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Notice of Determination

TO: ☒ Office of Planning and Research

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

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Northern Region
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
Contact: Daviel Vazquez
Phone: (530) 319-0499

LEAD AGENCY (if different from above):
California Forestry and Fire Protection
6105 Airport Road
Redding, CA 96003
Contact: Jon Woessner
Phone: (530) 227-8160

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

Project Title: Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-SHA-56188-R1, Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) 2-24-00179-SHA "Bull Nelson."

Project Location: The project is approximately 3.5 miles northeast of Big Bend and located on unnamed tributaries to Snow Slide Creek and Nelson Creek, tributaries to the Pit River in the Indian Creek (5526.150102) planning watershed; in the County of Shasta, State of California; Township 37N, Range 01E, Section 15, 22 and Township 47N, Range 1E, Section 17; Mount Diablo Base and Meridian; USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles, Big Bend 1990 and Skunk Ridge 1990.

Project Description: The project is limited to 3 encroachment(s) including the installation of a temporary crossing on a Class II watercourse and a temporary spittler crossing on a Class II and Class I watercourse

This is to advise that the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), acting as ☐ **the lead agency /** ☒ **a responsible agency** approved the above-described project on the date signed below and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

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** was prepared for this project pursuant to CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures ☒ **were /** ☐ **were not** made a condition of DFW's approval of the project.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations ☐ **was /** ☒ **was not** adopted by DFW for this project.
5. Findings ☐ **were /** ☒ **were not** made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a). The Department did, however, adopt findings to document its compliance with CEQA.
6. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4 (check one):
   - ☐ Payment is submitted with this notice.
   - ☐ A copy of a receipt showing prior payment is on file with CDFW.
   - ☐ A copy of the CEQA Filing Fee No Effect Determination Form signed by CDFW is attached to this notice.

☐ Lead Agency certification: CDFW, as Lead Agency, has made the final 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 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 CDFW office identified above.

DocuSigned by:
Signed: Robert Hawkins
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Date: 10/3/2025

Robert Hawkins
Northern Region R1 Timberland Conservation Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR:

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS FOR
LAKE OR STREAMBED ALTERATION AGREEMENT No. EPIMS-SHA-56188-R1

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 for which a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) has been completed 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.

The THP is a certified state regulatory program that provides a substitute document to a Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report, pursuant to Guidelines Sections 15251 and 15252. As the lead agency for the THP, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) certified THP 2-24-00179-SHA for the Project on **September 23, 2025.** The Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) found that the Project will not result in significant environmental effects with the mitigation measures required in or incorporated into the Project.

CDFW is entering into Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (Agreement) **No. EPIMS-SHA-56188-R1** with **Mr. Steve Gromacki, representing Sierra Pacific Industries**. The project is approximately 3.5 miles northeast of Big Bend and located on unnamed tributaries to Snow Slide Creek and Nelson Creek, tributaries to the Pit River in the Indian Creek (5526.150102) planning watershed; in the County of Shasta, State of California; Township 37N, Range 01E, Section 15, 22 and Township 47N, Range 1E, Section 17; Mount Diablo Base and Meridian; USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles, Big Bend 1990 and Skunk Ridge 1990.

Because CDFW is issuing the Agreement, it is a Responsible Agency under CEQA for the Project. As a CEQA Responsible Agency, CDFW is required by Guidelines Section 15096 to review the environmental document certified by the Lead Agency approving the projects or activities addressed in the Agreement and to make certain findings concerning a project's potential to 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 project activities addressed in such Agreements.

Findings

CDFW has considered the THP adopted by CALFIRE. 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 CALFIRE, as set forth in the THP insofar as they pertain to the Project's impacts on biological resources.

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Signed: Robert Hawkins
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Date: 10/3/2025

Robert Hawkins
Northern Region R1 Timberland Conservation Environmental Program Manager