



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
 Northern Region  
 601 Locust Street  
 Redding, CA 96001  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director**



May 27, 2021

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**May 27 2021**

Amber Kelley, Environmental Compliance Manager  
 City of Redding  
 Development Services Department  
 777 Cypress Avenue  
 Redding, CA 96001

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR OREGON STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2021040664, REDDING, SHASTA COUNTY**

Dear Amber Kelley:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) dated April 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 (FGC) 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 (CEQA), California Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.

### **Project Description**

The Project as proposed is to enclose a portion of Calaboose Creek within 460 feet of new 5-foot by 8-foot box culvert to construct 460 linear feet of 10-foot wide pedestrian sidewalk.

### **Comments and Recommendations**

No early CEQA consultation referrals were received for this Project. The Department has the following recommendations and comments as they pertain to biological resources:

#### Native Fish

The impact section of the Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) dated March 25, 2021, and prepared by Stantec, describes the two stream reaches proposed for enclosure simply in terms of length of concrete lined channel and length of natural substrate. It appears that no surveys of the creek were conducted to determine aquatic wildlife species use of Calaboose Creek. Federally listed as threatened Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are regularly observed spawning in Calaboose Creek near its confluence with the Sacramento River. Calaboose Creek also provides habitat for other native fish including, but not limited to, California roach (*Hesperoleucus symmetricus*),

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regardless of its segment lengths and habitat quality. The upper portion of Calaboose Creek, which includes these proposed segments, previously had a steelhead run in it prior to the City enclosing portions of it for development purposes. The Department requests that surveys be conducted to determine what aquatic species are currently utilizing the two segments of Calaboose Creek.

The Department requires, at a minimum, an analysis to determine the impacts of enclosing these two segments of Calaboose Creek. Specifically, a determination needs to be made on what, if any, direct or indirect impacts could occur to the downstream steelhead spawning area. Changes to the hydrology, with potentially higher peak flows due to constraining the creek, would have direct impacts to the two segments proposed for enclosure but also direct/indirect impacts downstream where steelhead spawn. These impacts need to be assessed and mitigated. Further, if the unassessed potential “fish barrier” mentioned in the BRA impedes or tends to impede the free passage of all fish life stages, the City should be providing fish passage pursuant to FGC section 5901. Section 5901 asserts that it is unlawful “to construct or maintain in any stream any device or contrivance that prevents, impedes, or tends to prevent or impede, the passing of fish up and down stream.”

The Department believes that stream with the capacity to support native fish species, such as Calaboose Creek, should be daylighted and restored and not subjected to additional degradation resulting from channelization or undergrounding. Restoring our urban streams has the potential to reestablish salmonids in downtown Redding and would provide a valuable community resource which would be a habitat restoration showcase for the City of Redding. The Trout Unlimited Shasta Chapter has recently met with our Fisheries staff to discuss the restoration of urban streams within the City of Redding. There is a huge push to restore these streams and the Department strongly recommends and encourages the City to consider redesigning the Project to keep the creek open while providing safe passage for pedestrians especially those dependent on ADA accessibility.

### Sensitive Natural Communities

Fresh emergent wetland is a sensitive community. Wetlands are considered extremely valuable natural resources. To this end, the state policy requires no net loss of these habitats. The Department considers all wetlands sensitive, and the State has a “No Net Loss” wetland Policy.<sup>1</sup> Mitigation for impacts to fresh emergent wetland should be included in the MND at a ratio greater than 2:1.

The BRA describes urban habitat and the ornamental buffer strip along the east side of the stream in the northern segment and ruderal vegetation along the stream banks in the southern segment. The vegetation currently present is non-native and invasive; however, it could easily be restored to native. The urban and riverine habitat should be mitigated at a minimum at a 2:1 ratio.

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<sup>1</sup> Fish and Game Commission Wetlands Resources Policy (Amended 8/18/05)


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Mitigation

The Department recommends redesigning the current Project so that it does not adversely impact Calaboose Creek. However, if the City chooses to continue with the Project as proposed, mitigation measures for potential impacts to Calaboose Creek should be developed and proposed in the MND prior to Project approval. Mitigation measures could include but are not limited to a combination of the following: purchasing emergent marsh credits at the Stillwater Plains Mitigation Bank at a 3:1 ratio, restoration of other segments of Calaboose Creek in order to improve overall stream function and health, installing large woody debris at the North Cypress side channel, or onsite restoration of a different urban stream capable of supporting native fishes.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Henderson, Senior Environmental Scientist, at (530) 225-2779, or by email at [Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**Curt Babcock**  
Habitat Conservation Program Manager

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