

2019099079

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Bobcat Flat phase III Salmon Habitat Restoration Tuolumne River

Lead Agency: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Contact Person: Stephanie Tadlock
 Mailing Address: 11020 Sun Center Drive #200 Phone: (916) 464-3291
 City: Rancho Cordova Zip: 95670-6114 County: Stanislaus

Project Location: County: Stanislaus City/Nearest Community: La Grange/Waterford
 Cross Streets: Rushing Road Zip Code: 95386

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 37 ° 37 ' 48 " N / -120 ° 32 ' 49 " W Total Acres: 190 +/-

Assessor's Parcel No.: 008-021-011, -026 Section: 33 (32) Twp.: 3S Range: 13E Base: MDB&M

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 132 Waterways: Tuolumne River
 Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ Draft EIS Other: _____
 Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ FONSI

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: Habitat Restoration

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ Transportation: Type _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Mining: Mineral _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Educational: _____ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Recreational: _____ Other: Habitat Restoration
 Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Growth Inducement
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Land Use
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Cumulative Effects
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Agriculture/ General Agricultural, 40 acre minimum / Agricultural (AG)

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

See Attached

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 9/24/19 Ending Date 10/23/19

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Augustine Planning Associates, Inc.</u>	Applicant: <u>Tuolumne River Conservancy, Inc.</u>
Address: <u>270 S. Barretta, Suite C - P.O. Bx 3117</u>	Address: <u>1163 E. March Lane, Suite D-708</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Sonora, CA 95370</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Stockton, CA 95210</u>
Contact: <u>Amy Augustine, AICP</u>	Phone: <u>(209) 471-0476</u>
Phone: <u>(209) 743-2323 tuolandplanner@gmail.com</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 9/22/19

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Bobcat Flat East (Phase III) Project is proposed to restore, increase, and enhance the quantity and quality of salmonid [Central Valley fall run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)] spawning and rearing habitat and improve habitat for waterfowl and other aquatic and terrestrial species between River Miles 43.5± to 44.5± within and adjacent to the Tuolumne River by:

- Reestablishing natural floodplain processes through channel contouring and connections;
- Replenishing spawning gravel through augmentation; and
- Bank re-vegetation and riparian habitat preservation activities promoting both wetland and upland native plant communities.

Purpose and Need

The Project site has been severely damaged, and the fish and wildlife habitat left significantly altered for many years. This reach of the Tuolumne River was altered by gold dredging activities done to excavate the original river channel and flood plain up to 25 feet deep during the first half of the last century. This reach of the river was further altered during the 1960s by harvesting gravels during construction of upstream dams and by upstream dam construction (especially the New Don Pedro Dam in 1971) that has changed the flow regime of the river and reduced coarse gravel recruitment in this reach of the river.

These river altering activities converted this reach of the Tuolumne River channel from a natural river pool-riffle sequence, which had provided spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead, to a lake-cascade stream morphology, with steep gravel gradients and long pools in between gravel bars, and with swift water unsuited to spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead. The Tuolumne River historically served as spawning and rearing habitat for large populations of Chinook salmon and steelhead. The Chinook salmon and steelhead populations have declined significantly over the past several decades throughout their range. Central Valley Steelhead are listed as Threatened pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). Fall-run Chinook salmon are also California Species of Special Concern.

The proposed restoration and enhancement of spawning and rearing habitat in the Tuolumne River for these fish species is needed for their continued survival and recovery from the current threat of decline and ultimate extinction. Since the construction of upstream dams created a barrier to prevent the Chinook salmon and steelhead from migrating upstream of the dams for spawning above La Grange, there is no feasible alternative to the reconstruction and enhancement of spawning and rearing habitat within the main channel of the Tuolumne River. This reach of the river has not been able to recover natural channel and floodplain features and habitats. If the project is not constructed with mechanical intervention, the Chinook salmon and the steelhead will likely continue to lose population numbers. The proposed restoration and enhancement of salmonid habitat will also benefit other aquatic and terrestrial animals in and around the Tuolumne River. The proposed reconstruction and enhancement of spawning and rearing gravel habitats for the Chinook salmon and steelhead and the proposed revegetation for fish and wildlife habitat improvements are needed not only to assure the survival of these species, but are also needed to meet the recreational needs of Central Valley fishermen and the livelihood of California's commercial fishermen.

Construction Schedule

Construction is expected to occur within three-to-five construction seasons. Construction is expected to begin in approximately July 2021 with completion in October 2025.