

**Notice of Determination**

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

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

*Street Address:*  
 1400 Tenth Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**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: 1992083049

Project Title: Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-HUM-51253-R1 – Blue Lake Gravel Bar Extraction Project.

Project Location: The project is situated on the Mad River, a tributary to the Pacific Ocean. The project is located in County of Humboldt, State of California; Section 30, Township 6 North, Range 2 East, Humboldt Base and Meridian; Arcata North U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor’s Parcel Numbers 313-231-001, 313-231-002, 313-231-003, 313-161-007, and 313-161-020; latitude 40.8803 N and longitude 123.9998 W (stockpile area).

Project Description: The project is limited to one encroachment for aggregate extraction from the channel of the Mad River for commercial purposes. The Permittee proposes to extract up to 50,000 cubic yards of gravel annually from the Blue Lake bar. Federal permit restrictions on the annual volume of gravel extracted were implemented based on a flow-based analysis of gravel replenishment. On average, over the last five years (2019 thru 2023), the annual extraction volumes have been approximately 22,000 cubic-yards.

Aggregate extraction consists of removal of flood-washed alluvial material using heavy equipment (e.g., front-end loaders, excavators, bulldozers, and dump trucks) from outside the Mad River wetted channel. Aggregate extraction methods and volumes shall be consistent with approved annual extraction work plans. Extraction occurs during the summer low-flow period when alluvial deposits are exposed. Fisheries- and riparian-enhancement or off-channel extractions may be included annually and involve connection of extraction areas to the wetted channel. Temporary crossings of the wetted channel may be needed to access gravel deposits. Timing of the installation and removal of these crossings is conducted to avoid periods of peak flows, salmonid migration and spawning, other aquatic organisms, and requires coordination with CDFW scientific staff. Crossings are also designed to minimize the extent of channel disturbance and avoid sensitive aquatic habitat.

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.

- 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: Michael van Hattem Date: 8/27/2024  
689BB18539B6406  
Michael van Hattem, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)  
Date Received for filing at OPR: