



To:
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From:
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Northern Region
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Eureka, California 95501
Contact: Jonathan Hollis
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Lead Agency (if different from above)
County of Mendocino
Planning and Building Services
860 North Bush Street
Ukiah, California 95482
Contact: Dirk Larson
Phone: 707-234-6650

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022010056

Project Title: Stewart Gravel Bar Mining and Reclamation Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-MEN-31139-R1C)

Project Location (include county): The project is located near 50751 Covelo Road, Dos Rios, on the Middle Fork Eel River, a tributary to the Eel River, thence the Pacific Ocean. The project is in County of Mendocino, State of California; Section 5, Township 21 North, Range 13 West, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian; Dos Rios U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle; Assessor's Parcel Numbers 035-030-17, -49, and -65; latitude 39.7053 N and longitude 123.3285 W.

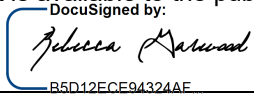
Project Description: The project is limited to one encroachment for commercial gravel extraction from a single gravel bar on the Middle Fork of the Eel River. On May 19, 2022, the County of Mendocino granted approval of Major Use Permit and Reclamation Plan U_2020-0007/REC-2020-0001 – 51110 Covelo LLC. Consistent with those parameters set forth in the County permit, the Permittee proposes to extract up to 20,000 cubic yards of gravel, rock, and sand annually from the Stewart Bar on the Middle Fork Eel River. Gravel extraction at the site will be consistent with accepted skimming methodology which involves removal of gravel from selected areas of the bar in a sloped configuration to avoid creating holes or channels, and is done by using excavators, loaders, and haul trucks. Extraction will be limited to the aggraded portion of the bar, with horizontal and vertical offsets for buffers from the low-flow channel. Total annual extraction volumes would be replenishment based, with a maximum annual quantity of 20,000 cubic yards. Actual extraction quantities shall be determined on an annual basis based on channel morphology and gravel replenishment, subject to review and approval by CDFW and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). During operations, water will be drafted from the Middle Fork Eel River adjacent to the gravel bar for use as dust control only. The drafting will be limited to a maximum of 8,000 gallons/day (two loads) and the maximum instantaneous diversion rate will not exceed 100 gallons per minute. Intake screens will meet CDFW/NMFS fish screen requirements. Temporary crossings may be necessary. The location, design, and timing of installation and removal of crossings will be subject to review and approval by the gravel extraction review agencies. Post-extraction reclamation activities will include removal of any remaining temporary gravel stockpiles, finished grading of the gravel bar utilizing native materials to fill in low areas and depressions, re-contouring of the gravel bar to meet agency-approved post extraction slopes and gravel bar configuration, removal of temporary crossings, installation of storm water control measures, and removal of all work materials and debris.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as the Lead Agency / a Responsible Agency approved the above-described project and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. A mitigated negative declaration / negative declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
CDFW considered the mitigated negative declaration / negative declaration prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures were / were not made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was / was not adopted by CDFW for this project.

- 5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
- 6. Findings were not made by CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081, subdivision (a).

The mitigated negative declaration / negative declaration prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record related to the Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement is available to the public for review at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:

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8/7/2023

Signature _____ Date: _____

Rebecca Garwood, Northern Region Coastal Habitat Conservation Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____