



MITIGATION BANKING – AN EFFICIENT PRIVATE SECTOR SOLUTION TO FAST TRACK THE REBUILDING OF AMERICA’S INFRASTRUCTURE

Relying on private investment, mitigation banks play an essential role advancing the political agenda to rebuild US infrastructure. The Mitigation Banking industry creates jobs for compensatory mitigation projects that have proven to cut permitting times in half for development. The “credits” the Mitigation Banking industry generates are an efficient and effective private sector tool for real estate and public infrastructure developers to quickly navigate the permitting process necessary for our construction economy.

WHY CARE ABOUT MITIGATION BANKING?

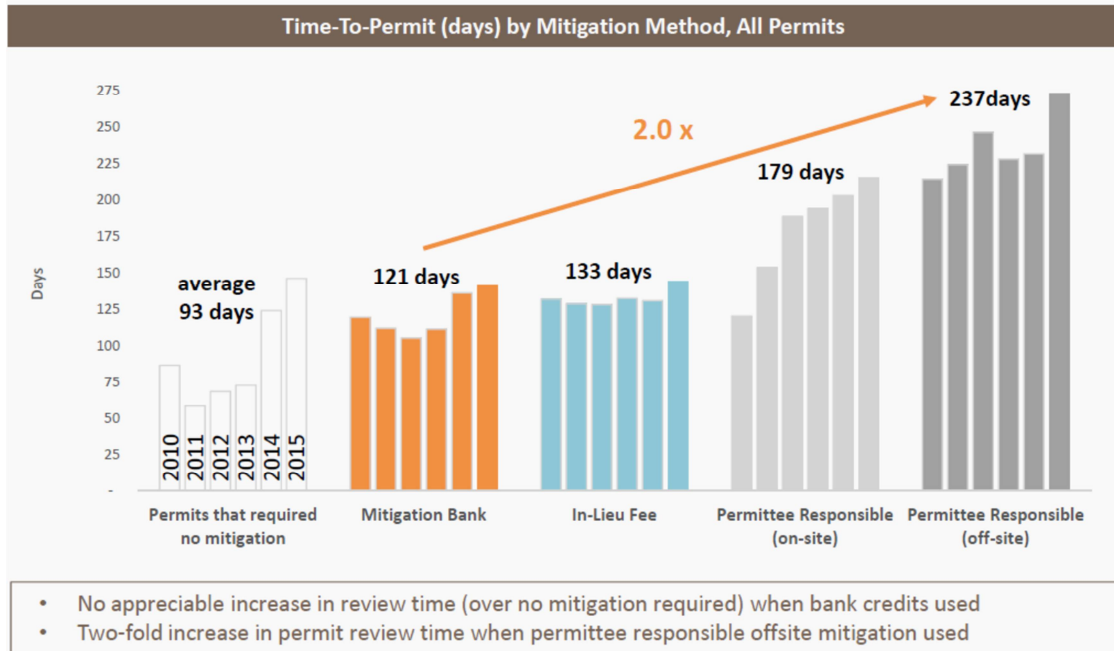
The Mitigation Banking industry is an important part of a multi-billion dollar US industry whereby private capital is put to work to restore privately owned and ecologically significant (but partially degraded) tracts of land that the landowner and investors work to restore and maintain in perpetuity (commonly known as “Mitigation Banks”). In exchange for creating the Mitigation Banks, mitigation “credits” are awarded based on the ecological value of restoration efforts. Private and public developers within the Mitigation Bank’s service area may then purchase these credits to timely offset unavoidable adverse impacts of their own developments. Mitigation Bank credits are the most ecologically successful, financially assured and business-friendly off set mechanism available to public and private infrastructure developers today. Accordingly, as the incoming administration and Congress move to rebuild America’s infrastructure, Mitigation Banks will be a fundamental tool to implement projects efficiently.

✓ Job Creation: Good jobs restoring important environments

Mitigation Banking drives the environmental restoration industry, which generates approximately \$24.5 billion in economic input annually to the US economy. It directly employs approximately 126,000 workers while supporting an additional 95,000 jobs – good jobs that people can be proud of with living wages in rural areas of the country where job satisfaction is often low and workforce development is scarce.

✓ Efficient: Permitting time *cut in half* and liability transferred

Mitigation credits mean regulatory certainty and expediency for infrastructure projects. Developers who elect to purchase mitigation credits, rather than pursue their own compensatory mitigation, cut their permitting times in half. Upon the purchase of credits, the developer completely transfers any off-set liability to the Mitigation Bank, providing immediate certainty that they have met the requirements of their permit, and enabling them to bring infrastructure projects to completion on time and within budget. The developer who pursues their own compensatory mitigation will have a continuing liability of at least five years with a great deal of uncertainty that they will be successful and able to meet their permit requirements.



✓ **Common Sense Approach: Continues the conservation legacy of President George H.W. Bush**

Recognizing the value of America’s natural shorelines and waterways, President George H.W. Bush established the national policy of “No Net Loss” of wetlands in 1989. Wetlands protect coastal communities, modulate flows in our rivers and streams, and cleanse our waters of pollutants. Without robust wetlands, our country’s communities and infrastructure are left exposed to environmental degradation and the harsh effects of natural disasters. Mitigation banking funnels private capital resources, rather than that of government, into protecting the US’ greatest natural resources while at the same time accelerating development of critical infrastructure in our communities.

CALL TO ACTION

Supporting federal policies that prioritize private investment, create jobs and enable predictable permitting to encourage development of the country’s infrastructure; specifically, perpetuating and expanding the Mitigation Banking credit system under federal law. Ensuring those offering other mitigation solutions are held to equally high standards so that private investment is incentivized and the Mitigation Banking industry can continue to efficiently aid public and private sector development of the nation’s infrastructure.