

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bay Delta Region
2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
Contact: Karen Taylor
Email: Karen.Taylor@wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: 707-287-2144



Lead Agency

California Department of Transportation
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland CA 94612
Contact: Stefan Galvez
Email: Setphan.Galvez@dot.ca.gov
Phone: (510) 286-5506

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2014102047

Project Title:

Estero Americano Coastal Preserve Mitigation Project (EA-20950) (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS MAN-41139-R3)

Project Location (Marin):

The project is located on the Estero Americano Coastal Preserve, approximately 0.3 miles east of the Pacific Ocean coastline between State Route (SR) -1 and the Estero Americano, approximately 2 miles southeast of Bodega Bay. The 68.8-acre study area is located at 2000 Estero Lane (APN: 100-160-002 and 13-040-030) in Sonoma County. Latitude 38.30387, Longitude -122.006822. Tidal marsh habitat occurs along Estero Americano in the southern portion of project area.

Project Description:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-MAN-41139-R3), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, the project Applicant, California Department of Transportation.

The proposed Project will provide compensatory mitigation for the loss of riparian habitat resulting from the Estero Americano Creek Bridge Replacement project (Bridge Project) (Caltrans EA 04-20950) on State Route (SR) 1 (LSAA:1600-2015-0255-03). Per the Estero Americano Creek Bridge Replacement Offsite Wetland and Riparian Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (Offsite MMP; August 2017), the Bridge Project was required to mitigate permanent impacts to riparian habitat at a 3:1 ratio with 1.1 acres to be mitigated onsite and 2.2 acres to be mitigated at the Estero Americano Coastal Preserve (Preserve). The onsite riparian mitigation consisted of willow restoration. The onsite mitigation of 1.1 acres was completed in 2023.

As detailed in the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) prepared by WRA (2023) the proposed riparian willow habitat mitigation at the Preserve includes 1.97 acres of re-establishment, 0.10 acres of rehabilitation, and 1.55 acres of enhancement; for a total of 3.62 acres. These activities would include non-native species removal, native vegetation seeding and willow planting, and grading to reduce side slope and bed erosion.

The 2.2 acres of riparian restoration at the Preserve also fulfills riparian mitigation requirements for the Bridge Project's Coastal Development Permit (CDP; Permit 2-15-1354) issued by the California Coastal Commission (CCC) and the 401 Water Quality Certification (401 Cert) issued by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB; CW-818531). Although the Bridge Project has riparian mitigation requirements to fulfill the CDFW LSAA, CCC CDP, and RWQCB 401 Cert, it also has wetland mitigation requirements per the CCC

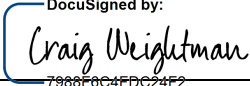
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CDP, RWQCB 401 Cert, and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Nationwide 404 permit (404). Per the Bridge Project's Offsite MMP, the CDP required 1.61 acres, the 401 Cert required 1.04 acres, and the 404 required 0.360 acres of wetland mitigation. The onsite location mitigated 0.65 acres of wetland restoration and creation, which fully mitigated all of the ACOE's requirements. The remaining 0.39 acres of wetland mitigation required by the RWQCB 401 and 0.96 acres of wetland mitigation required by the CCC CDP will be mitigated at the Preserve. Per the HMMP, the proposed coastal wetland mitigation includes 0.97 acres of establishment, 0.61 acres of rehabilitation, and 0.35 acres of enhancement; for a total of 1.93 acres. These activities would include native vegetation seeding and planting, grading to intercept shallow groundwater to expand wetland community, reduce erosion and increase the wetland fringe surrounding a pond. Approximately 0.11 acres of riparian vegetation will be temporarily impacted. This includes 10 Monterey cypress trees. This area will be replanted with willows.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on February 19, 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.

DocuSigned by:

 Signature: _____ Date: 5/19/2025
 Craig Weightman, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____