

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS FOR
LAKE OR STREAMBED ALTERATION AGREEMENT EPIMS No. SJN-16444-R2**

Introduction

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Guidelines) (Cal. Code Regs., Title 14, § 15000 et seq) require that no public agency shall approve or carry out a project for which an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been completed that identifies one or more significant effects, unless the agency makes the following finding as to each significant effect. The following finding is relevant to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) project approval:

- Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which mitigate or avoid the significant effects on the environment.

CDFW is a responsible agency under CEQA with respect to the project because prior environmental review and approval of the project by the lead agency, County of San Joaquin, (see generally Pub. Resources Code, § 21067; CEQA Guidelines, § 15367). County of San Joaquin analyzed the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the project in an Environmental Impact Report (SCH No. 2008052024) and approved the project on January 10, 2020. In so doing, County of San Joaquin imposed mitigation and avoidance measures for impacts to biological resources as conditions of project approval and concluded that project-related impacts to biological resources could be substantially lessened with implementation of mitigation and avoidance measures, such that the impacts would be less than significant.

CDFW is entering into Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (Agreement) EPIMS Notification No. SJN-16444-R2 with Forward Landfill. The Project is located at South Fork Littlejohns Creek, approximately 5 miles Southeast of the City of Stockton, County of San Joaquin, State of California; Latitude 37.872710, Longitude -121.183010; Section 3, Township 01S, Range 07E, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map Manteca, Mount Diablo Meridian.

The Project is limited to the realignment of approximately 3,000 linear feet of Littlejohns Creek to facilitate the expansion of the Forward Landfill. The existing portion of Littlejohns Creek at the Project site currently serves as a trapezoidal irrigation channel. In order to accommodate the expansion of the landfill, a new channel of approximately 3,400 linear feet will be routed around the perimeter of the landfill.

Findings

CDFW has considered the EIR (SCH No. 2008052024), adopted by County of San Joaquin. CDFW has independently concluded that the Agreement should be issued under the terms and conditions specified therein. In this regard, CDFW hereby adopts the findings of County of San Joaquin as set forth in the EIR insofar as they pertain to the project's impacts on biological resources within CDFW's discretionary authority pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 1600-1616.

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Signed: _____ Date: 4/25/2022

Kelley Barker
Environmental Program Manager
North Central Region