California Fish and Game Commission

Draft Negative Declaration

for

Proposed Amendments
2026 Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations

Subsections (b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66), and (b)(80) of Section 7.40
Title 14, California Code of Regulations

Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch

January 2026

This report has been prepared pursuant to the
California Environmental Quality Act of 1970

State Clearinghouse #

Project Summary and Findings

The Project

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend the Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; SRFC) sport fishing regulations as set forth in Title 14,California Code of Regulations. Current regulations in subsections (b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66), and (b)(80) of Section 7.40 establish the season dates and daily bag and possession limits for SRFC sport fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers, respectively. Each year the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) evaluates the potential need to amend the existing SRFC bag and possession limits to align with management goals. Any proposed changes to the salmon fishing regulations are presented to the Commission for consideration.

The Findings

The Commission finds that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

The completed Initial Study, attached to this Negative Declaration, documents the basis for this finding and the Commission's determination that that the Project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment, and that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the Commission, that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or reduce any significant effects on the environment.

The Initial Study concluded that the Project will not have a significant effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Therefore, this Negative Declaration has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21080, subdivision (c).

Basis of the Findings

This Negative Declaration consists of:

- Project Description and Background Information on the Proposed Amendments to Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Explanation of the Responses to the Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

Project Description and Background Information
for
Proposed Amendments
to
Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations
Title 14, California Code of Regulations

Annually, the Department recommends Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; SRFC) sport fishing regulations for the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers to the Commission. The Commission then makes the final determination on what amendments to the regulations should be implemented and is the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA. Under California Fish and Game Code Section 200, the Commission has the authority to regulate the taking or possession of fish for the purpose of sport fishing.

Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of this project is to amend the SRFC sport fishing regulations in furtherance of the state's policy on conservation, maintenance, and utilization of California's aquatic resources stated in Fish and Game Code Section 1700. This section includes three objectives:

1. Maintain sufficient populations of all aquatic species to ensure their continued existence.
2. Maintain sufficient resources to support a reasonable sport use.
3. Management of fisheries using best available science and public input.

Background

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is responsible for adopting recommendations for the management of recreational and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. When approved by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the recommendations are implemented as ocean salmon fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

PFMC will adopt its final regulatory recommendations at its April 2026 meeting based on the PFMC salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season. Based on the April 2026 recommendation by PFMC, the Department will recommend specific bag and possession limits to the Commission at its April 15-16, 2026 meeting. The Commission will then consider adopting the Central Valley sport fishing regulations at its May 6, 2026 meeting.

Project Location

The sport fishing addressed by this environmental document occurs in the waters of the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers in northern and central California in the counties of Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Colusa, Butte, Yuba, Sutter, Placer, El Dorado, Sacramento, Yolo, Solano, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin.

Environmental Setting

In 1945, the Commission was charged with promulgating regulations to manage sport fishing in California, which includes a SRFC sport fishery on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. Since then, the SRFC sport fishery on these rivers has been open every year, with the exception of fishing closures in 2008-2009 and 2023-24. In May 2025, the Commission adopted the Department's recommendation to close the SRFC fishery on the Sacramento River and to restrict the SRFC fishery on the American, Feather, and Mokelumne rivers for the 2025 season. This relatively conservative approach for these waters was informed by the Department's concern regarding low adult returns to the upper Sacramento River in recent years and the continued rebuilding of the SRFC stock in the Sacramento River basin.

Although the SRFC in-river sport fishery was constrained in 2025, the Project area is open to fishing for other sport fisheries including, but not limited to, black bass, catfish, White Sturgeon, Striped Bass, American Shad, and Rainbow Trout. The recent lull in the SRFC in-river sport fishery is abnormal and does not accurately represent the environmental baseline for the Project. The conditions that do accurately represent the environmental baseline for the Project are an open SRFC in-river sport fishery between July and December with an amount of allowable take within the range of take allowed for the Project area between 2017 and 2021. This particular period of time also represents the norm for the environmental setting as assessed in federal and state economic and fiscal analyses of the effects of possible changes to the fishery.

Project Description

Current regulations in subsections (b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66), and (b)(80) of Section 7.40 prescribe the seasons and daily bag and possession limits for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; SRFC) sport fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers, respectively (**Figure 1**). Each year, the Department recommends new SRFC bag and possession limits for consideration by the Commission to align the fishing limits with up-to-date management goals, as set forth below.

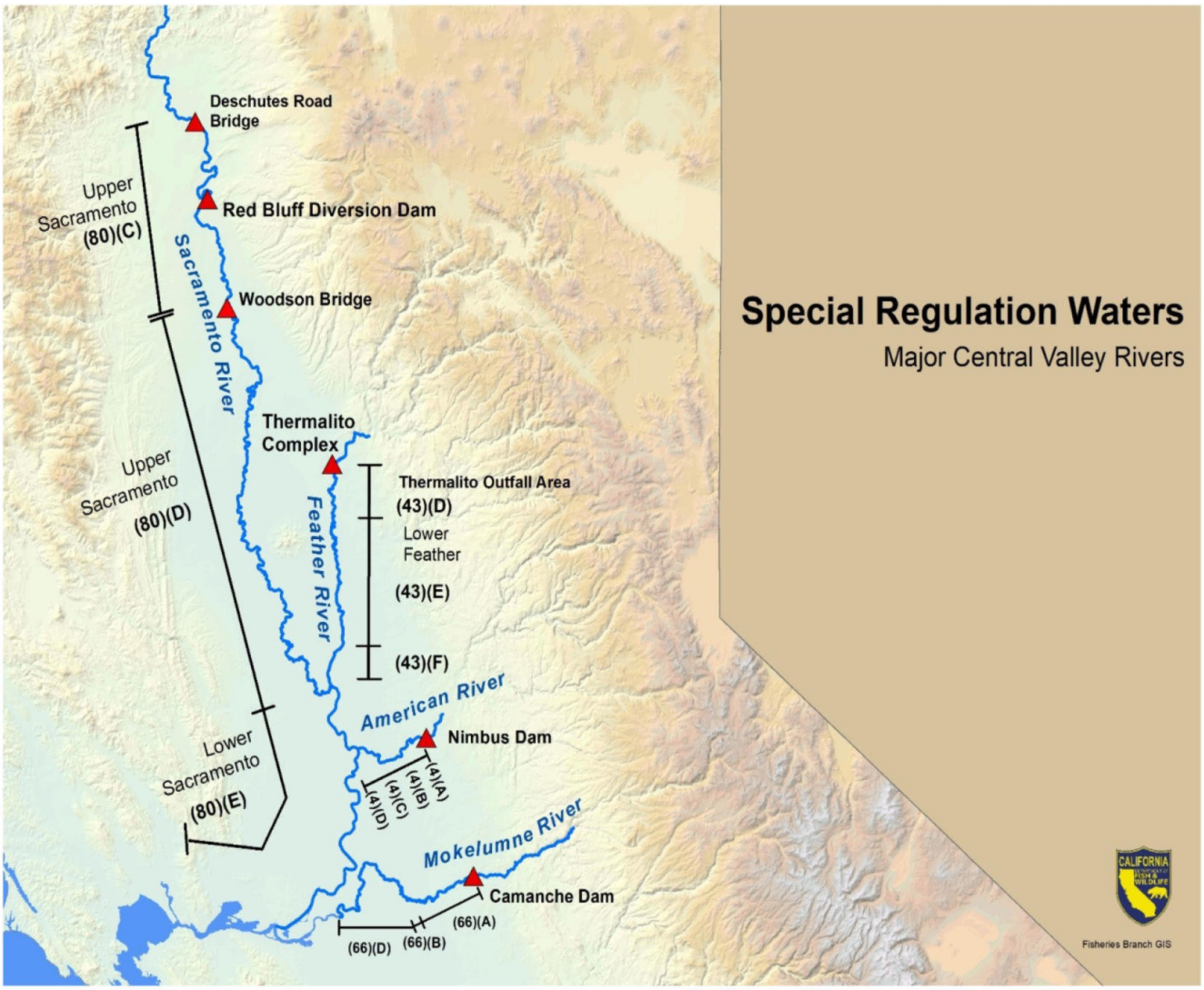

Figure 1. Map of the SRFC sport fishery encompassing the following rivers and their respective subsections of Section 7.40: American (b)(4), Feather (b)(43), Mokelumne (b)(66), and Sacramento (b)(80).

Schedule

If adopted by the Commission and approved by the Office of Administrative Law, the proposed regulatory amendments will become effective on or around July 15, 2026.

Proposed Regulations

Chinook Salmon Open Fishing Seasons

The current open fishing seasons for SRFC in the Central Valley are specific to each river and river section and have start and end dates that encompass the migration periods for salmon to upstream spawning habitat in the American, Feather, Sacramento, and Mokelumne rivers. In recent years, low rivers flows, caused by low precipitation, and/or low salmon abundance estimates have forced the Commission to close salmon fishing to protect all salmon populations in the Central Valley. Low river flows can cause adult salmon to delay their upstream migration to spawning habitat and prevent access for salmon to their natal streams. In some years, a complete fishing closure is necessary to minimize fishery impacts during stressful environmental conditions, such as low flows, and low adult returns. In other years, however, a shortened fishing season may be enough to protect salmon populations in the Central Valley. To avoid a complete fishing closure when feasible, the Commission needs the

flexibility to annually adjust the SRFC fishing season lengths on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

To address this, annually, the Department proposes a range of dates encompassed within the historical open fishing season window (e.g., July 16 through Dec 31) specific to each river section. As done with bag and possession limits, the Department will recommend river section-specific seasons based on salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season determined by PFMC at its April 2026 meeting. Having this flexibility allows the Department to provide fishing opportunities while still protecting salmon populations.

Chinook Salmon Bag and Possession Limits

The Department recognizes the uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections. Therefore, the Department is presenting four regulatory options for the Commission's consideration to tailor 2026 Central Valley fishery management to target 2026 in-river fisheries harvest projections. The Commission may adopt these options for each river section independently, or in combination to meet PFMC SRFC management objectives and determine the recreational salmon fishing opportunities in the Central Valley.

Option 1: The most liberal of the options, allows take of any size Chinook Salmon up to the daily bag and possession limits.

Option 2: Allows for take of a limited number of adult Chinook Salmon, with grilse Chinook Salmon (two-year old salmon) making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limits.

Option 3: Allows for a grilse-only Chinook Salmon fishery.

Option 4: The most conservative option, prohibits the take and possession of Chinook Salmon in all anadromous areas of and tributaries to the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

Key to Proposed Regulatory Changes

Because the PFMC recommendations are not known at this time, a range of bag and possession limits shown in [brackets] is indicated in the text below where it is desirable to continue Chinook Salmon fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. **Additionally, the respective fishing season date range is indicated in [brackets] to allow for the ability to start the season later or end the season earlier, per section of river or across the valley.**

Option 1 – Any Size Chinook Salmon Fishery

This option would allow anglers to take up to [0-4] Chinook Salmon of any size per day and have [0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. This option is the Department's preferred option if the 2026 SRFC stock abundance forecast is sufficiently high to avoid the need to constrain in-river SRFC harvest.

American River, subsection 7.40(b)(4):

(B) From the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gauging station cable crossing

about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish rack site to the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

[July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – October 31] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

(C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park downstream to the Jibboom Street bridge.

[July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – December 31] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

(D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43):

(D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

[July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – October 31] with a daily bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

(E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the Highway 99 bridge.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

(F) From the Highway 99 bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this regulation, the lower boundary is defined as a straight line drawn from the peninsula point on the west bank to the Verona Marina boat ramp.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66):

(A) From Camanche Dam to Elliott Road.

[July 16 – October 15] through [July 16 – October 15] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

(B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi

Lake.

[July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – December 31] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

(D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this subsection, this river segment is defined as Mokelumne River and its tributary sloughs downstream of the Lower Sacramento Road bridge and east of Highway 160 and north of Highway 12.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Sacramento River and tributaries below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

(C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

[August 1 – October 31] through [August 1 – October 31], and [November 1 – December 31] through [November 1 – December 31], with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

(D) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

(E) Sacramento River from the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing to the Carquinez Bridge (includes Suisun Bay, Grizzly Bay and all tributary sloughs west of Highway 160).

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Option 2 – Limited Adult and Grilse Salmon Fishery

This option would allow the take of a limited number of adult Chinook Salmon, with grilse Chinook Salmon (two-year old salmon) making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limits. This option would allow anglers to take up to [0-4] Chinook Salmon per day, with no more than [0-4] of those salmon over 27 inches total length, and have [0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession, of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length. Should a reduction in the adult component of the stock be indicated by PFMC harvest projections, the Department recommends specifying angling opportunities on the smaller, and possibly more numerous grilse salmon to increase angling harvest opportunities. Grilse returns from the previous

season are included in pre-season stock abundance forecasts but are not included in the current season adult returns used for evaluating conservation targets for SRFC. Due to their smaller size, grilse are typically outcompeted by larger adults, and contribute significantly less to the spawning population. As a result, grilse would be available for harvest with minimal impact to juvenile recruitment for the current season. Take of adult salmon would be limited under regulation, and the subsequent juvenile production would help rebuild the depressed stock size at a time when there is the need to restrict harvest of adult salmon.

The Department recommends a grilse salmon size limit of less than or equal to 27 inches total length based on an analysis of grilse data conducted by Department staff in 2018. A 27-inch total length grilse salmon cutoff is the best balance between angling harvest opportunity of possibly abundant smaller, two-year old male salmon and preserving the limited number of females available to spawn.

American River, subsection 7.40(b)(4):

(B) From the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish rack site to the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

[July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – October 31] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0–12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

(C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park downstream to the Jibboom Street bridge

[July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – December 31] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

(D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43):

(D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

[July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – October 31] with a daily bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

(E) From 200 yards above Live Oak boat ramp to the Highway 99 bridge.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

(F) From the Highway 99 bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this regulation, the lower boundary is defined as a straight line drawn from the peninsula point on the west bank to the Verona Marina boat ramp.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which not more than [0-12] fish my be over 27 inches total length.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66)

(A) From Camanche Dam to Elliott Road.

[July 16 – October 15] through [July 16 – October 15] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

(B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi Lake.

[July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – December 31] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

(D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this subsection, this river segment is defined as Mokelumne River and its tributary sloughs downstream of the Lower Sacramento Road bridge and east of Highway 160 and north of Highway 12.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

Sacramento River and tributaries below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

(C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

[August 1 – October 31] through [August 1 – October 31], and [November 1 – December 31] through [November 1 – December 31], with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

(D) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

(E) Sacramento River from the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing to the Carquinez Bridge (includes Suisun Bay, Grizzly Bay and all tributary sloughs west of Highway 160).

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

Option 3 – Grilse-only Salmon Fishery

This option would allow for a grilse-only salmon fishery. This option would allow anglers to take [0-4] Chinook Salmon with a maximum size of 27 inches total length and have [0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession, with a maximum size of 27 inches total length. Should a reduction in the adult component of the stock be indicated by PFMC harvest projections, the Department recommends specifying angling opportunities on the smaller, and possibly more numerous grilse salmon to increase angling harvest opportunities. Grilse returns from the previous season are included in pre-season stock abundance forecasts but are not included in the current season adult returns used for evaluating conservation targets for SRFC. Due to their smaller size, grilse are typically outcompeted by larger adults and contribute significantly less to the spawning population. As a result, grilse would be available for harvest with minimal impact to juvenile recruitment for the current season. Take of adult salmon would be prohibited under regulation, and the subsequent juvenile production would help rebuild the depressed stock size at a time when there is the need to restrict harvest of adult salmon.

The Department recommends a grilse salmon size limit of less than or equal to 27 inches total length based on an analysis of grilse data conducted by Department staff in 2018. A 27-inch total length grilse salmon cutoff is the best balance between angling harvest opportunity of possibly abundant smaller, two-year old male salmon and preserving the limited number of female salmon available to spawn.

American River, subsection 7.40(b)(4):

(B) From the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish rack site to the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

[July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – October 31] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

(C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park downstream to the Jibboom Street bridge.

[July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – December 31] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

(D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43):

(D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

[July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – October 31] with a daily bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

(E) From 200 yards above Live Oak boat ramp to the Highway 99 bridge.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

(F) From the Highway 99 bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this regulation, the lower boundary is defined as a straight line drawn from the peninsula point on the west bank to the Verona Marina boat ramp.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66):

(A) From Camanche Dam to Elliott Road.

[July 16 – October 15] through [July 16 – October 15] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

(B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi Lake.

[July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – December 31] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

(D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this subsection, this river segment is defined as Mokelumne River and its tributary sloughs downstream of the Lower Sacramento Road bridge and east of Highway 160 and north of Highway 12.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Sacramento River and tributaries below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

(C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

[August 1 – October 31] through [August 1 – October 31], and [November 1 – December 31] through [November 1 – December 31], with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

(D) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

(E) Sacramento River from the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing to the

Carquinez Bridge (includes Suisun Bay, Grizzly Bay and all tributary sloughs west of Highway 160).

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Option 4 – No Salmon Fishing in all Central Valley Rivers, Streams, and Tributaries

This option would close salmon fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and/or Sacramento rivers, and all associated tributaries, or specific areas/bodies of water, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b) to provide protection to SRFC should a reduction in the stock be indicated by PFMC abundance projections. In any year, should the PFMC recommend a complete or near complete closure to ocean recreational salmon fishing, this option will give the Department flexibility to respond to and support any federal action in the ocean. This option prohibits all methods of targeting salmon including catch and release fishing. Unless otherwise noted, this option would still allow take of other species in specific areas/bodies of water, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b) (See Section VII below).

American River, subsection 7.40(b)(4):

(B) From the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish rack site to the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

July 16 through October 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

(C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park downstream to the Jibboom Street bridge.

July 16 through December 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

(D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43):

(D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

July 16 through October 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

(E) From 200 yards above Live Oak boat ramp to the Highway 99 bridge.

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

(F) From the Highway 99 bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this regulation, the lower boundary is defined as a straight line drawn from the peninsula point on the west bank to the Verona Marina boat ramp.

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon. Mokelumne

River, subsection 7.40(b)(66):

(A) From Camanche Dam to Elliott Road.

July 16 through October 15. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

(B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi Lake.

From July 16 through December 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

(D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this subsection, this river segment is defined as Mokelumne River and its tributary sloughs downstream of the Lower Sacramento Road bridge and east of Highway 160 and north of Highway 12.

From July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

Sacramento River and tributaries below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

(C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

August 1 through October 31, and November 1 through December 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

(D) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

(E) Sacramento River from the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing to the Carquinez Bridge (includes Suisun Bay, Grizzly Bay and all tributary sloughs west of Highway 160).

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

Brown Trout Harvest Opportunity in Sections of the Sacramento River

Non-native Brown Trout have occasionally been caught in the steelhead trout fishery on the Sacramento River, particularly in the reaches below Keswick Dam. Brown Trout are highly piscivorous and are known to prey upon juvenile Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, and steelhead trout in locations where their presence overlaps, which can suppress native species recovery. The Commission proposes to allow the harvest of Brown Trout in the Sacramento River. This proposed change will reduce predation on juvenile salmon and steelhead and align these regulations with existing regulations for Brown Trout in anadromous waters. The proposed regulations add take for Brown Trout to Section 7.40, subsections (b)(80)(B)(1) and (2) and (C) with a bag limit of 5 fish per day and 10 fish in possession. A harvest of 5 Brown Trout is appropriate given the recent catch and observations by the Department.

Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

1. Project Title: Proposed Amendments to 2026 Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations, Title 14, California Code of Regulations

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:
   California Fish and Game Commission
   715 P Street, 16th floor
   Sacramento, CA 95814

3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Melissa Miller-Henson, (916) 653-4899

4. Project Location: The American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
   California Department of Fish and Wildlife
   Fisheries Branch
   1010 Riverside Parkway
   West Sacramento, CA 95605

6. General Plan designation: N/A (statewide)

7. Zoning: N/A (statewide)

8. Description of Project: Potentially amend the daily bag and possession limits for the Central Valley Chinook Salmon sport fishery to further the state's policy on conservation, maintenance, and utilization of California's aquatic resources as stated in Fish and Game Code Section 1700.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: N/A

10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required: None.

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.31?
    No.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- ☐ Aesthetics
- ☐ Agriculture and Forestry
- ☐ Air Quality
- ☐ Biological Resources
- ☐ Cultural Resources
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Geology/Soils
- ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- ☐ Hydrology/Water Quality
- ☐ Land Use/Planning
- ☐ Mineral Resources
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Population/ Housing
- ☐ Public Services
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
- ☐ Utilities/Service Systems
- ☐ Wildfire
- ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

This project will not have a “Potential Significant Impact” on any of the environmental factors listed above; therefore, no boxes are checked.

DETERMINATION

The Commission subjected the draft Initial Study and Negative Declaration to its own review and analysis. Based on that review and analysis, the draft reflects the independent judgment of the Commission and fulfills the Commission’s responsibilities. On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Melissa A. Miller-Henson

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director

April 6, 2026
Date

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	NI
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Result in any other emissions (such as those leading to odors) affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	LTS	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	NI
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	NI
VI. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	NI
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	NI
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	NI
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	NI
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	NI
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	NI
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	NI
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	NI
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	NI
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☐	☐	NI
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	NI
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☐	NI
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of pollution runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	NI
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
value to the region and the residents of the state?				
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING.				
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	NI
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	NI
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	NI
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	NI
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XVI. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☐	NI
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☐	NI
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XX WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	NI

Explanation of Responses to Initial Study Environmental Checklist

I. Aesthetics

a) The project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.

b) The project will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.

c) The project will not substantially degrade, in nonurbanized areas, the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.

d) The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.

II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

a) The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

b) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

c) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timber zoned “timberland production.” Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

d) There will be no loss of forest land and the project will not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

e) The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

III. Air Quality

a) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

b) The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any pollutant criteria for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. Such an impact will not occur because the project involves no ongoing sources of air pollution.

c) The project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not increase pollutant concentrations.

d) The project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

IV. Biological Resources

a) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the Department, NMFS or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Less than Significant impact. Commission adoption of Options 1, 2, or 3, or a combination thereof would result in the reopening of the SRFC sport fishery in 2026 on the Sacramento River and could result in a less restricted sport fishery on the American, Feather, and Mokelumne rivers. Federally and state listed fish species including Central Valley steelhead, Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon, and Sacramento River winter-run Chinook Salmon co-occur in these waters. Existing regulations prohibit take of these species and current sport fishing regulations, including seasonal and area closures, minimize angler contact with these species. Therefore, the proposed project will have no significant impacts to these species.

In addition, an open sport fishery with new daily bag and possession limits for SRFC would not result in a significant impact to SRFC. Daily bag and possession limits are established consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment. Furthermore, adding flexibility into the regulations to annually adjust the SRFC fishing season lengths on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers will minimize fishery impacts during stressful environmental conditions such as low flows and low adult returns. These limits are designed to avoid adverse effects to the target species. Therefore, the proposed project will have no significant impacts to SRFC.

The project will create a fishing opportunity on non-native Brown Trout on the upper Sacramento River. Because Brown Trout are known predators and ecological

competitors with native salmonids, including juvenile Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon and steelhead, the proposed regulation may result in a reduction of Brown Trout which will potentially reduce negative interactions between these species and ameliorate minor impacts to listed/candidate species associated with potential increased angling effort for Brown Trout.

b) The project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, or by the Department or USFWS. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

c) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

d) The project will not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

e) The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not result in any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

f) The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

V. Cultural Resources

a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work or work permanently modifying any existing structure or resource and thus no potential to affect historical resources.

b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect archaeological resources.

c) The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect human remains.

VI. Energy

a) The project will result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not use energy resources.

b) The project will not affect nor obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

VII. Geology and Soils

a i) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the state geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction or create any structures for human habitation.

a ii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction or create any structures for human habitation.

a iii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction or create any structures for human habitation.

a iv) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, ground distrurbing work, or the creation of any structures for human habitation.

b) The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.

c) The project will not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable and potentially result in on- or off- site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.

d) The project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.

e) The project will not create any sources of waste water requiring a septic system.

f) The project will not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve or indirectly result in ground disturbing work.

VIII. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

a) The project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The project will not involve construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

Less than Significant impact. Commission adoption of Options 1, 2, or 3, or a combination thereof would result in the reopening of the SRFC sport fishery in 2026 on the Sacramento River and could result in a less restricted sport fishery on the American, Feather, and Mokelumne rivers. The Project would emit greenhouse gases (GHG) through the use of fuel in vehicles used to transport anglers to and from designated fishing areas. Regulations governing SRFC sport fishing in the Central Valley have been in effect for nearly 80 years. The SRFC fishery has been open during this period with the exception of fishing closures in 2008-2009 and 2023-24. Considering this, the Project will not generate a significant increase in GHG emissions above existing baseline levels.

The Department is proposing to allow harvest of Brown Trout on the upper Sacramento River to reduce predation on juvenile salmon and steelhead. The Brown Trout fishing season will coincide with the steelhead and SRFC fishing seasons. A Brown Trout fishery is usually secondary to Chinook Salmon and steelhead fisheries and are caught incidentally to these species. The addition of Brown Trout fishery on the upper Sacramento River is not expected to result in additional angler trips to the Sacramento River. Therefore, the project is not expected to result in an increase in GHG emissions.

b) The project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

a) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

b) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

c) The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The project will not involve the transport, use, or emission of any hazardous materials.

d) The project will not be located on any site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5.

e) The project will not be located within an airport land use plan area.

f) The project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

g) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wild land fires. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

X. Hydrology and Water Quality

a) The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, water use, or water discharge.

b) The project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.

c i) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.

c ii) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.

c iii) The project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm-water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.

c iv) The project will not impede or redirect flood flows because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, the project would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation because the project would not involve any construction or land alteration.

e) The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.

XI. Land Use and Planning

a) The project will not physically divide an established community. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

b) The project will not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XII. Mineral Resources

a) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

b) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XIII. Noise

a) The project will not result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, and its implementation will not generate noise levels in excess of agency standards.

b) The project will not result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.

c) The project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

XIV. Population and Housing

a) The project will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not construct any new homes, businesses, roads, or other human infrastructure.

b) The project will not displace any existing people or housing and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

XV. Public Services

a) The project will not have any significant environmental impacts associated with new or physically altered governmental facilities. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XVI. Recreation

a) The project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

Less than Significant impact. Commission adoption of Options 1, 2, or 3, or a combination thereof would result in the reopening of the SRFC sport fishery in 2026 on the Sacramento River and could result in a less restricted sport fishery on the American, Feather, and Mokelumne rivers. Regulations governing SRFC sport fishing in the Central Valley have been in effect for nearly 80 years and the potential for increased fishing opportunity on the Sacramento, American, Feather, and Mokelumne rivers is not expected to result in an increase in new anglers or in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities.

The proposal to allow harvest of Brown Trout on the upper Sacramento River is anticipated to have minimal to no effect on recreational facilities. Harvest opportunity will be limited to the upper Sacramento River and to the fishing seasons for SRFC and steelhead. A Brown Trout fishery is usually secondary to other fisheries for Chinook Salmon and steelhead, and Brown Trout are caught incidentally to these species. Therefore, the potential for increased fishing opportunities on the Sacramento River is not expected to result in an increase in new anglers or in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities.

b) The project does not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

XVII. Transportation

a) The project will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.

b) The project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA guidelines, Title 14, CCR, Section 15064.3, subsection (b), which pertains to vehicle miles traveled. The amount and distance of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations.

c) The project will not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses with equipment. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.

d) The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.

XVIII. Tribal and Cultural Resources

a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1, subsection (k). The project does not involve ground disturbing work and does not have the potential to affect tribal cultural resources.

b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. The project does not involve ground disturbing work and has no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

a) The project will not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. The project does not involve any construction or land alteration.

b) The project requires no new water supplies.

c) The project will not produce wastewater.

d) The project will not generate solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with state and local standards for solid waste.

e) The project will not create solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XX. Wildfire

a) The project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

b) The project will not exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors.

c) The project will not require the installation or maintenance of any infrastructure.

d) The project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance

a) The project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The project is consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.

b) The project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because there are no potential adverse impacts that are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

c) The project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or the creation of new infrastructure.