APPENDIX E

Procedure for the Programmatic Evaluation of Archeological Resources for the 2026 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program's Mitigated Negative Declaration Project

Cultural resource investigations are used to identify archaeological resources in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) funded action items 2026 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program's Mitigated Negative Declaration project areas. When archaeological resources are found, measures are implemented to protect these resources. The purpose of the investigations described below are to: 1) locate and record cultural resources within the project area; 2) evaluate the significance of cultural resources in the study area; 3) assess potential impacts to cultural resources resulting from implementation of the project and; 4) recommend appropriate mitigation measures when necessary.

Investigative Methods

Background research for each project shall include an examination of historical maps, aerial photographs, archaeological site records and a survey at the appropriate regional information center of the Historical Resources Information System. The background research shall also include a review of pertinent ethnographic literature. For all action items, an intensive archaeological field survey that covers the entire project area will be completed.

The California Office of Historical Preservation has established regional information centers as local repositories for all archaeological reports that are prepared under cultural resource management regulations. For each of the action items, a background literature search shall be conducted at the appropriate regional information center as required by state guidelines and current professional standards. Following completion of the archeological studies, a report shall be prepared summarizing the findings of the research. A copy of the report shall be deposited with the California Office of Historical Preservation. The literature review will determine if there are any previously recorded archeological resources or historic structures within the project area, and whether the area has been included within any previous archaeological research or reconnaissance project.

Project notification letters shall be sent to the Native American Heritage Commission along with a request for a Sacred Lands File search of the project areas and appropriate Native American contacts for the action items as soon as funding and contracts are fully routed. In addition, letters shall be sent to local Native American Tribes stating that archaeological surveys are being conducted in areas that may be of interest to them. The letters shall request any additional information and shall ask specifically if the Tribe(s) have any concerns regarding the project.

In addition to a records search at the Northwest Information Center, pertinent published ethnographic literature and various inventories shall be reviewed including but not limited to: 1) California Athabascan Groups (Baumhoff 1958); 2) California Inventory of Historic Resources; 3) California Historic Property Inventory and; 4) Government Land Office Land Plot Map.

Intensive surveys are conducted instream and along the bank of the areas included in the project area. All locations of exposed soil along road cuts, skid trails and creek banks are

inspected. In areas where mineral soil is visibly obscured, a geology pick shall be used to scrape the surface vegetation and expose the mineral soil to inspect for cultural resources.

1) Any archaeological sites identified during an investigation shall be recorded in a manner consistent with the Office of Historic Preservations Manual titled Instructions for Recording Historic Resources 1955. The Grantee shall report any previously unknown historic, archeological, and paleontological remains discovered at a site to CDFW which will then report to the US Army Corps of Engineers as required in the Regional General Permit (RGP). This information will also be provided to the Native American Heritage Commission, 915 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814.

2) An accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, the process stated in Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 shall be followed.

In the event of a discovery of archeological or historic resource within the jurisdiction of the California State Lands Commission (CSLC), grantees will be responsible for reporting and submitting any required information to the CSLC.