

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego CA 92123
Contact: Christian Romberger
Email: Christian.romberger@wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: (562) 292-6365



Lead Agency

San Diego County
5510 Overland Avenue, Ste 310
Contact: Robert Hingtgen
Phone: (619) 323-8701

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022010063

Project Title: Santa Margarita River Bridge Replacement and Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project
(Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-SDO-32088-R5)

Project Location (San Diego County): The project is located at Sandia Creek Drive as it crosses Santa Margarita River, near Fallbrook, in the County of San Diego; approximate coordinates 33.414383, -117.241000.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has amended Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-SDO-32088-R5, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, to the project Applicant, California Trout, Inc. as represented by Dr. Sandra Jacobson.

This project will remove and replace a concrete box culvert crossing that is a fish passage barrier for southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) on Santa Margarita River and revegetation of the project site with native plant species. The amended Streambed Alteration Agreement addresses changes to the project orientation and incorporates additional measures for the protection of biological resources due to these changes.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on August 28, 2025 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project **will not** have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. CDFW considered the **Mitigated Negative Declaration** prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures **were** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan **was** adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations **was not** adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings **were not** made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

Signature:

Date: 8/28/2025

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Tang".

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Victoria Tang, Environmental Program Manager

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Date Received for filing at LCI: