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Notice of Determination

TO: ☒ Office of Planning and Research

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

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Northern Region
619 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501
Contact: Jonathan Hollis
Phone: (707) 601-7237

LEAD AGENCY (if different from above):
County of Humboldt
Planning and Building Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501
Contact: Joshua Dorris
Phone: (707) 268-3779

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to § 21108 of the Public Resources Code
State Clearinghouse Number: 19922013033, 2013072066

Project Title: Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-HUM-50200-R1C – Sandy Prairie Gravel Bar Extraction Project.

Project Location: The project is situated on the Eel River, a tributary to the Pacific Ocean. The project is located in County of Humboldt, State of California; Sections 2 and 3, Township 2 North, Range 1 West; and Sections 33, 34, 35, Township 3 North, Range 1 West; Humboldt Base and Meridian; Fortuna U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; in channel portions of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 106-041-015, 106-041-016, 200-352-006, 200-352-009, 200-353-012, 200-353-043, 200-361-002, 200-362-011 (Sandy Prairie), and 106-041-002, 200-341-005, 200-341-008, 200-341-009, 200-341-010 (Canevari); latitude 40.588 N and longitude 124.159 W (Sandy Prairie) and latitude 40.594 N and longitude 124.162 W (Canevari).

Project Description: The project is limited to two encroachments for aggregate extraction from the channel of the Eel River for commercial purposes. The Permittee proposes to extract up to a combined 270,000 cubic yards of gravel annually from the Sandy Prairie and Canevari sites; 70,000 cubic yards from Sandy Prairie under a vested rights determination, and 200,000 cubic yards from Canevari under a Conditional Use Permit. Combined annual extraction volumes in cubic yards over the last five years (2020 through 2024), were as follows: 55,780; 153,814; 136,479; 123,543, 96,035. Aggregate extraction consists of removal of flood-washed alluvial material using heavy equipment (e.g., front-end loaders, excavators, bulldozers, and dump trucks) from the Eel River channel and adjacent areas. Aggregate extraction methods and volumes shall be consistent with annual Pre-extraction Plans reviewed, conditioned, and approved by the gravel-review agencies. Extraction occurs during the summer low-flow period when alluvial deposits are exposed. Fisheries- and riparian-enhancement activities shall be proposed and included in the Pre-extraction Plan(s) during the term of the Agreement. Temporary crossings of the wetted channel may be needed to access gravel deposits. The Permittee shall coordinate the placement, installation, and removal of temporary crossings with CDFW to determine optimal siting and timing. The installation and removal of these crossings is conducted to avoid periods of peak flows, salmonid migration and spawning, and to minimize channel disturbance and impacts to sensitive aquatic habitats and organisms.

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

1. The project ☐ **will /** ☒ **will not** have a significant effect on the environment. (This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's jurisdiction when CDFW acts as a responsible agency.)
2. ☒ **A program environmental impact report /** ☐ **A negative declaration /** ☐ **A timber harvesting plan** was prepared for this project pursuant to CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures ☒ **were /** ☐ **were not** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations ☐ **was /** ☒ **was not** adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. Findings ☐ **were /** ☒ **were not** made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21081(a). CDFW did, however, adopt findings to document its compliance with CEQA.
6. Compliance with the environmental filing fee requirement at Fish and Game Code § 711.4 (check one):
   ☐ Payment is submitted with this notice.
   ☒ A copy of a receipt showing prior payment is on file with CDFW.

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☐ A copy of the CEQA Filing Fee No Effect Determination Form signed by the Department is attached to this notice.

☐ Lead Agency certification: CDFW, as Lead Agency, has made the final PEIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the Negative Declaration, available to the General Public at the CDFW office identified above.

☒ Responsible Agency statement: The final PEIR that was prepared by the Lead Agency for this project is available to the General Public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's CEQA Findings are available at the CDFW office identified above.

Signed: DocuSigned by: David Manthorne on behalf of 1B5E42F730224D2... *Date:* 7/16/2025

Michael van Hattem, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)

Date Received for filing at OPR: