



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

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



Governor's Office of Planning & Research

June 18 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

June 18, 2021

Luis A. Topete
 Associate Planner
 Shasta County Department of Resource Management
 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
 Redding, CA 96001

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT COMMERCIAL 20-0005 (ZAREMBA GROUP, LLC) STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2021050485, SHASTA COUNTY, ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER 305-330-017

Dear Luis Topete:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) 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.

The Department commented on this Project on March 10, 2021, during the early consultation referral period. The Department appreciates the incorporation of many of our comments. The Department has the following recommendations and comments as they pertain to biological resources:

General Comment

The MND has developed mitigation measures for impacts that are not present in the Project description. For instance, no trees are proposed for removal and no work is proposed within Dry Creek, yet mitigation measures have been developed for bats and botanical surveys. Since this is an MND, the mitigation measures must be agreed to and approved by the Project applicant, therefore, the Department has added additional detail to the measures.

Mitigation Measure IV.a.b.d.13

Mitigation Measure IV.a.b.d.13 refers to impacts to Pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus*) and states that, "If mature trees are proposed for removal, they should be removed and/or fallen between September 16 and March 15, outside of the bat maternity season. Trees should be removed at dusk to minimize impacts to roosting bats."

The measure should read as follows (changes in bold):

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Luis A. Topete, Associate Planner
June 18, 2021
Page 2

*If mature trees are ~~proposed for removal~~, they should be removed and/or fallen between **September 1 and October 31**, outside of the bat maternity and hibernacula season using a humane exclusion such as a two-day tree removal process. The non-habitat trees and brush are removed along with certain tree limbs on the first day and the remainder of the tree on the second day. Trees should be removed at dusk to minimize impacts to roosting bats.*

Mitigation Measure IV.a.b.d.13

Mitigation Measure IV.a.b.d.14 refers to botanical species and states, “*If impacts to the streambed or banks of the intermittent drainage are proposed, a protocol-level survey for Henderson’s bent grass and Silky Cryptantha shall be conducted during the appropriate blooming period to determine the absence or presence of the species. If any of these species are found within the project site and impacts to the species are unavoidable, consultation with CDFW shall be required prior to any construction activities or vegetation removal.*”

The measure should read as follows (changes in bold):

*If impacts to the streambed or banks of the intermittent drainage are proposed, a protocol-level survey for Henderson’s bent grass (**Agrostis hendersonii**) and Silky cryptantha (**Cryptantha crinita**) shall be conducted during the appropriate blooming period to determine the absence or presence of the species. If any of these species are found within the project site and impacts to the species are unavoidable, consultation with CDFW shall be required prior to any construction activities or vegetation removal. **Consultation with the Department may include, but is not limited to, the following: development and approval of a restoration and revegetation plan or acquisition and preservation in perpetuity of a parcel with similar habitat.***

Parcels acquired for mitigation shall be legally protected from future direct and indirect development impacts. Potential issues to be considered include public access, conservation easements, species monitoring and management programs, water pollution, and fire management. Plans for restoration and revegetation should be prepared by persons with expertise in northern California ecosystems and native plant revegetation techniques. Each plan should include, at a minimum: (a) the location of the mitigation site; (b) the plant species to be used, container sizes, and/or seeding rates; (c) a schematic depicting the mitigation area; (d) planting/seeding schedule; (e) a description of the irrigation methodology; (f) measures to control exotic vegetation; (g) specific success criteria; (h) a detailed monitoring program; (i) contingency measures should the success criteria not be met; and (j) identification of the party responsible for meeting the success criteria and providing for long-term conservation of the mitigation site.

Luis A. Topete, Associate Planner
June 18, 2021
Page 3

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Henderson, Senior Environmental Scientist, at (530) 598-7194 or by email at Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Donna L. Cobb

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Curt Babcock

Habitat Conservation Program Manager

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