

## Notice of Determination

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**To:**

Office of Planning and Research  
[CEQA Submit](#)

**From:**

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Bay Delta Region  
2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100  
Contact: Karen Taylor  
Email: [Karen.Taylor@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Karen.Taylor@wildlife.ca.gov)  
Phone: 707-287-2144



Lead Agency

**California Department of Transportation**  
**111 Grand Avenue**  
**Oakland CA 94612**  
Contact: Nancy Frost  
Email: [Lindsay.Vivian@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Lindsay.Vivian@dot.ca.gov)  
Phone: (510) 506-4310

**SUBJECT:** Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2020120007

**Project Title:**

Ritchie Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal and Bridge Replacement Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS NAP-35555-R3)

**Project Location (Napa County):**

The Project is located along State Route (SR) 29 at Post Mile (PM) 33.13, between the towns of St. Helena and Calistoga in the northern part of Napa County, California (Exhibit A1). The Project site is located within Section 10, Township 08N, and Range 06W (GPS Coordinates 38.55271, -122.52030). The bridge replacement and fish passage project is along Ritchie Creek, which is a tributary to the Napa River.

**Project Description:**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-NAP-35555-R3), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, the project Applicant, California Department of Transportation.

The proposed Project consists of replacing and expanding the existing Ritchie Creek Bridge to remove existing fish passage barriers and improve fish passage. Replacement of the existing bridge will allow the creek to be reconfigured to enhance aquatic habitat conditions for fish. The full Project limits extend from PM 32.98 to 33.28, and additional Project features include the realignment of two lanes to divert traffic from the existing bridge to a temporary detour bridge, temporary access roads to the creek, and staging areas. A temporary creek diversion system (TCDS) will be installed to divert creek flow around the work area to keep it dry and minimize sediment discharge during construction. Traffic will be diverted to a two-lane temporary detour bridge prior to bridge demolition to maintain traffic flow and construction clearance. The existing bridge will be replaced and expanded along the same alignment with a new, 50-foot-long, 44-foot-wide structure. Fish passage will be improved by removing in-stream fish passage barriers and using a roughened channel design with rock ramps to simulate a natural step and pool stream system. Channel widening within the creek will be necessary to accommodate the new 50-foot-long free-span bridge crossing and allow for channel bed modification. A pool will be created downstream of the existing bridge along with buried weirs on the upstream and downstream ends of the pool to maintain channel stability.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on October 10, 2024 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

**Notice of Determination**

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. CDFW considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan was adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:  
 10/10/2024  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Craig Weightman, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_