

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS FOR  
STREAMBED ALTERATION AGREEMENT No. 55247**

**Introduction**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000, *et seq.*) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Guidelines) (Section 15000, *et seq.*, Title 14, California Code of Regulations) require that no public agency shall approve or carry out a project that identifies one or more significant effects, unless the agency makes the following finding as to each significant effect:

Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which mitigate or avoid the significant effects on the environment.

Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs) and Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs) are documents prepared according to a certified state regulatory program and they substitute for a Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report, pursuant to Guidelines sections 15251 and 15252. As the Lead Agency for THPs and NTMPs, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) approved THP 2-24-00161-TRI on 8/19/25. CAL FIRE found that the THP will not result in significant environmental effects with the mitigation measures required in, or incorporated into the THP.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is entering into a Streambed Alteration Agreement (Agreement) with Nick Kroencke. The activities to be completed according to the Agreement are located 8-12 air miles west of the community of Castella, CA on the East Fork Trinity River, Baker Creek, Smith Creek, and Asbestos Gulch and their tributaries in the in the County of Trinity, State of California; The project is located in Township 38N, Range 05W, Section 19 and 31 and Township 38N, Range 06W, Section 35; Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, in the Seven Lakes Basin, Mumbo Basin, Whiskey Bill Peak and Chicken Hawk Hill, California, U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangles.

Because CDFW is issuing the Agreement, it is a Responsible Agency under CEQA. As a CEQA-Responsible Agency, CDFW is required by Guidelines Section 15096 to review a THP or NTMP approved by the Lead Agency that includes the activities addressed in the Agreement and to make a finding that the Agreement's activities will not cause significant, adverse environmental effects. However, when considering alternatives and mitigation measures approved by the Lead Agency, a Responsible Agency is more limited than the Lead Agency. When issuing the Agreement, CDFW is responsible only for ensuring that the direct or indirect environmental effects of activities addressed in the Agreement are adequately mitigated or avoided. Consequently, the findings adopted or independently made by CDFW with respect to an Agreement's activities are more limited than the findings of the Lead Agency funding, approving, or carrying out the activities addressed in a THP or NTMP.

**Findings**

CDFW has considered the THP approved by CAL FIRE that is named above. CDFW has independently concluded that the Agreement should be issued under the terms and conditions specified therein. In this regard, CDFW hereby adopts the findings of CAL FIRE as set forth in the THP insofar as they pertain to the impacts on biological resources from the activities addressed in the Agreement.

Signed by:  
  
Signature: Richard Klug  
BBB574D8EE29405

Date: 9/11/2025

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Richard Klug, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)  
Northern Region, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Notice of Determination**

TO:  Office of Planning and Research

FROM: Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Northern Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, California 96001  
Contact: Kim Backes  
kim.backes@wildlife.ca.gov

*For U.S. Mail:*  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

*Street Address:*  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

LEAD AGENCY (if different from above):  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
135 Ridgway Avenue  
Santa Rosa, California 95401  
Contact: Jon Woessner  
Phone: (530) 224-2438

**SUBJECT:** *Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to § 21108 of the Public Resources Code*

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse):

Project Title: Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 55247 for Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) 2-24-00161-TRI

Project Location: The project is located approximately 8-12 air miles west of the community of Castella, CA on the East Fork Trinity River, Baker Creek, Smith Creek, and Asbestos Gulch and their tributaries in the in the County of Trinity, State of California; The project is located in Township 38N, Range 05W, Section 19 and 31 and Township 38N, Range 06W, Section 35; Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, in the Seven Lakes Basin, Mumbo Basin, Whiskey Bill Peak and Chicken Hawk Hill, California, U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangles.

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is issuing an agreement to draft water on a Class I watercourse and two springs.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as  the Lead Agency /  a Responsible Agency approved the above-described project and has made the following determinations:

1. The project  will /  will not have a significant effect on the environment. (This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's jurisdiction when CDFW acts as a responsible agency.)
2.  An environmental impact report /  A negative declaration /  A timber harvesting plan / nonindustrial timber management plan was prepared for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
3. Mitigation measures  were /  were not made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations  was /  was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. Findings  were /  were not made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a). CDFW adopted findings to document its compliance with CEQA.
6. Payment is not required due to provisions of Public Resources Code §4629.6 (c).  
 Lead Agency certification: CDFW, as Lead Agency, has made the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the Negative Declaration, available to the General Public at the CDFW office identified above.  
 Responsible Agency statement: The final EIR, Negative Declaration or THP/NTMP that was prepared by the Lead Agency for this project is available to the General Public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's CEQA Findings are available at the Eureka CDFW office located at 619 Second Street, Eureka, California, 95501.

Signature: 

Date: 9/11/2025

Richard Klug, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)  
Northern Region, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date Received for filing at OPR: