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 stabilize, restore, and revegetate damaged and eroded sites to produce a more natural and aesthetically pleasing appearance.

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 disturb large trees or other scenic features in the process of restoring damaged sites.

c) The project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the work sites and their surroundings; nor will urbanized portions of the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. Such an impact will not occur because in most cases the restoration project will restore the natural character of disturbed sites. Where non-natural structures (such as fish screens) are constructed, they will be of small size and compatible with the appearance of their surroundings.

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 of the worksites. Such an impact will not occur because none of the action items for restoration style projects require installation of artificial lighting.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST 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 (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because most project worksites are located away from FMMP designated farmland. Project actions associated with farmland (such as fish screens) are designed to allow continued use of farmland with reduced impacts to anadromous salmonids.

b) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Fisheries habitat restoration actions will not change existing land use.

c) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland, timberland, or timber zoned Timberland Production. Fisheries habitat restoration actions will not change existing land use.

d) There will be no loss of forestland, and the project will not result in the conversion of forestland into non-forest use. Road decommissioning projects in forestland will reduce fine sediment delivery to the streams while restoring forestland by planting with native vegetation.

e) The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could not result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural

use. Fisheries habitat restoration actions either are away from, or are compatible with, existing agricultural uses.

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 implementation of the project does not create any features that would be a source of air pollution.

   The work window for restoration activities is generally limited from June 15 to November 1. Under a worst-case scenario, the most work that a project can have in a single field season is eighteen weeks and the greatest number of years a project has to be completed is four years. Based on the worst-case scenario, the CDFW finds that each restoration activity will not likely adversely affect air quality plans with the use of vehicle and heavy equipment because of the short duration of each restoration activity. For most projects, work does not occur for the entire eighteen-week field season, and most restoration activities do not take four years to implement. In addition, projects do not need to be implemented in consecutive years. Thus, the amount of time it takes to complete a restoration activity varies. Additionally, not all projects require the use of heavy equipment (although heavy equipment may be used to transport materials to the work site) and not all projects occur simultaneously. Calculating the emissions from a single restoration activity to use as an example would not be representative of the other restoration activities in Appendix A for the reasons listed above.

b) The project will not 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 (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors). 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 significantly increase pollutant concentrations.

d) The project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. Project actions are designed to restore natural habitat conditions for salmonids and will not create any stagnant water that might produce objectionable odors.

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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Such an impact will not occur because project activities are designed to improve and restore stream habitat, to provide a long-term benefit to both anadromous salmonids and other fish

and wildlife. The project will be implemented in a manner that will avoid short-term adverse impacts to rare plants and animals and cultural resources during construction; the mitigation measures that will be implemented to avoid short-term impacts to rare plants, animals and cultural resources are described in Appendices B, C, D, and E. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance. In addition,

Species Impacts for the following species include (mitigation measures are included in Appendix B):

i. **Arroyo Toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*)**

The arroyo toad was federally listed as endangered in 1994. Typically found in coastal areas, the toad ranges from Salinas River Basin in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties south to Arroyo San Simón in northern Baja California, México. The preferred habitat for arroyo toad during breeding season (February–July) includes low gradient sections of slow-moving streams which have adjacent stream terraces, sandbars, and shallow pools. In non-breeding months, this species can be found in a variety of upland habitats such as coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sycamore-cottonwood woodlands, oak, woodlands and grasslands.

During the implementation of a project, activities such as (but not limited to) channel dewatering, unscreened pumping, heavy equipment usage, work with hand tools, removal of riparian vegetation, spills from refueling vehicles, and introduction of non-native species into streams may have the potential to impact arroyo toad—this does not result in habitat removal and/or degradation. All impacts that occur are temporary and can be minimized to avoid take of the species. Furthermore, many of these projects involve restoring the riparian corridor that is absent.

ii. **Crotch's Bumble Bee (*Bombus crotchii*), Franklin's Bumble Bee (*Bombus franklini*), Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee (*Bombus suckleyi*), and Western Bumble Bee (*Bombus occidentalis*)**

Four bumble bee species - Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*), Franklin's bumble bee (*Bombus franklini*), and Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*) - are current candidates for listing under the Califonira Endangered Species Act. Franklin's bumble bee was listed as endangered under the Federal endangered species act in 2021. Bumble bees are widespread and highly mobile in their nesting and foraging behaviors, making it challenging to determine the four species' distribution across the state. Crotch's bumble bees are more commonly identified throughout California than the other candidate species, however other species can sometimes be found throughout Northern and Central California.

The potential exists for project work to disrupt bumble bee nesting and foraging during the removal of vegetation or application of herbicides. Limiting such work

during the spring and summer months and performing annual rounds of bumble bee surveys to identify and avoid bumble bee nests will greatly reduce adverse effects. All impacts are temporary and can be minimized to avoid take of the species.

iii. **California Freshwater Shrimp (*Syncaris pacifica*)**

In 1998, the US Fish and Wildlife Service listed California freshwater shrimp as endangered and in 1980 they were listed under the California endangered species act as endangered. The distribution of California Freshwater Shrimp is limited to four drainage units in the California counties of Marin, Sonoma, and Napa: 1) tributary streams of the lower Russian River drainage, that flow westward to the Pacific Ocean, 2) coastal streams flowing westward directly into the Pacific Ocean, 3) streams draining into Tomales Bay, and 4) streams flowing southward into San Pablo Bay. California freshwater shrimp depend on the availability of slow-moving perennial water adjacent to continuous, stable, well-vegetated stream banks, or deep stable undercuts banks during winter high flows.

Salmonid restoration projects typically enhance or create habitat that is also suitable for California Freshwater Shrimp. Although project activities in wetted stream habitats may directly affect individuals when present, project activities in dry stream habitats will not have a direct impact on individuals. Mitigation measures are implemented to avoid directly impacting individuals when present, however, some short term direct and indirect impacts can occur.

iv. **California Red-Legged Frog *(Rana draytonii)***

The California red-legged frog (CRLF) was listed as threatened in the Federal Registry in 1996. This species is the largest native frog in the western United States and is primarily found in streams and drainages along the California coast, ranging from southern Mendocino County south to northwestern Baja California. An eastern extension of this population can be found in the Sierra Nevada foothills, though most of the species is found in Monterey, San Louis Obispo, and Santa Barbara counties. Individuals found in coastal areas are active year-round and those found farther inland are less active during the colder months. Breeding season is typically November through March, slightly earlier in southern regions. This species of frog prefers permanent quiet bodies of water but can be found in damp thickets and forests as well as along riparian corridors.

Impacts to the CRLF have the potential to occur during project implementation activities such as (but not limited to) channel dewatering, degradation of water quality, heavy equipment usage, work with hand tools, removal of riparian vegetation, spills from refueling vehicles, and introduction of non-native species into stream. All impacts that occur are temporary and can be minimized to avoid take of the species and does not result in habitat removal and/or

degradation. Furthermore, many of these projects involve restoring the riparian corridor that is absent.

v. **California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense)***

The Central California population of California tiger salamander was federally listed as threatened in 2004 but had been endangered in Santa Barbara County since 2000 and in Sonoma County since 2002. The state of California listed the entire population as threatened in 2010. The salamander can be found coastally from Sonoma to Santa Barbara counties as well as in the Central Valley and surrounding foothills—primarily in grassland or open woodland areas from Alameda County south to Monterey County and east to Merced and Madera counties. This nocturnal salamander breeds during the rainy season (November – May) depositing egg masses in standing water. Outside of estivation, the California tiger salamander spends most of its time underground finding refuge in animal burrows.

Impacts to the species are highly unlikely as most implementation projects occur in or near the stream and riparian corridor. Upslope projects are typically limited to road upgrading and decommissioning in areas that are steep, eroding, and often in areas vegetated with trees and shrubs. The species uses ponds and vernal pools for breeding and grassland habitat for estivation, both of which are usually not in proximity to anadromous fish-bearing streams.

vi. **Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Steelhead Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and Coastal Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki)***

Winter-run Chinook Salmon have been listed as endangered by the state since 1989 and federally since 1994. Spring-run Chinook Salmon were listed in 1999 as threatened by both the state of California and USFWS. Depending on the evolutionary significant unit (ESU) of the Coho Salmon, the species is listed either as threatened or endangered; federally since 1996 and by the state since 2005. In 1997, USFWS listed the distinct population segment (DPS) of the Southern California steelhead as endangered, and the Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously to list them as endangered under CESA in 2024. The four other DPS of steelhead trout (south central, central, Central Valley, and northern) have been federally listed as threatened as early as 1997. Northern California Summer steelhead DPS were listed to CESA as endangered in 2021. The watersheds associated with this listing were the Eel, Mad, Mattole rivers, and Redwood creek. Coastal Cutthroat Trout are not listed as threatened or endangered but are listed as a species of special concern.

Salmonids can be found throughout the coastal and inland river systems of Northern and Central California. The salmonid lifecycle involves adults maturing in the ocean, migrating back to their natal streams to spawn, embryos incubate within redds, alevins hatching, fry emerging from redds, juveniles

growing, and smolts migrating to the estuary to acclimate to saltwater before migrating to the ocean.

Habitat loss and modification are believed to be the major factors determining the current status of salmonid populations. Conservation and recovery of salmonids depend on having diverse habitats with connections among those habitats. While all of the work proposed under this program will enhance habitat for one or more of these species, impacts to the species have the potential to occur during project implementation activities such as, but not limited to, channel dewatering, disturbance of banks, and fish relocation. All impacts are temporary and can be minimized to avoid take of salmonid species.

vii. **Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana boylii*)**

The foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF) was state listed as threatened and endangered in April 2020 and the Feather River DPS was federally listed endangered in 2023. The FYLF population was designated into six different clades; two were listed as threatened (Feather and Upper Feather River Watershed Clade, and the Northeast/Northern Sierra Clade), three were listed as endangered (East/Southern Sierra Clade, West/Central Coast Clade, and the Southwest/West Coast Clade), while the Northwest/North Coast Clade was determined not to be under any threat of extinction or endangerment in the near future. The FYLF inhabits lower elevation creeks, streams, and rivers. The species may be found in the project area. They breed in the spring, and tadpoles emerge in the summer. The FYLF requires flowing water, is not found in standing water, and will stay close to streams during breeding season.

Impacts to the FYLF have the potential to occur during project implementation activities such as, but not limited to, channel dewatering, degradation of water quality, heavy equipment usage, work with hand tools, removal of riparian vegetation, spills from refueling vehicles, and introduction of non-native species into stream. All impacts that may occur are temporary, can be minimized to avoid take of the species, and do not result in habitat removal and/or degradation. Furthermore, many of these projects involve restoring the riparian corridor that is absent or degraded.

viii. **Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus)***

The Least Bell's Vireo was listed as endangered federally in 1986 and by the state in 1980. The breeding season distribution of these small, monogamous, territorial birds ranges from coastal southern California east to the foothill Central Valley with the majority of the population found in San Diego County (March – September). In colder, non-breeding months, the Least Bell's Vireo migrates south into Baja California. Many return to their same lowland riparian territory to breed, with some building nests in the same scrub used the previous year.

Impacts to the species have the potential to occur as a result of removal of riparian vegetation (willows and low scrub) during the spring and summer or

from disturbance within a 0.25-mile radius of the sites. Typically, removal of riparian vegetation for the purpose of implementing a project does not occur but is minimal when it does. Many projects involve restoring the riparian corridor that is absent. Removal of willow branches for revegetation at restoration sites has the potential to degrade existing Least Bell's Vireo habitat. Noise from heavy equipment has the potential to cause nesting birds to abandon nests. All impacts are temporary and can be minimized to avoid take of the species.

ix. **Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)**

In 1992, the Marbled Murrelet was federally listed as threatened and as endangered by the State in 1992. As coastal birds that range from Alaska to Santa Barbara County, CA, they can be found nesting and brooding along the California coastline in old growth or mature forests from April to September and possibly using the same nest in successive years. In the winter, they can be found using the same habitat for roosting and courtship.

Noise from heavy equipment has the potential to cause nesting birds to abandon nests. Limiting such work (e.g. culvert removal or placement of large woody debris) to the fall and winter months will greatly reduce adverse effects. Projects will not remove or degrade suitable habitat, only restore, and protect habitat.

x. **Western Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*)**

In 2024, the Western Burrowing Owl became a California Endangered Species Act candidate species. Burrowing owls nest and roost in underground burrows, typically excavated by ground squirrels and other burrowing animals. They often nest in loose colonies, where proximity to ground squirrels can improve predator detection through mutual alarm-calling. Most California burrowing owls are year-round residents and exhibit strong site fidelity, often returning to the same burrow or nearby area each breeding season, although some populations migrate and individuals may travel farther from their nesting sites. Burrowing owls inhabit a variety of natural and human-altered environments, including grasslands, shrublands, deserts, agricultural lands, golf courses, and pastures. Their primary habitat requirements include accessible burrows and short, sparse vegetation that provide clear visibility for detecting predators and allows access to prey.

xi. **Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)**

The Northern Spotted Owl has been federally listed threatened since 1990 and has been listed as a threatened species by the state of California since 2019. Old growth and mature forests of northwestern California and Pacific Northwest are the preferred habitat for these monogamous, territorial, medium-sized birds of prey. A pair of owls can occupy up to a 40 sq. km territory, nesting in hollow trees and cliff crevices from February to June.

Noise from heavy equipment has the potential to cause nesting birds to abandon nests. Preventing such work (e.g. culvert removal or placement of

large woody debris) from occurring during February to July will greatly reduce adverse effects. Projects will not remove or degrade suitable habitat, only restore and protect habitat.

xii. **Point Arena Mountain Beaver (*Aplodontia rufa nigra*)**

In 1991, the US Fish and Wildlife listed the Point Arena mountain beaver (PAMB) as an endangered species. This beaver is a burrowing rodent found in coastal Mendocino County, in an area of approximately 24 square miles (from about two miles north of Bridgeport Landing south to about five miles south of the town of Point Arena, and from the coast to about five miles inland). Mountain beaver inhabit underground burrow systems, associated with moist areas with well-drained soils and lush herbaceous vegetation. Populations of PAMB are typically found in riparian, coastal scrub or dune scrub habitats; however, they may occur in any habitat with brushy or herbaceous cover. The presence of PAMB is evaluated by surveying burrows of characteristic size and shape, with signs of recent activity.

Potential impacts to PAMB from salmonid habitat improvement projects include disruption of nesting or other activities due to equipment noise; collapse or damage to burrows from heavy equipment, riparian planting, or foot traffic; and removal of vegetation (such removal is usually temporary but may nonetheless impact PAMB).

xiii. **San Francisco Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*)**

The San Francisco garter snake (SFGS) was federally listed as endangered in 1967 and by the State in 1970. The SFGS is listed as a fully protected species under Fish and Game Code Section 5050. Endemic to California, this multi-colored garter snake is only found from southern San Francisco County south to San Mateo County in grasslands or wetlands near ponds, marshes, and sloughs. Breeding season starts in spring. Females bare live young from June to September. Typically found in densely vegetative ponds nears hills however, the San Francisco garter snake will find animal burrows when ponds dry up in the summer months and will go into a dormant state.

Due to the fully protected status of the SFGS, potential for take of the SFGS will be avoided through the implementation of the avoidance measures listed in Appendix B: Mitigation measures, monitoring and reporting program for the 2024 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program's MND Project. "Take" is defined in Section 86 of the Fish and Game Code as catch, pursue, capture, or attempt to catch, pursue, and capture.

xiv. **Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)**

The Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (a sub species of the Willow Flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii*) was listed as endangered on the federal endangered species list in 1995 and listed under the California endangered species act as endangered in 1992. Extirpated from most of its California range, this small

migratory bird has been reported to return to various river systems in southern California during breeding season. Breeding season is from May to September, with a majority of breeders returning to the same sites in areas of dense mature riparian woodlands along streams and rivers. Native vegetation is preferable for nesting, but this bird will also nest in thickets of non-native species (e.g. tamarisk and Russian olive).

Impacts to the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher have the potential to occur as a result of removal of riparian vegetation (willows and low scrub) during the spring and summer or from disturbance within a 0.25-mile radius of the sites. Typically, removal of riparian vegetation for the purpose of implementing a project does not occur but is minimal when it does. Many projects involve restoring the riparian corridor that is absent. Removal of willow branches for revegetation at restoration sites has the potential to degrade existing Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat. Noise from heavy equipment has the potential to cause nesting birds to abandon nests. All impacts are temporary and can be minimized to avoid take of the species.

xv. **Western Spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*)**

The western spadefoot received California Endangered Species Act candidate status in 2026. Western Spadefoot are split into two distinct northern and southern clades and both have a biphasic lifestyle, spending different portions of its life cycle in aquatic and terrestrial environments. Adults typically breed in temporary wetlands and vernal pools, where they deposit eggs following suitable rainfall. Outside of the breeding period, adults are primarily terrestrial carnivores and spend much of their time underground. Larvae are fully aquatic and develop rapidly in temporary pools. Western Spadefoot larvae are notably more carnivorous than the tadpoles of many other amphibian species. Western spadefoot life history is strongly tied to rainfall. Breeding and surface activity occur at night and are typically triggered by substantial precipitation, although activity can occur during other periods when conditions are suitable. In San Diego County, summer monsoonal rains can occasionally trigger breeding outside the more typical December–April breeding season. Western Spadefoots may potentially be surface-active throughout the year, but activity appears substantially reduced from approximately July through November. The southern clade tends to show more year-round surface activity, whereas activity in the northern clade is much lower or may be absent from observations until approximately October. The northern clade extends from Point Conception northward, and breeding in this clade generally occurs later than in the southern clade.

Impacts to western spadefoot are possible during this project primarily from ground disturbing activities. However, western spadefoot will not be significantly impacted, and the projects will likely benefit the species as they often lead to better functioning riverine systems. Minimization measures will consider detection of this cryptic species, avoidance and protection of breeding pools,

preservation of adjacent grassland and upland habitat, careful timing of ground-disturbing activities to reduce impacts during periods when spadefoots are likely to be moving or breeding at the surface.

xvi. **White Sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*)**

The white sturgeon received California Endangered Species Act candidate species status in 2024. White Sturgeon in the Sacramento-San Joaquin system represent the southernmost spawning population of the species. The age at first reproduction is approximately 10-19 years old. Most spawning occurs in the Sacramento River, with Ord Ferry Bridge being a northern estimate of spawning grounds. Spawning may also occur in tributaries including the Feather, Yuba, and Bear rivers. Some spawning has been documented in the San Joaquin River. Small runs may exist on the Russian, Klamath, Trinity, and Eel rivers, but it is not known if successful spawning occurs in those rivers. Adult white sturgeon can be found throughout the year in the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. White sturgeon feed on a variety of prey items including small crustaceans, aquatic insects, crabs, shrimp, amphipods, and clams, fish and fish eggs.

While all the work proposed under this program will likely enhance habitat of white sturgeon, impacts to the species have the potential to occur during project implementation. These activities are, but are not limited to, channel dewatering, disturbance of banks, and relocation. All impacts are temporary and measures to minimize harm will be implemented to not disturb white sturgeon in their spawning grounds, harm them during relocation or any other possible impacts.

xvii. **Yellow Billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)**

The western distinct population segment (DPS) of the yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) was listed under the California endangered species act on March 26, 1971, as threatened and then reclassified as endangered on June 27, 1987. They were federally listed as threatened on November 3, 2014. While California historically hosted a large portion of the breeding population and the species nested at numerous sites primarily in coastal areas from San Diego to Sonoma County, the Central Valley from Kern County to Shasta County, and the lower Colorado River, the California population has decreased to a fraction of its estimated historical size. Breeding can occur from June through August with most cuckoos migrating south by mid-September. Nesting activity typically occurs between late June and late July, based on the availability of large insect prey and a sufficient block of riparian habitat. Cuckoos primarily use willow species such as Gooding's black willow (Salix gooddingii), red willow (S. laevigata), and coyote willow (S.exigua) for nesting and have open saucer type nests (similar to that of a Dove). Other tree

species are occasionally used, including Fremont cottonwood (Populus fremontii) and alder.

Impacts to the yellow-billed cuckoo have the potential to occur as a result of removal of riparian vegetation and the noise from heavy equipment work during the summer months. Typically, removal of riparian vegetation for the purpose of implementing a project does not occur but is minimal when it does. Many projects involve restoring the riparian corridor that is absent. Removal of willow branches for revegetation at restoration sites has the potential to degrade existing yellow-billed cuckoo habitat. Noise from heavy equipment has the potential to cause nesting birds to abandon nests. All impacts are temporary and can be minimized to avoid take of the species.

xviii. **Tidewater Goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*)**

Tidewater Goby was federally listed in 1994 and is a California species of special concern. The tidewater goby, which is endemic to California, are typically found in coastal lagoons, estuaries, and marshes with relatively low salinities. Tidewater gobies can withstand a range of habitat conditions: they have been documented in waters with salinity levels from 0 to 42 parts per thousand, temperatures from 8°C to 25ºC, depths from 25 to 200cm, and dissolved oxygen levels of less than one milligram per liter. Reproduction occurs from late April or May to July and as late as November or December, depending on the seasonal temperature and rainfall.

Measures to reduce impacts to tidewater goby habitat will include adjusting the timing of projects to avoid disruption to breeding activities, the use of silt fencing to reduce sediment loads and as barricades around project sites and installing cofferdams above and below project sites. Additional measures include moving individual tidewater gobies found within the enclosures prior to dewatering, minimizing project areas, and requiring qualified biologists to oversee project activities.

xix. **Little Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli brewsterii*)**

The Little Willow Flycatcher was listed as endangered by the State of California in 1990. This small migratory bird can be seen during their summer migration throughout a majority of northern and western US. In California, the Little Willow Flycatcher can be found primarily in dense moist willow thickets and riparian woodlands in northern California and along the western side of the Sierras. During spring (May to June), adults can be seen in north central California counties during the spring migration to their breeding sites farther north. Fall migration occurs primarily in August as the travel to the winter habitats in Central and South America.

Impacts to the Little Willow Flycatcher have the potential to occur as a result of removal of riparian vegetation (willows and low scrub) during the spring and

summer or from disturbance within a 0.25-mile radius of the sites. Typically, removal of riparian vegetation for the purpose of implementing a project does not occur but is minimal when it does. Many projects involve restoring the riparian corridor that is absent. Removal of willow branches for revegetation at restoration sites has the potential to degrade existing Little Willow Flycatcher habitat. Noise from heavy equipment has the potential to cause nesting birds to abandon nests. All impacts are temporary and can be minimized to avoid take of the species

xx. **Pacific Lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*)**

The Pacific Lamprey (lamprey) was designated in 2015 as a State Species of Special Concern, as well as a United States Fish and Wildlife Service Species of Concern. This jawless eel-like in form fish is one of only two extant Agnathans remaining today. Similar to Pacific Salmon, lamprey are anadromous, semelparous, and were once historically abundant along the entire West Coast of North America, however their abundance has since declined, and their distribution has shrunk. In California, areas that support lamprey populations can vary considerably. Lamprey populations can be found “from cool mountain slopes to moist coastal drainages to arid southern chaparral” (Goodman and Reid 2012).

Impacts to the Pacific Lamprey have the potential to occur as a result of dewatering, flow management and passage barriers. Many projects require dewatering to enhance and restore stream habitat to ideal conditions that benefit lamprey. All impacts to both lamprey populations and habitat are temporary and are minimized to avoid take of the species.

b) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Such an impact will not occur because the project actions are designed to correct past habitat degradation and restore and enhance riparian habitat and associated upland habitats. In accordance with the Regional General Permits 12, 78, and the Clean Water Act § 401 Water Quality Certification, construction of action items is allowed during the summer dry season (generally June 15-November 1) to avoid impacts to aquatic habitats. Work that is permitted after November 1 is limited to hand planting of seedlings. Planting of seedlings generally occurs after December 1, or when there is sufficient rainfall to ensure the best survival chance of the seedlings. Mitigation measures to avoid impacts to riparian habitat are found in Appendix B: Mitigation measures, monitoring, and reporting program for the 2024 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (Section IV).

Furthermore, the CDFW LSAs include project-specific terms and conditions that set reasonable measures determined by CDFW to be necessary to protect fish and wildlife resources that may be affected by the project.

c) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. The project actions will have either no effect on wetlands or will be beneficial to wetlands.

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. The project will enhance the movement of anadromous fish by the replacement or removal of culverts and bridges that are barriers to fish migration.

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 project actions are designed to restore and enhance biological resources. Some minor disturbance of grasses and shrubs will occur where stream structures are keyed into the stream banks. Care will be taken not to disturb any mature trees. Riparian vegetation will be reestablished where construction activities disturb existing plants, and additional native plants will be planted to enhance the riparian vegetation.

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 a conflict will not occur because the project restoration actions will not have a significant adverse impact on any species or habitat. Project actions are designed to restore the natural character of the fish and wildlife habitat at the project work sites. The project specifically supports the California Salmon, Steelhead Trout and Anadromous Fisheries Program Act (Fish and Game Code § 6900 et. seq.)

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5. While ground disturbance will be required to implement the project at some work sites that have the potential to affect historical resources, this potential impact will be avoided through implementation of the protective measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program and Appendix E, Procedure for the Programmatic Evaluation of Archaeological Resources for all work sites. Resources identified during site-specific surveys will be protected before ground-disturbing activities are permitted at a site. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5. While ground disturbance will be required to implement the project at some work sites that have the potential to affect archaeological resources, this potential impact will be avoided through implementation of the protective measures presented in Appendix B,

Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program for all work sites. Resources identified during site-specific surveys will be protected before ground-disturbing activities are permitted at a site. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

c) The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. While ground disturbance will be required to implement the project at some work sites that have the potential to affect these resources, this potential impact will be avoided through implementation of the protective measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program for all work sites. Resources identified during site-specific surveys will be protected before ground-disturbing activities are permitted at a site. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

VI. ENERGY

a) The project will not result in any significant environmental impact due to inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. The proposed project activities will require the consumption of energy in the form of fossil fuels for construction equipment, generators, and worker vehicles. Consumption of energy for the project will be minimized through proper maintenance of equipment and minimized vehicle idling. Additionally, energy consumption during project activities is necessary for stream and riparian habitat restoration and will only occur during the projects limited work season of a maximum 18 weeks a year during four years with no project activities requiring energy consumption after restoration of sites have reached completion.

b) The project's activities will not obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Such an impact will not occur because the project does not create any significant future energy demands, as the project's activities are habitat restoration based and are typically limited to a four-year implementation window that will be completed as efficiently as possible.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

a) The project will not expose people or structures to 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 does not create any structures for human habitation.

    i. The project will not expose people or structures to 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 does not create any structures for human habitation.

ii. The project will not expose people or structures to 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 does not create any structures for human habitation.

iii. The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the project does not create 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 implementation of the restoration project is designed to contribute to an overall reduction in erosion and sedimentation. Existing roads will be used to access work sites. Ground disturbance at most work sites will be minimal, except for road improvements or decommissioning. Road improvements and decommissioning will involve moving large quantities of soil from road fills and stream crossings to restore historic land surface profiles and prevent chronic erosion and sediment delivery to streams. The potential for substantial soil loss associated with road improvement and decommissioning will be avoided through implementation of the mitigation measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

c) Some project worksites are on unstable soils; however, the project will not increase the risk of landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. The project actions are designed to stabilize conditions at these sites in order to reduce sediment delivery to salmonid habitat. Actions implemented to stabilize sites may not be successful in all cases, but site instability will not be increased when compared to existing conditions.

d) Some project work sites will be located on expansive soil; however, the project will not create substantial risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the project will create no habitations, and the majority of the restoration actions will not create rigid structures that could be damaged by expansive soils. The few rigid structures to be created by the project (such as fish screens) will be engineered to withstand expansive soils, if they are present.

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

f) The project will not directly or indirectly destroy any unique paleontological resources or sites, or unique geologic features. While ground disturbance to implement the project at some work sites has the potential to affect these resources, this potential impact will be avoided through implementation of the protective measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program and Appendix D, Procedure for the Programmatic Evaluation of Paleontological Resources for all work sites. Resources identified during site-specific surveys will be

protected before ground-disturbing activities are permitted at a site. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

a) The project will emit greenhouse gases (GHG) through the use of fuel to operate vehicles and heavy equipment. The work window for restoration activities is generally limited from June 15 to November 1. Construction is limited to at most eighteen weeks during that window, and work must be completed within four years. However, for most projects, work does not occur for the entire eighteen-week field season, and most restoration activities do not take four years to implement. Some action items do not require heavy equipment at the restoration site but may use vehicles to transport materials. Furthermore, for an individual restoration action, GHG emissions may fluctuate during the implementation, as vehicles and equipment will be necessary to varying degrees. Watershed restoration projects often require more time to construct (six to twelve weeks) than other action items. Projects may be completed in a single year of construction or may require several years. Thus, the amount of time it takes to complete a restoration activity and the use of heavy equipment varies greatly among the actions. Although the project construction schedules and details are constrained by permit and grant conditions, the exact details cannot be specifically stated at this time. However, based on the short duration and small scale of the action items, the project will not generate a significant increase in GHG emissions above existing baseline levels because action items are discrete, limited in scope and implemented during a short time period.

b) Additionally, some action items involve decommissioning existing paved or dirt roads in forested landscapes. The decommissioned roads are re-planted with native conifer tree species. Additionally, when plants are removed to implement the restoration activity, the replanting ratio is 1:2 (for every plant removed, two native plants are planted). Once established native habitat restoration requires little to no maintenance and therefore little to no GHG emissions and will increase the presence of native plant species that sequester carbon dioxide.

c) Due to each action item’s short duration, small scale, and minimal on-going maintenance, the project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG. The short-term impact to the GHG levels are less than significant. Furthermore, the long-term impacts to the GHG levels from re-vegetation actions will aid in decreasing the GHG levels by reforesting areas where roads have been removed and where restoration work has been done.

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. Any potential significant hazard associated with the accidental release of coolant and petroleum

products used with equipment during construction will be avoided through implementation of the mitigation measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

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. At work sites requiring the use of heavy equipment, there is a small risk of an accident upsetting the machine and releasing fuel, oil, and coolant. The potential for accidental release will be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of the mitigation measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

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. Such impact is avoided because the project will not create any feature that will emit hazardous substances.

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

e) No project work site is located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. No project work site is located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

f) The project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Except for the case of road decommissioning, the project has no effect on access. The planned decommissioning of selected unused wild land roads will not have a significant impact on emergency vehicle access.

g) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. At work sites requiring the use of heavy equipment, there is a small risk of an accidental spark from equipment igniting a fire. The potential for accidental fire will be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of the mitigation measures presented in Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

a) The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. There is the potential for minor short-term increase in turbidity during installation of instream structures or culvert removal, however the mitigation measures described in Appendix B Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting will ensure that the project actions are in compliance with water quality standards. As a result,

mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant short-term impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

b) The project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. Upslope restoration activities will return drainage to historic patterns thereby decreasing surface runoff and increasing infiltration to the ground water.

c) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the work sites in a manner that would result in any of the following:

i) The project will not result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Such an impact will not occur because the project actions are designed to produce decreased erosion overall. Instream habitat structures, such as boulder weirs or flow deflectors, will produce local redistribution of sediments. These structures will produce a local redistribution of bed load, facilitating the deposition of spawning gravel in riffles, and improving scour to maintain pools for juvenile fish habitat. This local redistribution of bed load will not produce a net increase of erosion.

ii) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the work sites or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site. The project will decrease the risk of flooding through upslope restoration activities that will return drainage to historic patterns, thereby increasing infiltration and decreasing surface runoff.

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. Such an impact will not occur because upslope restoration activities will stabilize slopes and return drainage to historic patterns, thereby decreasing surface runoff and decreasing the silt load delivered to streams in the area of the project.

iv) The project will not impede or redirect flood flows. Culvert removal and replacement to be done as part of the project will remove existing impediments to flood flows. Instream habitat structures, such as boulder weirs, deflectors, and bank armor, are built to change the direction and velocity of stream flow. However, these structures are small (sized to affect conditions in the low flow channel) and will not impede flood flows.

d) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of inundation or release of pollutants by seiche, tsunami, or flood hazards. Such an impact will not occur because project actions are designed to improve or stabilize conditions at the work sites. Upslope restoration actions will reduce the chance of mudflow by stabilizing disturbed areas and restoring natural drainage patterns. Project work sites are not located in areas at risk of inundation by seiche or tsunami.

e) The project will not substantially degrade water quality. During placement of stream habitat structures and culvert replacement, some minor turbidity may be generated. The potential for degradation of water quality will be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of the mitigation measures presented in

Appendix B, Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program. Some short-term minor increase in turbidity may also occur as the streambed around instream structures adjusts during the first high stream flow following activity completion. However, this is not expected to produce a significant increase over background turbidity. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant short-term impacts to water quality are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

a) The project will not physically divide an established community. This impact will not occur because no culvert removal or road decommissioning is proposed in any established community.

b) The restoration activities that comprise this project do not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Such an impact will not occur because the project's restoration activities are designed to be compatible with local land use plans and ordinances.

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 project actions are only designed to stabilize and restore habitat and soils within the actions area.

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 no mineral resource recovery sites occur at the project work sites.

XIII. NOISE

a) The project will not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. Such an impact will not occur because most project structures are passive (i.e., contain no moving parts). The project will also not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of noise levels in excess of, standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. There may be a minor temporary increase in noise levels at those work sites requiring the use of heavy equipment. While such short-term increase in noise will not produce a significant increase in the noise level in the general environment, there is a potential for equipment noise to affect workers in close proximity to equipment producing noise levels ≥85 dB, such as chainsaws or backhoes. However, such an impact will not occur because personnel operating noisy equipment will be required to wear hearing protection. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant noise impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

b) The project will not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. Such an impact will not occur because only minor amounts of ground-borne vibration or noise will be generated short-term at those work sites requiring the use of heavy equipment.

c) None of the project work sites is located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Of all the project work sites in the project, only one is located within two miles of a public airport or public use airport but will not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels. Only minor amounts of noise will be generated temporarily at the site requiring the use of heavy equipment for restoration purposes only for the duration of the construction phase.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

a) The project will not induce unplanned substantial 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 housing and/or people 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. Issuance of restoration grants to government agencies could, in some cases, lead to minor increases in staffing to complete projects. Such increases will not lead to any significant adverse impacts to fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities, because the increases are short term, and no significant construction will be required to accommodate additional staff.

XVI. RECREATION

a) The project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities. Such an impact will not occur because the project actions will restore anadromous fish habitat and do not significantly alter human use or facilities at existing parks or recreational facilities. Overall, the project is expected to increase recreation opportunities by assisting in restoring populations of anadromous fish.

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

XVII. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

a) The project will not conflict with any applicable plans, ordinances or policies that establish measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation systems. Such a conflict will not occur because the project will result in only minor temporary increases in traffic to primarily wild land sites during implementation of habitat improvement measures.

b) The Project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b). No conflict will occur as project activities are restoration in nature and only result in minor traffic increases during construction times at rural sites. Once the restoration activities of the project are fully completed no additional traffic will occur.

c) The project will not alter roads in any way that will substantially increase hazards to transportation. The proposed project will reduce hazards to transportation, because the proposed project will correct and reduce landslide and erosion damage on the selected rural roads.

d) The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. Such an impact will not occur because during replacement of small road crossings, an alternate route for traffic will be provided around the construction.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

a) The project will not cause substantial adverse change in the significance of tribal cultural resource listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resource Code 5020.1(k). Although ground disturbance is required to implement the project, impacts to tribal cultural resources will be avoided through implementation of the protective measures presented in Appendix B: Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program; Appendix D: Procedures for the Programmatic Evaluation of Paleontological Resources; and Appendix E: Procedure for the Programmatic Evaluation of Archeological Resources for all work sites, where applicable. Resources identified during site-specific surveys will be protected before any ground-disturbing activities are permitted at a site. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

On September 10, 2026, in compliance with PRC § 21080.3.1 and the CDFW Tribal Communications Policy, CDFW provided official notification, by letter and email, of the 2026 FRGP MND project to tribes potential effected. The CDFW Tribal Liaison will address requests for formal consultation on the 2026 FRGP MND project.

b) The project will not cause substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource determined by the CDFW to be significant pursuant to the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. Restoration sites will consist mainly of cleanup and revegetation. The CDFW will apply the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of the Public Resources Code Section 5024.1 to potential tribal cultural resources identified during site-specific surveys and will consider the significance of the resource to California Native American tribes. Tribal cultural resources identified during site-specific surveys will be protected before any ground-disturbing activities are permitted at a site. Potential impacts to tribal cultural resources due to ground disturbance activities will be avoided through implementation of the protective measures presented in Appendix B: Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program; Appendix D: Procedures for the Programmatic Evaluation of Paleontological Resources; and Appendix E: Procedure for the Programmatic Evaluation of Archeological Resources for all work sites, where applicable. As a result, mitigation measures will ensure that any potentially significant impacts are avoided or mitigated to below a level of significance.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

a) The project will not result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities.

b) The project will have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project. The project is restoration in nature and will not need water supplies for future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years. c) The project will not produce wastewater, so will not be in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals.

c) The project will not generate solid waste.

d) The project will not generate solid waste requiring disposal in a landfill.

XX. WILDFIRE

a) The project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Such an impact will not occur as the majority of project activities are instream work in nature. Activities involving the replacement of small road crossings will have an alternate route provided during the construction season and does not require the closure of any adjacent roads that could interfere with an adopted plan.

b) The project does not pose a significant fire safety risk due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors that could exacerbate wildfire risks and expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire, though some project sites are located within or near mapped 'high' and 'very high' fire hazard severity zones and state responsibility areas. Such a conflict will not occur because project activities are mainly stream habitat restoration and upslope restoration activities that will stabilize slopes and return drainage to historic patterns. The majority of the project sites located within or near mapped 'high' and 'very high' fire hazard severity zones are implemented through hand work only, limiting factors that could exacerbate wildfire risks. Due to the lack of wildfire risk or exacerbating wildfire risk, the project will also not contribute to any additional exposure of pollutants to the occupants of the project areas.

c) The proposed project would not 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.

d) The project will not expose people or structures to significant risks such as downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, because of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. Project activities, majority of which are in rural areas, will restore floodplain areas, re-stabilize slopes, and return drainage to historic patterns. While project sites may need to temporarily divert or dewater, projects will follow the diversion and dewatering plan found within the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a) The project does have the potential to 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, 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. However, the potential is reduced to less than significant by implementing the mitigation measures in Appendix B: Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting Program. The project shall be implemented in a manner that will avoid short-term adverse impacts to rare plants and animals, and cultural resources during construction. The project activities are designed to improve and restore stream habitat; thereby providing long-term benefits to both anadromous salmonids and other fish and wildlife.

b) The project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because potential adverse impacts of the project are only minor and temporary in nature. It is the goal of the project that the beneficial effects of habitat enhancement actions will be cumulative over time and contribute to the recovery of listed anadromous salmonids.

c) The project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. The habitat enhancement measures implemented as part of this project will contribute to improved water quality, increased soil stability, and the recovery of listed salmonids, all of which will be beneficial to human beings.