

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
North Central Region
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Contact: Patrick Moeszinger
Phone: (916) 767-3935



Lead Agency

Placer County Water Agency
144 Ferguson Road
Auburn, CA 95604
Contact: Ben Ransom
Phone: (530) 308-4554

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2012082046

Project Title: Duncan Creek Diversion Improvement Project (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. PLA-19405-R2)

Project Location (include county): The project is located at Duncan Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork American River, in the County of Placer, State of California. The project site is located at Latitude 39.134363, Longitude -120.481195 (WGS 84 datum, decimal degrees). The project is located off the gated Duncan Creek Diversion Dam Road, accessible via Mosquito Ridge Road approximately 20 miles northeast of the community of Foresthill.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification Number PLA-19405-R2, pursuant to section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the project Applicant, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA).

The proposed project is limited to improvements to the existing Duncan Creek Diversion Dam to allow sediment to pass downstream and to implement instream flow and pulse flow requirements associated with the license for the PCWA's Middle Fork American River Project (MFP), which was issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on June 8, 2020 (FERC Project No. 2079).

Specifically, the project is designed to modify the diversion such that the existing diversion pool will permanently fill with sediment, allowing natural stream sediment (and large woody debris) transported from upstream during high flow events to pass downstream of the diversion. This natural sediment transport is intended to benefit the biological functioning of the stream (e.g., spawning gravel supply).

PCWA proposes to modify the existing diversion dam to include a new diversion facility on the southern portion of the diversion dam to divert water into the tunnel. The new diversion facility will include: new diversion approach channel and gated notch designed to generate adequate hydraulic head to divert water and a path to pass sediment through the crest gates of the diversion dam; new infrastructure for the diversion and screening of water to the Duncan Creek – Middle Fork Tunnel Intake; new fish bypass and receiving pool that will provide fish passage downstream of the diversion dam; new instream flow piping designed to allow PCWA to meet the new minimum instream flow and pulse flow requirements; and new micro-hydro facility that will generate power to operate various components of the diversion facility.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, executed the above Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement on the date signed below and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project will / will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.

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- 2. CDFW considered the environmental impact report prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
- 3. Mitigation measures were / were not made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
- 4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was / was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
- 5. A statement of overriding considerations was / was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
- 6. Findings were / were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The final environmental impact report prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of execution of the above Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement as Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:
Billie Wilson for
Signature: 0782645E72B54D0... Date: 12/22/2021

Kelley Barker, Environmental Program Manager