



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

September 02 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

September 1, 2021

Jeff Cole, District Manager
Mountain Gate Community Services District
14508 Wonderland Blvd.
Redding, CA 96003

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, MOUNTAIN GATE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2021070591, REDDING, SHASTA COUNTY

Dear Jeff Cole:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) dated August 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 §21000 et seq.

Project Description

The Project as proposed “*includes improvements to the Mountain Gate Community Services District's (MGCSD) water system. Improvements include replacing/upsizing existing water mains and associated water services, installing a new water main, installing/replacing fire hydrants, replacing/installing Pressure Reducing Valve stations and associated solar panels, and installing a new emergency intertie. The purpose of the proposed project is to replace aging infrastructure, achieve adequate fire flows, and ensure a safe and reliable potable water supply for customers in the MGCSD's water service area.*” The Project is located within the unincorporated community of Mountain Gate. The Project would temporarily impact 0.099 acre of intermittent stream and 0.01 acre of riparian habitat.

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Comments and Recommendations

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

Mitigation Measures


Mitigation measure MM 4.4.3 proposes to revegetate the banks of West Fork Stillwater Creek with woody riparian species native to the immediate area (e.g., willow species). The planting specifications provided in Appendix E of the Biological Study Report dated April 2021 and prepared by ENPLAN state that there will be no additional monitoring because the property is not owned by Mountain Gate Community Services District but by the State of California. The parcel is most likely under the jurisdiction of Caltrans and as such a right-of-way encroachment permit may be needed. Permission to monitor the riparian restoration would presumably be granted in this permit. The Department recommends mitigating permanent impacts to riparian vegetation by restoring riparian habitat at a minimum 3:1 ratio with monitoring occurring for five years in order to achieve an 80% survival rate. Alternatively, the Project applicant could replace the riparian vegetation onsite at a 1:1 ratio, not monitor or maintain the plantings, and purchase Constructed Channel credits at Stillwater Plains Mitigation Bank at 2:1 ratio.

Mitigation for permanent impacts to Waters of the United States, if mitigation measure MM 4.4.5 (fencing around wetland) is not successful, should include purchasing Ephemeral Drainage Preservation credits or another suitable credit type at the Stillwater Plains Mitigation Bank at a 2:1 ratio in order to achieve no-net-loss of habitat.

Mitigation measure MM 4.4.7 states the survey results will be submitted to the Department. The Department requests the sentence be rewritten as follows (changes in bold): “*The results of the survey shall be submitted **electronically** to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife upon completion at **R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov.**”*

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:

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Curt Babcock
Habitat Conservation Program Manager

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