

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
Mitigated Negative Declaration

The Administrator of Environmental Quality of the City of Santa Cruz has prepared this Negative Declaration for the following described project:

Project: Neary Lagoon Vegetation Management and Sediment Removal **Application No:** CP20-0088

Project Location: Neary Lagoon, see attached map.

Project Description: The proposed project is to conduct annual marsh vegetation removal and sediment dredging in Neary Lagoon to reduce sedimentation and increase lagoon depths in order to: 1) improve water circulation and flow rates; 2) improve water quality; 3) reduce the proliferation of vegetative (tule) growth; 4) improve habitat; 5) provide access for the tule removal equipment and to prevent the lagoon from “filling” up. Vegetation removal will be done to achieve a 1:1 ratio of open water to marsh with locations and extent of work to vary annually, based on vegetation conditions and growth rates. Depending upon the accumulation of sediment over the winter months and resulting lagoon depths, up to 2,000 cubic yards of sediment may be removed each year that dredging is conducted. Dredging may be conducted annually if necessary for a period of five years which is the duration of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and all other applicable permits.

Project Applicant: Department of Public Works, Suzanne Healy

Applicant Address: City of Santa Cruz
Department of Public Works
809 Center Street, Room 201
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

The City of Santa Cruz Department of Planning and Community Development has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that the project, based on the Initial Study attached hereto, will not have a significant effect on the environment. An Environmental Impact Report is not required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970. This environmental review process and (Mitigated) Negative Declaration is done in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines and the local City of Santa Cruz CEQA Guidelines and Procedures.

The following mitigation measures will be incorporated into the project design or as conditions of approval, to ensure that any potential environmental impacts will not be significant.

Impact	Mitigation
Biological Resources – Nesting Birds. The proposed construction may cause significant impacts to nesting birds if nesting species are present during construction.	MITIGATION MEASURE #1: Conduct future vegetation management/tule removal and sediment removal activities outside of the bird nesting season, which is generally February through July. If the vegetation management/tule removal and dredging project commences during the nesting season, require that a pre-dredging project survey for special-status

nesting avian species (and other species protected under the Migratory Bird Act) be conducted by a qualified biologist at least 30 days prior to the beginning of dredging activities to assure that this area is not actively being used. If nesting special-status birds are not found, no further action would be necessary. If a nesting special-status bird were found, dredging within 100 feet of the nest site should be postponed until after the bird has fledged or consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is conducted to determine alternative measures.

Mark R. Dettle

By: Mark R. Dettle
Director of Public Works

1/27/2021

Date

