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California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Restoration Grant Program
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

SCH No.: 2024100483
Project title: The 2024 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program's Mitigated Negative Declaration Project

Mitigated Negative Declaration Adoption
(Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Article 6, Section 15074)

These projects use grant funds approved by the California Legislature to initiate activities that are designed to restore salmon and steelhead habitat in coastal streams and watersheds. Years of poor land management within California's watersheds, combined with natural events have altered native habitats. These impacts have limited the ability of fish to survive and successfully reproduce in coastal streams that historically produced large populations of salmon and steelhead. These proposed projects are designed to increase populations of wild anadromous fish in coastal streams by restoring their habitat.

The projects objectives are to improve spawning success for adult salmon and steelhead as well as to increase survival for eggs, embryos, and rearing juvenile salmonids. Bank erosion and riparian enhancement treatments improve spawning conditions and embryo survival by reducing sediment yield to streams. Upslope road decommissioning or upgrading also help address these widespread problems. The replacement of migration barriers at stream crossings with bridges or natural stream bottom culverts allow adult and juvenile salmonids access to additional spawning and rearing habitats. The installation of instream habitat improvement structures recruit and sort spawning gravel for adult salmon and steelhead and create summer rearing pool and over-wintering habitat for juveniles.

Location and custodian of the mitigated negative declaration (MND) documents:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife,
Fisheries Restoration Grant Program
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Attention: Timothy Chorey
Work Mobile: (916) 838-0760
Fax: (916) 327-8854

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Determination:
Initial study, mitigation measures, and MND documents have been prepared by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP). Based on this study, it is determined these proposed actions with the incorporation of the identified mitigation measures will not have a significant (negative) effect on the environment for the following reasons:

The Finding:
Although these projects may have the potential to cause minor short-term impacts on soil, vegetation, wildlife, water quality, and aquatic life, the measures that shall be incorporated into the project will diminish impacts to insignificant level (see initial study and environmental checklist).

Basis for the Finding:
Based on the initial study, it was determined that there would not be significant adverse environmental effects resulting from implementing the proposed project. In addition, these projects are expected to achieve a net benefit to the environment by enhancing and maintaining quality salmonid spawning and rearing habitat in the eleven-county project area.

The CDFW finds that implementing these proposed projects will not have a significant environmental impact.

This MND consists of all of the following:

- Introduction - Project Description and Background Information
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Explanation of Response to Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Appendix A.
    - Table of Non-physical and Action Items
    - State-wide Action Items Location Maps
- Appendix B. Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program For the 2024 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program’s Mitigated Negative Declaration Project
- Appendix C. Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities
- Appendix D. Procedure for the Programmatic Evaluation of Paleontological Resources for the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program
- Appendix E. Procedure for the Programmatic Evaluation of Archaeological Resources for the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program

Minor Revision in the Final MND relative to Draft MND:
1732323 Walker Creek Process-Based Restoration Demonstration Project and all associated activities were removed from evaluation on this MND.

Minor Revision to Appendix B in Final MND relative to Draft MND—Western Burrowing Owl:
On October 10, 2024, the California Fish and Game Commission voted to designate western burrowing owl (BUOW) as a candidate species under the

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California Endangered Species Act. Accordingly, relative to the draft MND, CDFW added a new section in the final MND on BUOW (Appendix B, IV. Biological Resources, B. Specific Measures for Endangered, Rare, or Threatened Species That Could Occur at Specific Work Sites). CDFW does not expect Project activities to cause take of BUOW, and CDFW finds that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant impact to BUOW or potential BUOW habitat.

Monitoring Plan:
Project monitoring is considered an important element in the activity development and implementation process. The monitoring process provides performance control during the activity and helps provide a measure of the benefits, insight, and guidance for future projects.

Activity during implementation is overseen by a CDFW grant manager and is geared to ensure that all regulatory environmental issues are strictly addressed including air, water, and avoiding impacts to sensitive plant and animal species. During implementation, activities are carefully monitored to make sure plans are followed and that the correct materials and techniques are used so that the objectives of the activities are met while protecting the environment.

Post-activity monitoring begins with information collected immediately after the activity is completed and documents whether the project was completed as designed and according the grant specifications. This information includes documenting the exact location where the activity has occurred with reference points and survey marks. Final project reports should contain "as-built" descriptions with design drawings and photographs (both before and after the activity) are collected. A complete activity description including the objectives of the activity must be retained.

The next phase of post-activity monitoring is designed to assess the efficacy of the project and shall occur within one to three years after an action item is complete. The CDFW shall randomly select 10 percent of the action items within each project work type for effectiveness/validation monitoring. A random sample, stratified by project type and region, shall be chosen from the pool of new restoration projects approved for funding each year. This evaluation shall be recorded on standard project evaluation forms. Effectiveness monitoring addresses the physical response associated with an activity, while validation monitoring evaluates fish response to the project. Pre-treatment monitoring shall be performed for newly selected projects, and post-treatment monitoring will be performed within three years following project completion.

Complete monitoring specifications are included on the CDFW's web site, http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Resources/HabitatManual.asp. Additional details on monitoring and reporting requirements are presented in Appendix B.

Adoption Statement
Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CDFW has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for these proposed projects and finds these documents

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reflect the independent judgment of the CDFW. CDFW, as lead agency, also confirms the project mitigation measures and monitoring plan detailed in these documents are feasible and shall be implemented as stated in the MND. The CEQA initial study findings and the MND was adopted by:

X DocuSigned by:
Matt Wells
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Matt Wells
WRGB Branch Chief, CDFW