plan” which includes time tables for processing by each participating agency. Depending on project complexity, application processing may take several weeks to several months.
6. **Submission.** Permit applications are submitted to the agencies, and each agency has 30 days to determine if it is complete or notify the applicant if incomplete.
7. **Processing and Follow-up.** Participating agencies analyze submitted applications and submitted data for compliance with subject regulations. In the course of review, the participating agencies may contact the applicant for additional information to further clarify or supplement the information originally submitted. Participating agencies use the Action Plan to guide their review period.
8. **Notification.** Must notify applicant and consolidated agency within 30 days from identifying issue.
9. **Completion/ Permit Issuance.** Participating agencies send copies of all decisions/ permits to consolidated agency. Once received, the Consolidated Permit Agency compiles all permits within 30 days of receiving the permits from participating agencies.

How do I apply for a consolidated permit?

Ongoing responsibilities of Consolidated Permit Agency


- Responsible for coordinating permit review application
- Responsible for processing renewal and modification requests and amending consolidated permit as necessary
- Track statutory/regulatory time limits
- Improve efficiency

You can initiate the consolidated permit process by sending a notification to the Secretary of Cal/EPA. The notification must include:


- (a) a description of the project to include: (1) name of the applicant; (2) name of the business; (3) location of the facility; (4) description of the activities being permitted at the facility; and (5) applicable SIC codes;
- (b) a preliminary list of environmental permits that may be required for the project;
- (c) a list of any additional permits pursuant to Section 71011(h) of the Public Resources Code;
- (d) the identity of any public agency that has been designated a lead agency for the purpose of the Permit Streamlining Act;
- (e) the identity of any public agency that has been designated a lead agency for the purpose of the California Environmental Quality Act;
- (f) the name of the environmental agency that you believe to have the greatest overall jurisdiction for the project;
- (g) if applicable, the names of any environmental agencies that the applicant does not want to be the consolidated permit agency;
- (h) if applicable, the name of the environmental agency that the applicant wants to be the consolidated permit agency;
- (i) any findings from a completed Risk Assessment (if one has been done);
- (j) any additional information deemed necessary by the Secretary in the pre-permit meeting.

Example: Process for a Dairy Biodigester Applicant


Pre-Meeting and Submission

- Meet with Biodigester permitting team (Cal/EPA, CalRecycle, CDFA)
 - Submit consolidated permit request to Cal/EPA Secretary
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Review & Designation of Consolidated Permit Agency by Cal/EPA

- Secretary designates Consolidated Permit Agency
 - Within 5 days: Applicant and all Permit agencies notified
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Pre-Application Meeting

- Get all information needed to submit permit applications
 - Participating agencies to agree upon time table for application review.
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Prepare & Submit Permit Application

- Respond to questions to permit applicant: Coordinated by Consolidated Permit Agency
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Application Reviewed and Permit Issued

- Get all information needed to submit permit applications and each participating agency.
- Review time table for application, review and revise as necessary.
- Consolidated Permit Agency coordinates and monitors progress during processing period.
- Within 30 days of receiving all permits from each participating agency, Consolidated Permit Agency combines each permit into a consolidated permit and issues the consolidated permit to the applicant.