

PUBLIC NOTICE

Availability of a Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment/Initial Study for the Lower Calaveras River Anadromous Fish Barriers Improvement Project

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Stockton East Water District announce the availability of a proposed Finding of No Significant Impact/Mitigated Negative Declaration (FONSI/MND) for the Lower Calaveras River Anadromous Fish Barriers Improvement Project.

Project Description:

The Proposed Project consists of replacing or retrofitting up to 37 in stream structures identified as passage impediments to salmon and steelhead trout in the lower Calaveras River below Bellota Weir. The first phase of the project has been funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, Stockton East Water District, and the California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response.

Project Location:

The Proposed Action is within the lower Calaveras River, an eastside tributary to the San Joaquin River, in San Joaquin County, California. The Proposed Action is in the reach of the lower Calaveras River between the San Joaquin River and Bellota (RM 25.1) via two fish passage routes: (1) the primary passage route which includes the Stockton Diverting Canal and Mormon Slough and (2) the secondary route which includes the Old Calaveras River channel.

Determination:

A Programmatic Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (PEA/IS) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and forms the basis for the proposed FONSI/MND. On the basis of this PEA/IS, it is determined that the proposed action with incorporation of the identified mitigation measures will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement and an Environmental Impact Report are not required pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Part 1501 of the Council for Environmental Quality- Regulations for Implementing NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Division 13 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California), respectively.

Public Review:

This Proposed FONSI/MND and PEA/IS is being circulated for a 30-day review and comment period from August 5, 2009 to September 9, 2009. Written comments on the document should be received by the agencies at the addresses shown below no later than September 9, 2009. Any written comments received by the due date will be considered by the agencies in preparing the final FONSI/MND, which is scheduled for adoption by September 15, 2009.

Mr. Kevin Kauffman
General Manager
Stockton East Water District
Post Office Box 5157
Stockton, California 95205
(209) 948-0333

Mr. Donald Ratcliff
Habitat Restoration Coordinator
Anadromous Fish Restoration Program
US Fish and Wildlife Service
4001 N. Wilson Way
Stockton, CA 95205
(209) 334-2968 ext. 409

The CEQA environmental review process and Mitigated Negative Declaration is pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6, Sections 15070 and 15073 of the California Administrative Code.

The NEPA environmental review process and FONSI is pursuant to Sections 1506.6 and 1508.13 of the Council for Environmental Quality- Regulations for Implementing NEPA.

The 30-day review period for this project meets the early public review requirement for any plans or proposals for actions in floodplains found in Executive Order 11988, Section 2(a)(4).

A copy of the Proposed FONSI/MND and PEA/IS may be reviewed/obtained at the Stockton East Water District, 6767 East Main Street, Stockton, California, 95215.