
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

NOTICE OF INTENT

TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND INITIAL STUDY

(Pursuant to CEQA Section 21092 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15072)

TUOLUMNE RIVER CONSERVANCY, INC BOBCAT FLAT PHASE III FLOODPLAIN AND CHANNEL RESTORATION PROJECT

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations) for the Tuolumne River Conservancy, Inc (Tuolumne River Conservancy) Bobcat Flat Phase III Floodplain and Channel Restoration Project (project or proposed project). Tuolumne River Conservancy is the project proponent.

The Project is a proposal by the Tuolumne River Conservancy to restore, increase, and enhance the quantity and quality of salmonid (Central Valley fall run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead) 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.

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.

The Central Valley RWQCB is the lead agency for the project, under CEQA, and has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) on the proposed project in accordance with CEQA requirements and the State CEQA Guidelines. The potentially significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, and tribal cultural resources were identified in the Initial Study. All impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the implementation of identified mitigation measures; therefore, a MND has been prepared.

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Agencies and members of the public are invited to provide written comments on the IS/MND. **The comment period is from November 5, 2020 to December 4, 2020.** The IS/MND can be viewed at the Central Valley RWQCB's office at 11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114 or on the Central Valley RWQCB's web site at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/#WaterQualCert.

Comments and/or questions regarding this IS/MND may be directed to: Nicholas White, Water Resource Control Engineer, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, 11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 or by email at Nicholas.White@waterboards.ca.gov.

All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on February 18, 2020. For e-mailed comments, please include the project title in the subject line, attach comments in MS Word format, and include the commenter's name and U.S. Postal Service mailing address.