

California Conservation and Mitigation Banking Program (USA)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Since California's first conservation bank in 1995, CDFW has approved 97 banks covering about 73,948 acres (2024), generating 1,406.9 new credits in the latest reporting year alone — though independent research finds approvals average 761-1,740 days against a 270-day legal deadli

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	3/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	1/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-07-10

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) — accessed 2026-07-10

CDFW — Conservation and Mitigation Banking Program Overview — accessed 2026-07-10

CDFW — 2024 Report to the Legislature (PDF) — accessed 2026-07-10

Environmental Policy Innovation Center — Bottlenecks and Solutions to Accelerate Conservation Bank Approvals — accessed 2026-07-10

NOAA Fisheries — Mitigation Banks, Conservation Banks, and In-Lieu Fee Programs (West Coast) — accessed 2026-07-10

Cite this — Evidoria. *California Conservation and Mitigation Banking Program (USA)*. Persistent ID: 20421354-6eef-4e45-9651-080676d7c1cb.