

From: Hosea, Robert@Wildlife
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 5:11 PM
To: cesenwein@countyofcolusaca.gov
Cc: Wildlife R2 CEQA
Subject: California Department of Fish and Wildlife comments-Colusa County 2025 RTP

Dear Colt Esenwein:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received and reviewed the Notice of Intent to Adopt an ND from Colusa County Public Works for the Colusa County 2025 Regional Transportation Plan (Project) pursuant the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statute and guidelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish, wildlife, native plants, and their habitat. 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. (Fish & G. Code, § 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.) CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code. As proposed, for example, 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.), the project proponent may seek related take authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Project site is located within the entirety of Colusa County.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CDFW offers the comments and recommendations below to assist Colusa County Public Works in adequately identifying and, where appropriate, mitigating the Project's significant, or potentially significant, direct and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources.

CDFW is primarily concerned with the project impacts to waters of the State, State listed fish and wildlife species, and extant fish and wildlife habitat that could result from future projects carried out under the umbrella of this Regional Plan.

COMMENT 1: Requirements to obtain a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement

Issue: Impacts to waters of the State from new construction or maintenance activities.

Recommendation or Recommended Mitigation Measure:

Future infrastructure maintenance activities, or new facility construction, authorized under this RTP that could potentially involve impacts to waters of the State would necessitate Colusa County Public Works to notify CDFW of the proposed action and obtain a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) prior to the start of the new construction or maintenance activity.

COMMENT 2: Incidental Take Permit

Issue: Potential Take of State listed or Candidate fish or wildlife species

Recommendation or Recommended Mitigation Measure:

Colusa County has numerous known occurrences of fish, wildlife and plant species that are State listed as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) as well as species that are currently identified as candidates for listing under CESA and as such currently receive the full protection s of CESA. Projects potentially authorized in the next twenty (20) years under this Regional Transportation Plan may have the potential to result in Take (Fish and Game Code §2080 and 2081) of listed or candidate species. CDFW would recommend, as future projects (new construction or existing infrastructure maintenance and/or repair) come up for review and action, that Colusa County Public Works consider obtaining Take coverage for listed species through obtaining an Incidental Take Permit (ITP).

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e).) Accordingly, please report any special-status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). The CNNDDB field survey form can be found at the following link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Submitting-Data>. The completed form can be submitted online or mailed electronically to CNDDDB at the following email address: CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov.

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 comment on the ND for the Colusa County 2025 Regional Transportation Plan to assist Colusa County Public Works in identifying and mitigating Project impacts on biological resources. CDFW personnel are available for consultation regarding biological resources and strategies to minimize and/or mitigate impacts. Questions regarding this letter or

further coordination should be directed to Robert (Bob) Hosea, Environmental Scientist at (530) 708-1199 or robert.hosea@wildlife.ca.gov.