

CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

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September 21, 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Oct 08 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Ms. Linda Herman
City of Chico
P.O. Box 3420
Chico, California 95927

Subject: City of Chico Vegetative Fuels Management Plan, Notice of Preparation,
SCH No. 2020090170

Location: Butte County

Dear Ms. Herman,

Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) staff has reviewed the subject document and provides the following comments:

The proposed project is within the vicinity of the Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, Butte Creek Diversion Channel, Butte Creek, Lindo Channel, Sandy Gulch, Dead Horse Slough, Sycamore Creek and Mud Creek, regulated streams under Board jurisdiction and may require a Board permit prior to construction.

The Board's jurisdiction covers the entire Central Valley including all tributaries and distributaries of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, and the Tulare and Buena Vista basins south of the San Joaquin River.

Under authorities granted by California Water Code and Public Resources Code statutes, the Board enforces standards set forth in California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 1 (Title 23) for the construction, maintenance, and protection of adopted plans of flood control, including the federal-State facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control, regulated streams, and designated floodways.

Pursuant to Title 23, Section 6 (a), a Board permit is required prior to working within the Board's jurisdiction for the placement, construction, reconstruction, removal, or abandonment of any landscaping, culvert, bridge, conduit, fence, projection, fill, embankment, building, structure, obstruction, encroachment, excavation, the planting, or removal of vegetation, and any repair or maintenance that involves cutting into the levee.

Board staff have reviewed the subject document and provides the following comments on the potential environmental effects within the Board's jurisdiction:

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Hydrologic Impacts

According to page 8, “Many of Chico’s creek corridors have either no management plan or an outdated management plan. This includes Little Chico Creek, Lindo Channel, Comanche Creek Greenway, and Sycamore Creek.” Board staff reviewed the proposed management plan maps that includes Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, Butte Creek Diversion Channel, Butte Creek, Lindo Channel, Sandy Gulch, Dead Horse Slough, Sycamore Creek and Mud Creek.

The vegetation management plan proposed work on page 42 includes, “Vegetation management for fire hazard mitigation means thinning, pruning, removing, rearranging, or otherwise altering vegetation to (1) make ignitions less likely and (2) make fire behavior less severe. The vegetation management toolbox is large because nature is varied. No two acres are exactly alike. Tactics may need to change from site to site – or, on the same site, from season to season. On the other hand, conditions on some sites may be stable enough to make a standard prescription appropriate. In general, vegetation management techniques can be classified into five categories:

- Biological (e.g., grazing)
- Hand Labor (e.g., hand pulling, cutting)
- Machine Labor (e.g., tractors, masticators)
- Chemical (e.g., herbicide)
- Fire.”

An encroachment permit application may be required for the Project as it is located within regulated streams including Big Chico Creek, Little Chico Creek, Butte Creek Diversion Channel, Butte Creek, Lindo Channel, Sandy Gulch, Dead Horse Slough, Sycamore Creek and Mud Creek . An encroachment permit may also be required to include any existing works that predate permitting into compliance with Title 23, or where it is necessary to establish the conditions normally imposed by permitting. The circumstances include those where responsibility for the works has not been clearly established or ownership and use have been revised.

Other federal (including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 10 and 404 regulatory permits), State and local agency permits may be required and are the applicant’s responsibility to obtain.

Board permit applications and Title 23 regulations are available on our website at <http://www.cvpfb.ca.gov/>. Maps of the Board’s jurisdiction are also available from the California Department of Water Resources website at <http://gis.bam.water.ca.gov/bam/>.

Encroachment permit applications received on or after July 1, 2019 are subject to fees, additional information is available on the Board’s website at <http://cvfpb.ca.gov/fees-2019/>.

Please contact James Herota at (916) 574-0651, or via email at James.Herota@CVFlood.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Ms. Linda Herman
September 21, 2020

Sincerely,

Andrea Buckley

Andrea Buckley
Environmental Services and Land Management Branch Chief

cc: Office of Planning and Research
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