



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:
San Joaquin County
Recorder/Country Clerk Office
44 North San Joaquin Street
Second Floor, Suite 260
Stockton, CA 95202

FROM: (LEAD AGENCY)
EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
Office of the Secretary - (510) 287-0404
375 Eleventh Street, MS 806
Oakland, CA 94607-4240

Lead Agency is the Project Applicant
 Lead Agency is Public Agency Approving Project
 Lead Agency is Carrying Out Project

PROJECT INFORMATION

- TITLE:** Lower Mokelumne River Fish Screen Project 2021
- LOCATION:** *(City, County, and specific location)*
 Lower Mokelumne River, river mile 54.1 (38.17664444, -121.1557806), 54.8 (38.17586667, -121.1448667), and 55.0 (38.17606944, -121.1406444) near Elliot Road in Lockeford, San Joaquin County, CA.
- DESCRIPTION:** The project consists of installation of self-cleaning fish screens to three existing surface water diversions in the lower Mokelumne River. The purpose of the project is to reduce entrainment of juvenile anadromous fish into water diversions within the lower Mokelumne River. See Attachment A for more information.

EXEMPTION FINDING (Check one)

This project is exempt from CEQA because:

- Activity is not a project
- Activity is Ministerial (Sec.21080(b)(1); Guideline 15268)
- Activity is a Declared Emergency (Sec.21080(b)(3); Guideline 15269(a))
- Activity is an Emergency Project (Sec.21080(b)(4); Guideline 15269(b)(c))
- Activity is Categorically Exempt Under Guideline 15301 and 15303
- Activity is Statutorily Exempt Under Guideline _____
- Reasons why project is exempt: The project involves maintenance of an existing facility (private diversion intake) that does not expand its existing use (Guideline 15301), through addition of a small structure (fish-blocking screen) to the existing facility (Guideline 15303). The project will have no significant environmental effects relative to location, cumulative impact, or significant effects due to unusual circumstances, hazardous waste, or historical resources; pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines.

APPROVAL BY INITIATING UNIT: Lodi Fish and Wildlife Division: Lodi Office

12/23/2020

Denise Barnard DMB

Michelle Workman

1. DATE PREPARED

2. PREPARED BY (Initial)

3. REVIEWED BY (Unit Supv. Initial)

Michelle Workman

4. RECOMMENDED BY (Division/Section Manager)

Denise Barnard

LODI

Supervising F/WLife Biologist

209-263-6368

5. CONTACT PERSON

MAIL SLOT #

TITLE

PHONE

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION APPROVED FOR FILING WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

1/11/2021

Michael Tognolini

DATE

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

1/19/2021

DATE FORWARDED TO COUNTY CLERK

SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT

ATTACHMENT A
EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
Lower Mokelumne River Fish Screen Project 2021

Overview and Background

The project consists of installation of self-cleaning fish screens on three existing surface water diversions in the lower Mokelumne River (Figure 1). The project is funded through a grant (F18AC00034) provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Anadromous Fish Restoration Program to the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). In 2019, EBMUD examined recent and historic data collected at riparian water diversions and juvenile fish traps to identify, characterize, and rank water diversions in the lower Mokelumne River. Each site's potential impact to anadromous fish populations was ranked based on diversion timing and magnitude, physical characteristics of diversions, and the outmigration timing and size of native anadromous fish during diversion operation. After identifying and ranking 49 unscreened diversions within the lower Mokelumne River and subsequent landowner outreach, three diversions were identified as project sites for screening in late summer 2021.

Project Purpose and Objectives

The project aims to reduce entrainment of juvenile anadromous fish through the installation of self-cleaning fish screens to three surface water diversions within the lower Mokelumne River.

Project Location and Site Characteristics

Site 1

Site 1 is located on the south side of the lower Mokelumne River at river mile 54.1 near Elliott Road in Lockeford, CA (38.17664444, -121.1557806; Figure 1; Figure 2). A vertical pump is currently operated at this site along a levee road with a steep embankment reinforced by rip-rap. The maximum pumping rate at this diversion is 3,800 Gallons Per Minute (GPM). The pump station draws water directly from the river with a single intake. The pump station may be operated year-round, but the months of operation generally range from April through October.

Site 2

Site 2 is located on the south side of the lower Mokelumne River at river mile 54.8 near Elliott Road in Lockeford, CA (38.17586667, -121.1448667; Figure 1; Figure 3). A slant pump is currently operated at this site along a levee road with a steep vegetated embankment. The maximum pumping rate at this diversion is 2,000 GPM. The pump station draws water directly

from the river using two intakes. The pump station may be operated year-round, but the months of operation generally range from April through October.

Site 3

Site 3 is located on the south side of the lower Mokelumne River at river mile 55.0 near Elliott Road in Lockeford, CA (38.17606944, -121.1406444; Figure 1; Figure 4). A slant pump is currently operated at this site along a levee road with a steep vegetated embankment. The maximum pumping rate at this diversion is 2,000 GPM. The pump station draws water directly from the river using one intake. The pump station may be operated year-round, but the months of operation generally range from April through October.

Project Characteristics

Self-cleaning fish screens shall be designed, fabricated, delivered, and mounted to a fabricated steel screen base at each diversion site. Because of the shallow water depth, one cone screen approximately 66 inches in diameter will be installed at each site (Figure 5). A brush cleaning system, including a submersible hydraulic motor and three external brushes, will keep grass, algae, and other debris from accumulating on the surface of the screen.

Site 1 will require the existing vertical pump station to be retrofitted with a pipe wet well approximately 18 feet tall and 36 inches in diameter that will encapsulate the pump and connect to the cone screen base. To support this wet well and screen base, two new pilings will need to be installed using a vibratory pile hammer. The screen base will be approximately 12 inches tall with a 72 inch diameter flat surface that will mount the cone screen. For installation, a silt curtain will be installed in the river around the work area. The silt curtain will be anchored to the shore both upstream and downstream. The bottom of the silt curtain will be weighted with a heavy log chain to fit the contour of the riverbed and will be outfitted with floats. A floating platform will be used to gain access to the pump structure at the water's surface.

For Site 2 and Site 3, the screen base will be approximately 12 inches tall with a 72 inch diameter flat surface that will mount the cone screen. The existing intake pipes on the riverbank will need to be excavated to make the intake pipe connection. The excavation will be completed using handheld shovels and cover approximately 1 x 1 feet. The entire system including the screen, base, intake pipes, and support piles will be installed using an excavator.

Permits and Approvals

All work will be conducted on private property adjacent to the Mokelumne River. The landowners have provided permission for the project and are involved in approval of final screen design. Encroachment permits are not required since there is no work within the public right-of-way. All required permits from the regulatory agencies will be obtained before commencing work.

Schedule and Work Hours

The construction is anticipated to start in late summer of 2021 and will take approximately 1 week to complete. Construction activities will occur in the daytime weekday hours (7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Construction will occur during the dry season to avoid NPDES concerns and weather-related delays.

EBMUD Practices and Procedures

Standard construction biological, environmental, and safety practices applicable to all EBMUD construction projects have been incorporated into the project. California Storm water Quality Association (CASQA) Best Management Practices will be utilized. These standard practices minimize impacts resulting from EBMUD construction projects.

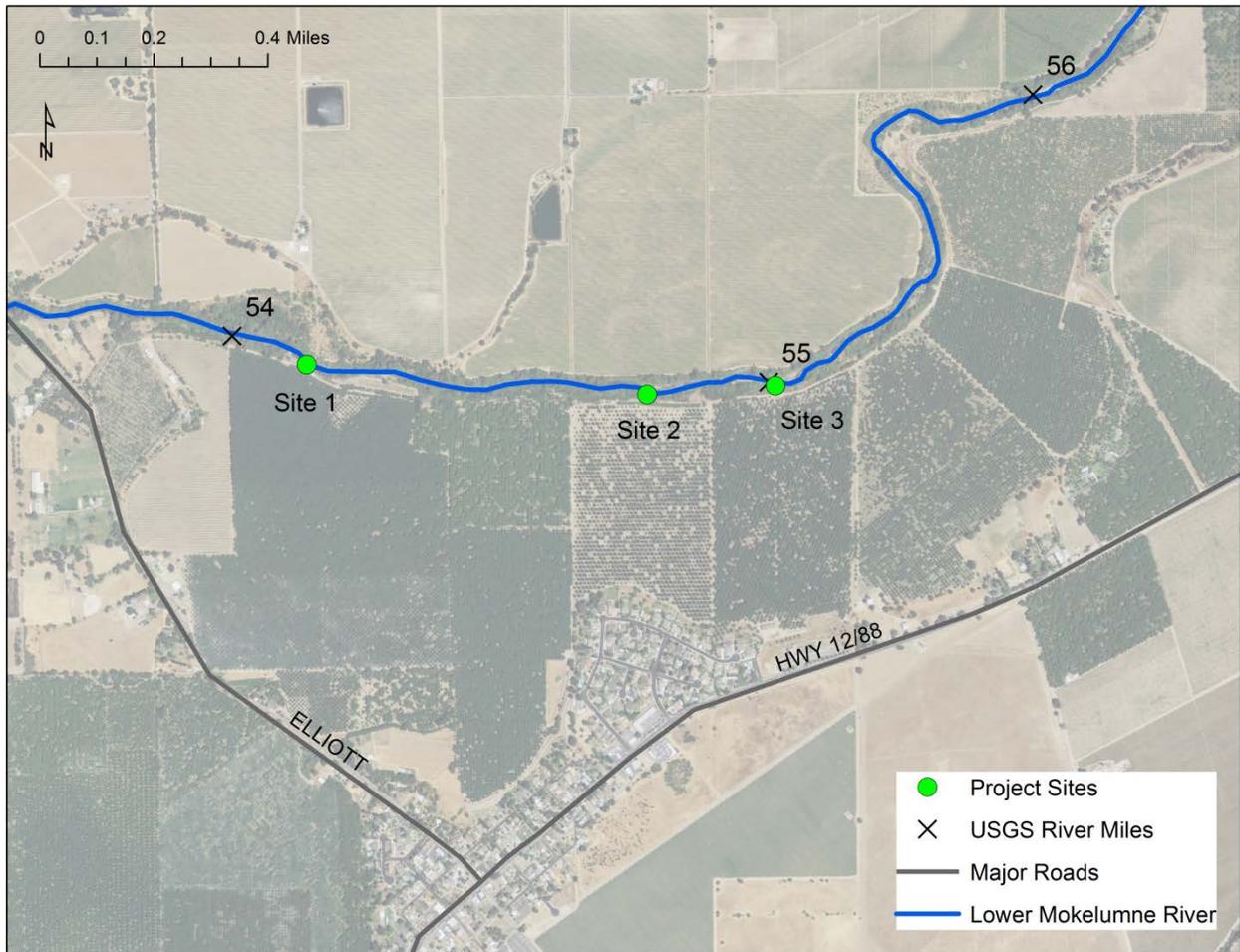


Figure 1. Project site locations for the 2021 Lower Mokelumne River Fish Screen Project.



Figure 2. Photographs of Site 1 including A) the diversion platform, B) the connecting pipe, C) the submerged intake, D) an aerial view of the site.

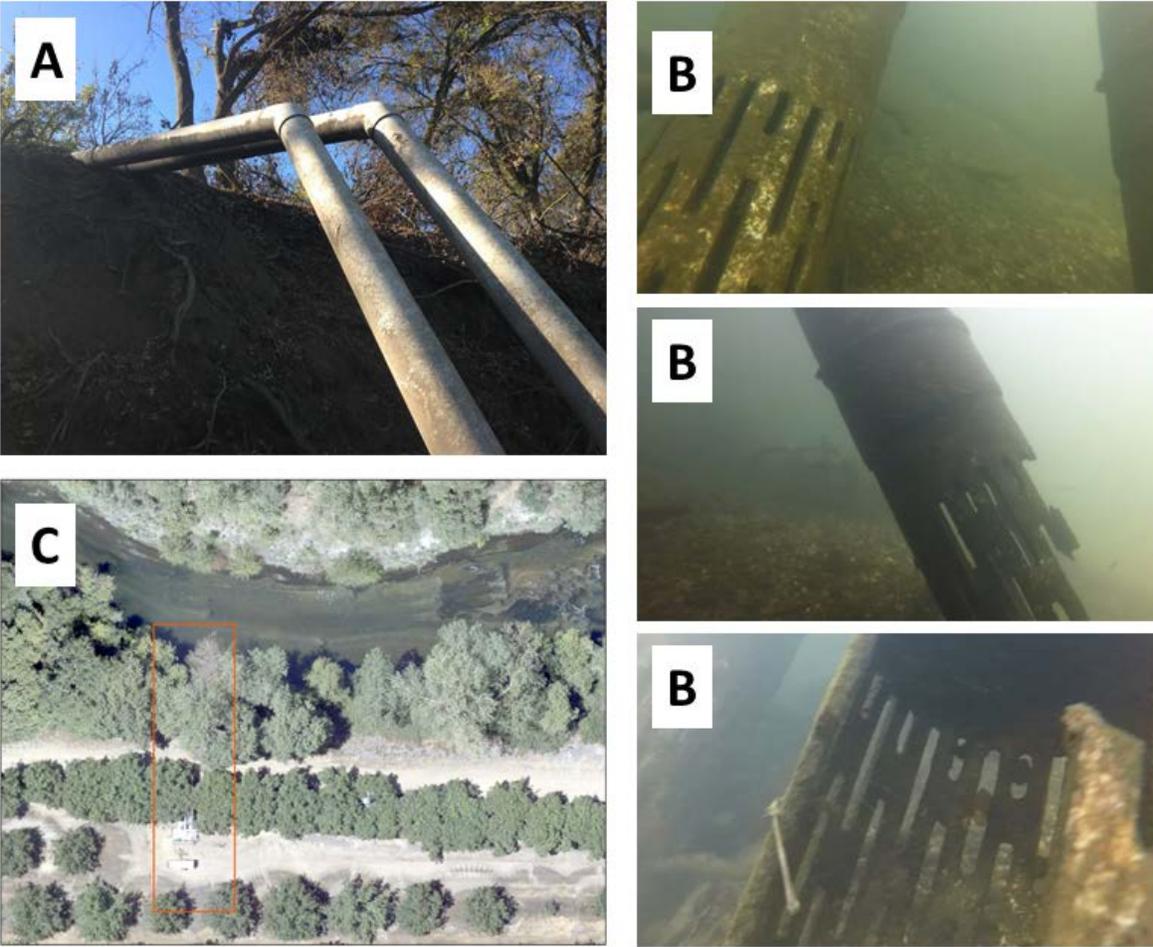


Figure 3. Photographs of Site 2 including A) the diversion pipes, B) the submerged diversion intakes, C) an aerial view of the site.



Figure 4. Photographs of Site 3 including A) the diversion pipe, B) the pumping station, C) the submerged intake, D) an aerial view of the site.

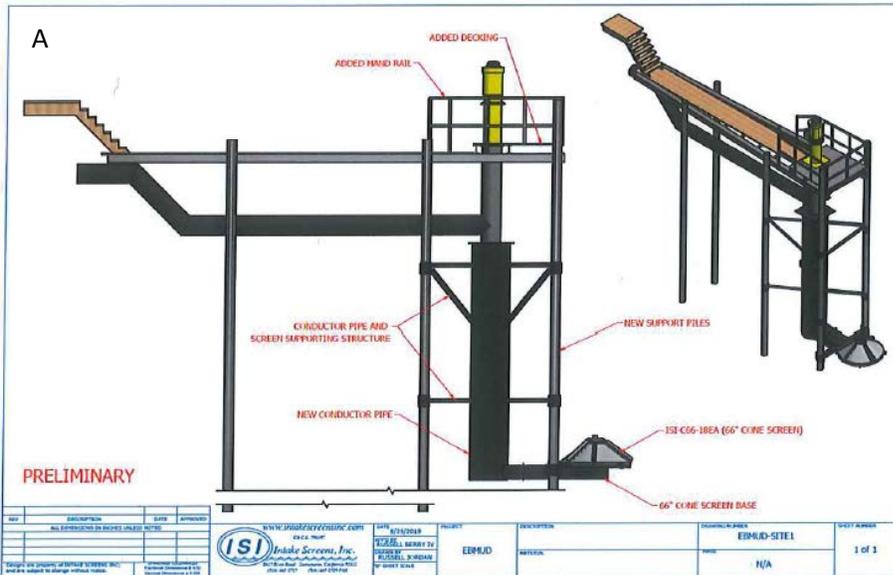


Figure 5. Schematics of existing water diversions with the addition of proposed 66 inch (approximate) cone fish screen with self-cleaning brush system at A) Site 1 and B) Site 2 and Site 3 in the lower Mokelumne River.