



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Northern Region
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Redding, CA 96001
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mar 26 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

March 26, 2021

Rod Dowse, President
Grenada Irrigation District
PO Box 307
Grenada, CA 96038

Subject: Review of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Grenada Irrigation District Pipeline Project, State Clearinghouse Number 2021030079, Siskiyou County

Dear Rod Dowse:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) dated February 2021, for the above-referenced project (Project). As a trustee for the State's fish and wildlife resources, the Department has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants and their habitat. As a responsible agency, the Department administers the California Endangered Species Act and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code that conserve the State's fish and wildlife public trust resources. The Department offers the following comments and recommendations on this Project in our role as a trustee and responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, California Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.

Project Description

The Project is construction of 17,500 feet of 36-inch diameter buried PVC pipeline from the existing Grenada Irrigation District (GID) Shasta River diversion pump station from the Shasta River to GID's on-district pump station near Pumphouse Rd west of Old Hwy 99. The buried pipeline would primarily have a minimum burial target depth of 30-inches below the ground surface. East of I-5 the pipeline would either generally follow the access road to the GID pump station or the existing electrical transmission line going to the GID pump station. In addition to the main pipeline, GID would also install approximately 700 feet of buried 18-inch diameter pipe that can deliver water back to the lower ditch, if needed during operation. It is anticipated that the 18-inch pipeline that connects GID's upper and lower ditches would be installed separately and not placed in the same trench as the 36-inch delivery pipe.

The proposed project is part of a water conservation project that is expected to conserve approximately 1,100 acre-feet annually. According to the MND, transmission losses of up to 38% of the water diverted from the Shasta River is currently lost during transmission when 35 to 40 cfs is being diverted. Upon completion of the project, the existing GID earthen ditch would no longer be used. The conserved water would remain in the Shasta River to benefit in stream conditions, mostly during the spring and early summer. GID has worked with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Department to develop a diversion schedule that is beneficial to threatened coho salmon and steelhead as well as chinook salmon compared to current diversion operations.

The Project would only improve GID's water conveyance system and would not include any activities in the Shasta River.

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

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Comments and Recommendations

The Department has the following recommendations and comments as they pertain to biological resources:

Shasta River Flow Improvements


As described in the MND, the project will result in water savings that will enable GID to implement the diversion reduction schedules described in MND Tables 2-1 and 2-2. The Department believes that any temporary impacts associated with Project construction are outweighed by the ecological benefits associated with implementation of the proposed flow schedules.

Trenching and Stored Pipes

If trenches remain open at the end of the workday during construction, ramps should be provided in the trenches to prevent wildlife entrapment. Pipes should be inspected for animals and if animals are found inside pipes, they should be hazed out of the pipes prior to burying, capping, moving, or filling.

If you have any questions, please contact Brad Henderson, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor), at (530) 351-5948, or by e-mail at Brad.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Curt Babcock
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