

Haggerty, Nicole@Wildlife

From: Hosea, Robert@Wildlife
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 1:23 PM
To: Thorman, Rob
Cc: Wildlife R2 CEQA
Subject: CA FLAP PLU 406(1) Quincy Junction Road Project- Request for Comments

Dear Robert Thorman:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received and reviewed the Request for Comments from Plumas County Department of Public Works for the CA FLAP PLU 406(1) Quincy Junction Road Project (Project) in Plumas County pursuant the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statute and guidelines.^[1]

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may need to exercise its own regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's **Trustee Agency** for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State. (Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a).) CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. (*Id.*, § 1802.) Similarly for purposes of CEQA, CDFW provides, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on Projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW may also act as a **Responsible Agency** under CEQA. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381.) The Project may be subject to CDFW's lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority. (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 et seq.) Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in "take" as defined by State law of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.), related authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code will be required. CDFW also administers the Native Plant Protection Act, Natural Community Conservation Program, and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code that afford protection to California's fish and wildlife resources.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Project site is located on Quincy Junction Road between Quincy Junction and the town of Quincy in Plumas County

The Project consists of roadway improvements and widening of approximately 1.0 mile of Quincy Junction Road from Bell Lane to Chandler Road. Drainage improvements include replacement of approximately 14 existing roadway culverts, installation of new culverts where needed to accommodate roadway widening and transitions to existing driveways, and graded roadway ditches to facilitate proper drainage. The existing box culvert at Clear Creek, a tributary to Greenhorn Creek, would be replaced with a hydraulically equivalent culvert to accommodate the roadway widening.

IMPACT ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

CDFW is concerned based on the information provided in the environmental document that the proposed Project may result in direct, indirect and cumulative adverse impacts to biological resources within the Project area including Greater Sandhill Cranes (*Antigone canadensis tabida*) and Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) which are known to occur within the project area.

Threatened, Endangered, Candidate Species

The Project area as shown in the information provided includes habitat for State and federally listed species. If, during the environmental analysis for the Project, it is determined that the Project may have the potential to result in "take", as defined in the Fish & G. Code, section 86, of a State-listed species, an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) or a consistency determination (Fish & G. Code, §§ 2080.1 & 2081) may be required prior to starting construction activities.

CDFW encourages early coordination to determine appropriate measures to offset Project impacts and facilitate future permitting processes and to coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate specific measures if federally listed species are present within the Project limits.

Jurisdictional Delineation and Wetlands

The Project Area includes areas under CDFW's jurisdiction per section 1602 of the Fish & G. Code. These areas include all perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral rivers, streams, and lakes, including ponds and drainages, in the State and any habitats supported by these features such as wetlands and riparian habitats. In addition, the Project Description includes placement of numerous culverts under the roadway including replacement of an existing box culvert for Clear Creek. As such, Plumas County will need to file a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration (LSA Notification) with CDFW prior to the onset of construction related activities. Please note that the CDFW definition of wetlands, as well as extent of the jurisdictional areas, differ from other agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Migratory Birds and Birds of Prey

Migratory nongame native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C., §§ 703-712). CDFW implemented the MBTA by adopting the Fish & G. Code section 3513. Fish & G. Code sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3800 provide additional protection to nongame birds, birds of prey, their nests, and eggs. Potential habitat for nesting birds and birds of prey is present within the Project area. The proposed Project should disclose, as part of the LSA Notification, all potential activities that may incur a direct or indirect take to nongame nesting birds within the Project footprint and its close vicinity. Appropriate avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures to avoid take must be included in the project description. Measures to avoid the impacts would include species specific work windows, biological monitoring, installation of noise attenuation barriers, etc.

FILING FEES

The Project, as proposed, would have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of filing fees is necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the fee is required in

order for the underlying Project approval to be operative, vested, and final. (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089.)

CONCLUSION

Pursuant to Public Resources Code §21092 and §21092.2, CDFW requests written notification of proposed actions and pending decisions regarding the proposed project. Written notifications shall be directed to: California Department of Fish and Wildlife North Central Region, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 or emailed to R2CEQA@wildlife.ca.gov.

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide early comments on the Project and to assist in identifying and mitigating Project impacts on biological resources. CDFW personnel are available for consultation regarding biological resources and strategies to minimize impacts. Questions regarding this letter or further coordination should be directed to Robert Hosea, Environmental Scientist at (530) 708-1199 or robert.hosea@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,
Robert (Bob) Hosea, Environmental Scientist
North Central Region, Habitat Conservation Program
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
(530) 708-1199

^[1] CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The “CEQA Guidelines” are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.