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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

June 10, 2021

June 11 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Maggie Blankinship
Reclamation District 2092
121 West Main Street, Suite H
Turlock, California 95380
mblankinship@riverpartners.org

**Subject: Crows Landing River Ranch Restoration Project (Project)
Negative Declaration (ND)
State Clearinghouse No.: 2021050221**

Dear Ms. Blankinship:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received an ND from Reclamation District 2092 for the above-referenced Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under Fish and Game Code.

CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's **Trustee Agency** for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State (Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a)). CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (*Id.*, § 1802). Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public

¹ CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

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agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW is also submitting comments as a **Responsible Agency** under CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381). CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code. As proposed, for example, the Project may be subject to CDFW's lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 et seq.). Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in "take" as defined by State law of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.), related authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code will be required.

Nesting Birds: CDFW has jurisdiction over actions with potential to result in the disturbance or destruction of active nest sites or the unauthorized take of birds. Fish and Game Code sections that protect birds, their eggs and nests include, sections 3503 (regarding unlawful take, possession or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird), 3503.5 (regarding the take, possession or destruction of any birds-of-prey or their nests or eggs), and 3513 (regarding unlawful take of any migratory nongame bird).

Water Pollution: Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 5650, it is unlawful to deposit in, permit to pass into, or place where it can pass into "Waters of the State" any substance or material deleterious to fish, plant life, or bird life, including non-native species. It is possible that without mitigation measures, implementation of the Project could result in pollution of Waters of the State from storm water runoff or Project-related erosion. Potential impacts to the wildlife resources that utilize these watercourses include, but are not limited to, the following: increased sediment input from vegetation removal and ground disturbance causing increased erosion; toxic runoff associated with Project implementation; temporal loss of wildlife habitat; and/or impairment of wildlife movement along riparian corridors. The Regional Water Quality Control Board and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also have jurisdiction regarding discharge and pollution to Waters of the State.

In this role, CDFW is responsible for providing, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts (e.g., CEQA), focusing specifically on project activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources. CDFW provides recommendations to identify potential impacts and possible measures to avoid or reduce those impacts.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Proponent: Reclamation District 2092

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Objective: The Project proposes to restore ecological processes and native riparian vegetation on approximately 195 acres of agriculture fields along the San Joaquin River. The primary goal of the Project is to improve connectivity and habitat quality for anadromous fish and other sensitive species. This will be achieved through improved floodplain inundation, frequency, and residence time; improved stream quality and habitat productivity; increased cool water refugia and improved food web productivity to benefit fish and other riparian-dependent wildlife. Project work will establish native vegetation, modify an existing farmer berm to reconnect historic floodplains and allow natural river process, and grade a swale to maintain flood conveyance and minimize fish entrapment risks. Reconnection of this acreage to the San Joaquin River will allow flooding for habitat benefits and transient floodwater storage. Native vegetation will be established using standard agricultural techniques including site preparation, drip and furrow irrigation, as well as chemical and mechanical weed control.

Location: The Project site is located adjacent to the San Joaquin River at 12457 South Carpenter Road, near Crows Landing.

Timeframe: Unspecified.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CDFW offers the following comments and recommendations to assist Reclamation District 2092 in adequately identifying and/or mitigating the Project's significant, or potentially significant, direct and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources. Editorial comments or other suggestions may also be included to improve the document.

Reclamation District 2092 proposes to adopt a ND for the Project, and CDFW is concerned with the Project's potential impacts to special-status species including, but not limited to, the State threatened Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), the State threatened tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), the State and federally threatened giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), the State and federally endangered riparian brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani riparius*), the State fully protected golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), the State endangered and fully protected bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and the State species of special concern western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*). In addition, CDFW is concerned with Project activities which are subject to CDFW's lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority.

If significant environmental impacts will occur as a result of Project implementation and cannot be mitigated to less than significant levels, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) would not be appropriate. Further, when an MND is prepared, mitigation

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measures must be specific, clearly defined, and cannot be deferred to a future time. When an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared, the specifics of mitigation measures may be deferred, provided the lead agency commits to mitigation and establishes performance standards for implementation. Regardless of whether an MND or EIR is prepared, CDFW recommends that the CEQA document provide quantifiable and enforceable measures, as needed, that will reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

I. Environmental Setting and Related Impact

Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?

COMMENT 1: Swainson's Hawk (SWHA)

Issue: SWHA have the potential to nest within and near the Project site. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) show a SWHA occurrence approximately 0.5 mile south from the Project site (CDFW 2021). The proposed Project will involve activities near large trees that may serve as potential nest sites.

Specific impacts: Without appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for SWHA, potential significant impacts that may result from Project activities include nest abandonment, loss of nest trees, loss of foraging habitat that would reduce nesting success (loss or reduced health or vigor of eggs or young), and direct mortality. Any take of SWHA without appropriate incidental take authorization would be a violation of Fish and Game Code.

Evidence impact is potentially significant: SWHA exhibit high nest-site fidelity year after year and lack of suitable nesting habitat in the San Joaquin Valley limits their local distribution and abundance (CDFW 2016). The Project as proposed will involve noise, groundwork, and movement of workers that could affect nests and has the potential to result in nest abandonment, significantly impacting local nesting SWHA.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

Because suitable habitat for SWHA is present throughout the Project site, CDFW recommends conducting an evaluation of the Project site for SWHA habitat, and that the following mitigation measures be made conditions of approval for the Project.

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Recommended Mitigation Measure 1: SWHA Surveys

To evaluate potential impacts, CDFW recommends that a qualified wildlife biologist conduct surveys for nesting SWHA following the survey methods developed by the Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (SWHA TAC, 2000) prior to project implementation. The survey protocol includes early season surveys to assist the project proponent in implementing necessary avoidance and minimization measures, and in identifying active nest sites prior to initiating ground-disturbing activities.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 2: SWHA No-disturbance Buffer

If ground-disturbing Project activities are to take place during the normal bird breeding season (March 1 through September 15), CDFW recommends that additional pre-activity surveys for active nests be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 10 days prior to the start of Project implementation. CDFW recommends a minimum no-disturbance buffer of 0.5 mile be delineated around active nests until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 3: SWHA Take Authorization

CDFW recommends that in the event an active SWHA nest is detected during surveys, consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement the project and avoid take. If take cannot be avoided, take authorization through the acquisition of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b) is necessary to comply with CESA.

COMMENT 2: Tricolored Blackbird (TRBL)

Issue: TRBL have been documented to occur near the Project site (CDFW 2021). Review of aerial imagery indicates that the Project site has, and is adjacent to, low crop agricultural fields that may serve as nest colony sites.

Specific impact: Without appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for TRBL, potential significant impacts include nest and/or colony abandonment, reduced reproductive success, and reduced health and vigor of eggs and/or young.

Evidence impact would be significant: As mentioned above, aerial imagery indicates that the Project site is near dense low vegetation fields that may serve as nest colony sites. TRBL aggregate and nest colonially, forming colonies of up to 100,000 nests (Meese et al. 2014). Approximately 86% of the global population is found in the San Joaquin Valley (Kelsey 2008, Weintraub et al. 2016). Increasingly, TRBL are forming larger colonies that contain progressively larger proportions of the

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species' total population (Kelsey 2008). In 2008, for example, 55% of the species' global population nested in only two colonies, which were located in silage fields (Kelsey 2008). In 2017, approximately 30,000 TRBL were distributed among only 16 colonies in Merced County (Meese 2017). Nesting can occur synchronously, with all eggs laid within one week (Orians 1961). For these reasons, depending on timing, disturbance to nesting colonies can cause abandonment, significantly impacting TRBL populations (Meese et al. 2014).

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

CDFW recommends conducting an evaluation of the Project site for TRBL habitat, and that the following mitigation measures be made conditions of approval for the Project.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 4: TRBL Habitat Assessment

CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct a habitat assessment of the Project site in advance of Project implementation, to determine if the Project site or its vicinity contains suitable habitat for TRBL.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 5: TRBL Surveys

CDFW recommends that Project activities be timed to avoid the typical bird breeding season (February 1 through September 15). However, if Project activities must take place during that time, CDFW recommends that a qualified wildlife biologist conduct surveys for nesting TRBL no more than 10 days prior to the start of implementation to evaluate presence/absence of TRBL nesting colonies in proximity to Project activities and to evaluate potential Project-related impacts.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 6: TRBL Avoidance

If an active TRBL nesting colony is found during pre-activity surveys, CDFW recommends implementation of a minimum 300-foot no-disturbance buffer in accordance with CDFW's "*Staff Guidance Regarding Avoidance of Impacts to Tricolored Blackbird Breeding Colonies on Agricultural Fields in 2015*" (CDFW 2015). CDFW advises that this buffer remain in place until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that nesting has ceased, the birds have fledged, and are no longer reliant upon the colony or parental care for survival. It is important to note that TRBL colonies can expand over time and for this reason, the colony may need to be reassessed to determine the extent of the breeding colony within 10 days prior to Project initiation.

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Recommended Mitigation Measure 7: TRBL Take Authorization

In the event that a TRBL nesting colony is detected during surveys, consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement the Project and avoid take, or if avoidance is not feasible, to acquire an ITP, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b), prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

COMMENT 3: Giant Garter Snake (GGS)

Issue: GGS has the potential to be present in or near the Project site. As documented in CNDDDB, GGS are known to occur in the San Joaquin River and tributaries that feed into the San Joaquin River (CDFW 2021).

Specific Impacts: Potential significant impacts associated with the Project include burrow collapse, inadvertent entrapment, and direct mortality of individuals.

Evidence impact would be significant: Currently, GGS are isolated to only nine disjunct populations. At the time of the species' listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) in 1993, USFWS recognized 13 populations. Since then, at least two of these populations have been determined to be extirpated (USFWS 2017). Habitat loss and fragmentation are the primary threats to GGS. Only 5% of the species' historic wetland habitat acreage remains. In addition, Central Valley populations of GGS are also susceptible to roads, vehicular traffic, and non-native species (USFWS 2017). The species has specific seasonal habitat requirements. During the summer months, GGS require aquatic habitat for foraging and adjacent upland areas with emergent vegetation for basking sites (USFWS 2017). During periods of inactivity, GGS require burrows in upland habitat as refugia for summer shelter and burrows in higher elevation uplands for winter hibernation (Hansen et al. 2015). The Project as proposed involves ground-disturbing activities related to vegetation removal. These activities have the potential to result in collapse of GGS burrow refugia and may result in a violation of CESA if GGS are present.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

Because GGS has the potential to occur in the Project site, CDFW recommends conducting the following evaluation of the Project site, and that the following mitigation measures be made conditions of approval for the Project.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 8: GGS Habitat Assessment

CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct a habitat assessment of the Project site in advance of Project implementation, to determine if the Project site or its vicinity contains suitable habitat for GGS.

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Recommended Mitigation Measure 9: GGS Surveys and Avoidance

If suitable habitat is present, CDFW recommends, no more than 30 days prior to ground disturbing activities, that a qualified biologist with GGS experience and knowledge of its ecology survey the work area and a minimum 50-foot radius of the work area for burrows and crevices in which GGS could be present. It is advised that all potentially suitable burrows and crevices be flagged and avoided by a minimum 50-foot no disturbance buffer. If a 50-foot radius buffer is not feasible, consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement the Project and avoid take.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 10: GGS Take Authorization

Capture and relocation of any species listed under CESA would require an ITP from CDFW, as capture (or attempt to do so) is defined as take under Fish and Game Code section 86. If take cannot be avoided, acquisition of an ITP would be warranted prior to Project implementation to comply with CESA.

COMMENT 4: Riparian Brush Rabbit (RBR)

Issue: RBR is listed as State endangered. They inhabit dense riparian habitat and do not venture more than several yards from brushy cover. Breeding occurs from December to April and young are born between January and May (Larsen 1993). Due to habitat destruction, fragmentation, and degradation of the San Joaquin Valley native riparian forest habitat, the largest remaining population resides in Caswell Memorial State Park which is included as part of the Project site.

Specific impacts: Potential significant impacts that may result from Project activities include nest abandonment, reduced nesting success (loss or reduced health or vigor of young), and direct mortality. Any take of RBR without appropriate incidental take authorization would be a violation of Fish and Game Code.

Evidence impact is potentially significant: The Project as proposed will involve noise, groundwork, and movement of workers that could affect nests and has the potential to result in nest abandonment, significantly impacting RBR.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

Because suitable habitat for RBR is present near the Project site, CDFW recommends conducting an evaluation of the Project site for RBR habitat, and that the following mitigation measures be made conditions of approval for the Project.

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Recommended Mitigation Measure 11: RBR Surveys

To evaluate potential impacts, CDFW recommends that a qualified wildlife biologist conduct pre-activity surveys for RBR dens in order to assess habitat and potential impacts to RBR. In the event that a RBR den is detected during surveys, consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement the Project and avoid take.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 12: RBR Take Authorization

If avoidance is not feasible, acquisition of an ITP, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b), would be warranted prior to initiating any Project activities.

COMMENT 5: Western pond turtle (WPT)

Issue: WPT have the potential to occur in the Project site. WPT are known to nest in the spring or early summer within 100 meters of a water body, although nest sites as far away as 500 meters have also been reported (Thomson et al. 2016).

Specific impact: Without appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for WPT, potentially significant impacts associated with Project activities could include nest reduction, inadvertent entrapment, reduced reproductive success, reduction in health or vigor of eggs and/or young, and direct mortality.

Evidence impact is potentially significant: WPT are known to nest in the spring or early summer within 100 meters of a water body, although nest sites as far away as 500 meters have also been reported (Thomson et al. 2016). The Project includes application of herbicide within the Project site next to the San Joaquin River. Additionally, noise, vegetation removal, movement of workers, and ground disturbance as a result of Project activities have the potential to significantly impact WPT populations.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

To evaluate potential impacts to WPT, CDFW recommends conducting an evaluation of the Project site for WPT habitat, and the following mitigation measures be made conditions of approval for the Project.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 13: WPT Surveys

CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct focused surveys for WPT 10 days prior to Project implementation. In addition, CDFW recommends that focused surveys for nests occur during the egg-laying season (March through August) and that any nests discovered remain undisturbed until the eggs have hatched.

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Recommended Mitigation Measure 14: WPT Relocation

CDFW recommends that if any WPT are discovered at the site immediately prior to or during Project activities, they be allowed to move out of the area on their own.

II. Editorial Comments and/or Suggestions

Federally Listed Species: CDFW recommends consulting with the USFWS on potential impacts to federally listed species including, but not limited to, GGS and RBR. Take under (FESA) is more broadly defined than CESA; take under FESA also includes significant habitat modification or degradation that could result in death or injury to a listed species by interfering with essential behavioral patterns such as breeding, foraging, or nesting. Consultation with the USFWS in order to comply with FESA is advised well in advance of any ground-disturbing activities.

Fully Protected Raptors: The State fully protected white-tailed kite, the State fully protected golden eagle, and the State endangered and fully protected bald eagle have the potential to nest and/or forage in the vicinity of the Project site. The Project will involve noise, groundwork, and movement of workers that may occur directly adjacent to large trees and other features with potential to serve as nest sites. Impacts that may result from Project activities that may result in take include nest abandonment, loss of nest trees, and direct mortality.

To evaluate potential impacts to fully protected raptors, CDFW recommends conducting the following evaluation of the Project site, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct a habitat assessment in advance of Project implementation, to determine if the Project site or its vicinity (within ½ mile) contains suitable habitat for fully protected raptors. CDFW recommends that focused surveys be conducted by experienced biologists at the Project site prior to Project implementation. To avoid take of these species, CDFW recommends conducting these surveys in accordance with protocols developed by CDFW (CDFG 2010) and the USFWS (USFWS 2010). If Project activities are to take place during the typical bird breeding season (March 1 through September 15), CDFW recommends that additional pre-activity surveys for active nests be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 10 days prior to the start of Project activity. In the event that a fully protected raptor species is found within ½ mile of the Project site, implementation of avoidance measures is warranted. CDFW recommends that a qualified wildlife biologist be on-site during all Project-related activities and that a ½-mile no-disturbance buffer be implemented. If the ½-mile no-disturbance buffer cannot feasibly be implemented, consultation with CDFW is warranted to determine how the Project may avoid take of fully protected species.

Lake and Streambed Alteration: The Project includes restoration work activities within the bed and bank of the San Joaquin River. CDFW agrees with the Negative Declaration that activities within these features are subject to CDFW's lake and

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streambed alteration regulatory authority. The Project proposes to use herbicides to control undesirable vegetation. Invasive vegetation removal within the bank of the San Joaquin River have the potential to cause deposition of debris, waste, sediment, toxic runoff or other materials into water causing water pollution and degradation of water quality.

Project-related activities that have the potential to change the bed, bank, and channel of streams or lakes, including but not requiring alterations to riparian vegetation, are subject to CDFW's regulatory authority pursuant Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq.; therefore, Notification may be warranted. Fish & Game Code Section 1600 et seq. requires an entity to notify CDFW prior to commencing any activity that may (a) substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake; (b) substantially change or use any material from the bed, bank, or channel of any river, stream, or lake (including the removal of riparian vegetation); (c) deposit debris, waste or other materials that could pass into any river, stream, or lake. "Any river, stream, or lake" includes those that are ephemeral or intermittent as well as those that are perennial. It is important to note, CDFW is required to comply with CEQA, as a Responsible Agency, when issuing a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA). If inadequate, or no environmental review, has occurred, for the Project activities that are subject to notification under Fish and Game Code section 1602, CDFW will not be able to issue the Final LSAA until CEQA analysis for the project is complete. This may lead to considerable Project delays. For additional information on notification requirements, please contact our staff in the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program at (559) 243-4593.

Nesting birds: CDFW encourages that Project implementation occur during the bird non-nesting season; however, if ground-disturbing or vegetation-disturbing activities must occur during the breeding season (February through mid-September), the Project applicant is responsible for ensuring that implementation of the Project does not result in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or relevant Fish and Game Codes as referenced above.

To evaluate Project-related impacts on nesting birds, CDFW recommends that a qualified wildlife biologist conduct pre-activity surveys for active nests no more than 10 days prior to the start of ground or vegetation disturbance to maximize the probability that nests that could potentially be impacted are detected. CDFW also recommends that surveys cover a sufficient area around the Project site to identify nests and determine their status. A sufficient area means any area potentially affected by the Project. Prior to initiation of Project activities, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct a survey to establish a behavioral baseline of all identified nests. Once Project activities begins, CDFW recommends having a qualified biologist continuously monitor nests to detect behavioral changes resulting from the Project. If

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behavioral changes occur, CDFW recommends halting the work causing that change and consulting with CDFW for additional avoidance and minimization measures.

If continuous monitoring of identified nests by a qualified wildlife biologist is not feasible, CDFW recommends a minimum no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet around active nests of non-listed bird species and a 500-foot no-disturbance buffer around active nests of non-listed raptors. These buffers are advised to remain in place until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or on-site parental care for survival. Variance from these no-disturbance buffers is possible when there is compelling biological or ecological reason to do so, such as when the Project site would be concealed from a nest site by topography. CDFW recommends that a qualified wildlife biologist advise and support any variance from these buffers and notify CDFW in advance of implementing a variance.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e)). Accordingly, please report any special status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to CNDDDB. The CNDDDB field survey form can be found at the following link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Submitting-Data>. The completed form can be mailed electronically to CNDDDB at the following email address: CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov. The types of information reported to CNDDDB can be found at the following link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Plants-and-Animals>.

FILING FEES

If it is determined that the Project has the potential to impact biological resources, an assessment of filing fees will be necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G., § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089)

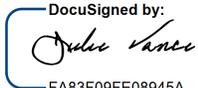
CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Project to assist Reclamation District 2092 in identifying and mitigating the Project's impacts on biological resources.

More information on survey and monitoring protocols for sensitive species can be found at CDFW's website (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols>). If you have any questions, please contact Jim Vang, Environmental Scientist, at the address

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provided on this letterhead, by telephone at (559) 243-4014, extension 254, or by electronic mail at Jim.Vang@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

FA83F09FE08945A...
Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager

Attachment

cc: Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
1685 "E" Street
Fresno, California 93706-2020

United States Army Corps of Engineers
San Joaquin Valley Office
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Sacramento, California 95814-2928

ec: Linda Connolly
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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United States Fish and Wildlife Service

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Attachment 1

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM
(MMRP)**

PROJECT: Crows Landing River Ranch Restoration Project (Project)

SCH No.: 2021050221

RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURE	STATUS/DATE/INITIALS
<i>Before Disturbing Soil or Vegetation</i>	
Mitigation Measure 1: SWHA Surveys	
Mitigation Measure 3: SWHA Take Authorization	
Mitigation Measure 4: TRBL Habitat Assessment	
Mitigation Measure 5: TRBL Surveys	
Mitigation Measure 7: TRBL Take Authorization	
Mitigation Measure 8: GGS Habitat Assessment	
Mitigation Measure 10: GGS Take Authorization	
Mitigation Measure 11: RBR Surveys	
Mitigation Measure 12: RBR Take Authorization	
Mitigation Measure 13: WPT Surveys	
<i>During Construction</i>	
Mitigation Measure 2: SWHA No-disturbance Buffer	
Mitigation Measure 6: TRBL Avoidance	
Mitigation Measure 9: GGS Surveys and Avoidance	
Mitigation Measure 14: WPT Relocation	