

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: _____
 Lead Agency: _____ Contact Person: _____
 Mailing Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Project Location: County: _____ City/Nearest Community: _____
 Cross Streets: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____° _____' _____" N / _____° _____' _____" W Total Acres: _____
 Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____
 Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ Waterways: _____
 Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOP	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR	NEPA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOI	Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR	<input type="checkbox"/> EA	<input type="checkbox"/> Final Document
<input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec	(Prior SCH No.) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> FONSI	_____

Local Action Type:

<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Rezone	<input type="checkbox"/> Annexation
<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Prezone	<input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment
<input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Use Permit	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Development Type:

<input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Power: Type _____ MW _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____	

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land	<input type="checkbox"/> Flood Plain/Flooding	<input type="checkbox"/> Schools/Universities	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater
<input type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical	<input type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity	<input type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Minerals	<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading	<input type="checkbox"/> Growth Inducement
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use
<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage/Absorption	<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date _____ Ending Date _____

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____	Phone: _____
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____ **Date:** _____

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Project Objectives:

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID or District) plans to implement floodplain restoration and forest management activities on 380 acres within the headwaters of the Middle Yuba River in Nevada and Sierra Counties, California. Project activities will take place about 1 mile upstream of Jackson Meadows Reservoir, a critical NID storage facility used for recreation, clean hydroelectric power production and water supply for 25,000 agricultural and drinking water customers in Nevada, Placer and Yuba Counties.

Consistent with the District's land use objectives, the purpose of this Project is to improve watershed/floodplain function and resilience of English Meadow and the surrounding forest to achieve the following benefits:

- Reduce the transport of bedload and fine sediment from the upper watershed into Jackson Meadows Reservoir (maintain reservoir water storage capacity).
- Increase seasonal retention and release of precipitation in the meadow floodplain aquifer.
- Enhance habitat for meadow-dependent species.
- Improve forest health to reduce wildfire risk through fuels reduction.
- Increase snowpack and surface flow through mechanical thinning of the forest community on surrounding slopes.
- Reduce conifer encroachment into the meadow.

Brief Project Description:

The existing condition of English Meadow and the surrounding forests reflects the complex history of inundation and draining, construction of ditches, grazing, and logging at the site. The rapid draining of water that resulted from the destruction of historic dams at the bottom of the meadow likely initiated the incision of the Middle Yuba River channel, and its subsequent disconnect from the meadow floodplain. The Middle Yuba River in the Project area currently exhibits extreme high and low flows, resulting in erosion of the river's banks as precipitation and snowmelt quickly flow through the meadow and into Jackson Meadows Reservoir, without accessing the floodplain. This, in combination with construction of ditches that have dried the meadow, has resulted in a shift in the proportion of wetland versus upland habitat.

The hydrologic regime in the Project area is highly dynamic, with watershed conditions resulting in short bursts of high flows, typically associated with rain-on-snow events in the spring. The high-velocity flows have resulted in headcutting and channel incision. In functional channel/floodplain systems, the flows overbank every 1.5 to 2 years. However, because of channel incision, Middle Yuba River flows within the Project area are estimated to overbank only every 10 years. The infrequent overbanking of the stream, coupled with the increased rate at which water flows from the meadow due to incision, have altered soil conditions and plant assemblages within the meadow. Restoration/enhancement activities aim to return moisture to soils in the floodplain and increase groundwater hydrologic activity via modified process-assistance based techniques using on-site materials.

The following activities are planned as part of the Project:

- **Mainstem and Floodplain Treatments:** Two of the proposed treatment methods—debris jams and riffles—are intended to reduce headcutting, bank erosion, and channel incision by 1) raising the elevation, or thalweg, of the mainstem channel, thus allowing flows to access the existing meadow floodplain aquifer and 2) slowing the velocity of flows, allowing for the natural

aggradation of bedload material. Other treatments to be implemented within the mainstem channel and/or within the associated floodplain include bank stabilization; fill of erosional features (gullies) and artificial channels (manmade ditches); berm removal; and revegetation of bare areas.

- **Floodplain Vegetation Treatments:** Approximately 200 acres of habitat within the meadow basin will be treated. Treatment methods will include conifer removal (i.e., mastication/mechanical thinning by hand; individual selection and removal of trees) and placement of log barriers to obstruct cattle movement.
- **Forest Treatments:** A 175-acre area of upland conifer forest around the meadow will be thinned to increase water yield (i.e., by increasing accumulated snow load or reducing water resources consumed by trees) and to reduce future conifer encroachment into the meadow, and to decrease the potential for high-intensity wildfire.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** NID has partnered with an interdisciplinary team of restoration experts to collect 4 years of pre-Project baseline data. Post-project implementation monitoring will be performed in Years 3, 4, and 5 of the Project (at a minimum) to evaluate the effectiveness of the channel and floodplain treatments, and to determine whether modifications or additional treatments are necessary.