

Notice of Determination

To:

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

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bay Delta Region
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Fairfield, CA 94534
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Lead Agency
City of Petaluma
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SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code

State Clearinghouse Number: 2024100897

Project Title: Primary Influent Pump Station Parallel Force Main Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-SON-62999-R3)

Project Location (Sonoma County): The project is located at McDowell Creek, Adobe Creek, and an unnamed tributary to the Petaluma River, in the County of Sonoma, State of California; centered at Latitude 38.230260°, Longitude -122.601457°; City of Petaluma, CA, 94954.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-SON-62999-R3), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, to the project Applicant, City of Petaluma.

The project is limited to installation of sections of a new sewer force main pipeline under two streams with use of microtunneling, and construction of a new multi-use pathway, as part of a larger project constructing an approximately 13,000-foot-long new sewer force main pipeline. The pipeline would approximately follow the alignment of the existing sewer force main from the City's existing Primary Influent Pump Station facility to its termination at the existing Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility. The parallel force main pipeline will deviate from the existing force main alignment for approximately 1,000 linear feet to avoid construction across the Azure Apartment Homes. The parallel force main pipeline will bypass this property by constructing along Casa Grande Road and Technology Lane. The project also includes construction and operation of a 2,100-foot-long segment of multi-use pedestrian and bicycle pathway between Baywood Drive and Casa Grande Road.

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Construction of the new sewer force main pipeline will require microtunneling under McDowell Creek and Adobe Creek. Microtunneling will be done at a depth of 9 feet below the channel beds to avoid impacts to the creek. Launch and reception shafts for microtunneling will be located outside of the associated riparian habitats and within already developed areas. Microtunneling was selected instead of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) because it requires significantly smaller work areas at the launch and reception site locations and will result in less excavation and ground disturbances compared to HDD. Microtunneling utilizes drilling fluids and lubrication fluids that are similar to HDD, which primarily consist of water and bentonite. However, microtunneling requires significantly less fluid volumes and injection pressures compared to HDD.

Construction of the new multi-use pathway will require placement of a new 17 foot long, 18-inch diameter storm drain culvert below the trail, to allow for drainage from the north side to the south side of the trail, to mimic existing conditions. Construction activities associated with the pathway will result in temporary impacts to adjacent riparian habitat as well as temporary and permanent impacts to saline emergent wetland habitat.

The project will result in approximately 87 square feet of permanent impact to saline emergent wetland habitat connected to riparian habitat. The project will also result in approximately 1,722 square feet of temporary impact to connected saline emergent wetland habitat and approximately 38 square feet of riparian habitat. No riparian trees will be removed as part of this project. Access and staging will occur via existing roads and previously disturbed or developed areas.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on 8/27/2026 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.

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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:
Craig J Weightman
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Signature: _____ Date: 8/27/2026

Craig J. Weightman, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at LCI: