



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
 Northern Region  
 601 Locust Street  
 Redding, CA 96001  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director**



July 8, 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Jul 08 2020**

Kirk Skierski, Deputy Director  
 County of Siskiyou  
 Planning Department  
 806 S. Main Street  
 Yreka, CA 96097

## STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

**Subject: Review of the Mitigative Negative Declaration for So. Oregon Ready Mix Spring Hill Drive Rezone Project, State Clearinghouse Number 2020069019, Siskiyou County**

Dear Kirk Skierski:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Mitigative Negative Declaration (MND) for the So. Oregon Ready Mix Spring Hill Drive Rezone Project (Project), dated June 2020. As a trustee for the State's fish and wildlife resources, the Department has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and their habitat. As a responsible agency, the Department administers the California Endangered Species Act and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code that conserve the State's fish and wildlife public trust resources. The Department offers the following comments and recommendations on this Project in our role as a trustee and responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.

### Project Description

The Project as proposed is a "request for a rezone of two existing parcels totaling ±33.5 acres in size from AG-2 (Non-Prime Agriculture) to M-M (Light Industrial). The Project would also create a contractor's yard, a 4,000-square-foot floor shop/office building, a concrete grinding residue washout basin, a truck parking area for company trucks and a storage area for the construction material and items related to construction. The Project would provide a gravel surface for parking areas of the Project site."

The Project is located along Spring Hill Drive in south-central Siskiyou County, north of the City of Mt. Shasta.

### Comments and Recommendations

The Department commented on this Project on November 15, 2018, during the early consultation period.

The Department has the following recommendations and comments on the MND pertaining to biological resources.

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*

Kirk Skierski, Deputy Director  
July 8, 2020  
Page 2

### Nesting Birds

The biological review report, *Potential Occurrence of Wildlife Species*, was prepared by Wildland Resource Managers for the Project in September 2019. In this report, several species of migratory birds are identified as being present on the Project site, including “ravens, crows, and scrub jays”, and a species of towhee. The biological surveys of the Project site were all conducted during mid-day hours. Additional avian species may have been observed had the surveys been conducted during early morning hours when birds are most active.

Because nesting birds, raptors, and migratory birds are protected under Fish and Game Code sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513, the Department recommends the addition of a mitigation measure to the MND specific to nesting birds. An example is as follows:

In order to avoid impacts to nesting birds and/or raptors protected under Fish and Game Code sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 one of the following shall be implemented:

- a) Conduct vegetation removal and other ground-disturbance activities associated with construction from September 1 through January 31, when birds are not nesting; or
- b) Conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting birds if vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities are to take place during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31). These surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than one week prior to vegetation removal or construction activities during the nesting season. If an active nest is located during the preconstruction surveys, a non-disturbance buffer shall be established around the nest by a qualified biologist in consultation with the Department. No vegetation removal or construction activities shall occur within this non-disturbance buffer until the young have fledged, as determined through additional monitoring by the qualified biologist. The results of the pre-construction surveys shall be sent electronically to the Department at [R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Hubbard, Environmental Scientist at (530) 225-2138, or by e-mail at [Kristin.Hubbard@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristin.Hubbard@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

*Curt Babcock*

974D273FEE784E2...

**Curt Babcock**

Habitat Conservation Program Manager

ec: Kirk Skierski, Associate Planner  
[kskierski@co.siskiyou.ca.us](mailto:kskierski@co.siskiyou.ca.us)

State Clearinghouse  
[State.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:State.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov)

Kristin Hubbard  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
[Kristin.Hubbard@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kristin.Hubbard@wildlife.ca.gov)