



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21008 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region, Redding Office
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205
Redding, CA 96002

Date: 16 May 2025

State Clearinghouse Number:

2009112006

Project Title:

Howard Slough Water Control Structure Replacement Project (WDID 5A04CR00372)

Project Location - Specific:

The project coordinates are as follows: Latitude: 39.444606° and Longitude: -121.885434°

Project Location - County:

Butte County

Name of Applicant:

Tim Hermansen
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
9256 Highway 162
Butte City, CA 95920

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of the project is to enhance water delivery and habitat management capabilities to several thousand acres of managed wetland habitat and rice agriculture within the Howard Slough Unit and nearby private properties. Improvements to water delivery and management capabilities will benefit wetland habitat by improving Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area staff's ability to efficiently deliver and distribute water within the unit at certain times of year. This will enhance the staff's ability to manage the growth of moist-soil seed-bearing plant species fed upon in the fall/winter by migratory waterfowl, and create seasonal habitat for migratory birds, shorebirds, and other special status species.

NICHOLAS AVDIS, CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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The project will replace an existing 72-inch diameter concrete culvert and associated concrete headwall located in a road crossing of Howard Slough with three 40-foot long, 48-inch diameter high density polyethylene (HDPE) culverts. Each of the three culverts will include two pre-cast concrete risers on the upstream end of the culvert and on the downstream end. These will be installed in the existing road crossing at the water control structure (WCS) location to allow for management of water flows through the WCS. Limited riprap will be placed at the inlet and outlet of the culverts to stabilize the structure and protect it from erosion. Riprap will be embedded in the slough channel to ensure it will sit at approximately the same elevation as the existing grade upstream and downstream of the replaced structure.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

This is to advise that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, as a Responsible Agency, has approved the above-described project on 9 May 2025 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board considered the Initial Study/Negative Declaration as prepared by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
2. The Project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
3. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.
4. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

The Initial Study/Negative Declaration is available to the general public at:
Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area Headquarters, 9256 Highway 162, Butte City, CA 92920.

The record of project approval is available to the general public at: [Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Adopted Orders Web page](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/401_wq_certs/)
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/401_wq_certs/).

State Responsible Agency Contact Person:

Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist
Chief Storm Water and Water Quality Certification Unit
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Redding Branch Office
(530) 224-2437

Lynn Coster
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Water Boards

Lynn Coster
Senior Environmental Scientist
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Redding

cc: Tim Hermansen, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Butte City
Christy Morgan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Nicholas Torrez, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Vallejo