

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
Natomas Cross Canal Berm and Channel Enhancements Project

This notice is to inform the public and interested agencies that in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Reclamation District 1001 is circulating an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for public comment.

Project/Location: The Proposed Project is located within and on the North side of the Natomas Cross Canal between Hwy 99 and Garden Highway.

Project Description: The primary purpose of the Natomas Cross Canal Berm and Channel Enhancements Project (Proposed Project) is to improve flood protection by strengthening the levee in areas that have not been previously repaired and enhance the aquatic and riparian habitat within the NCC channel. This effort will utilize waterside berm plantings of varietal native understory and native plant species; thus, providing a natural wind-wave buffer that will also provide shaded riverine aquatic habitat over an additional 3,600 linear feet (ft), along the channel edge. The Proposed Project will also enhance local aquatic and riparian habitat through vegetation management and grading portions of the central islands to create off-channel non-natal rearing habitat for winter-run Chinook salmon with potential ancillary benefits to other native fishes; terracing and grading the in-channel geometry, near the NCC and Sacramento River confluence; and reconfiguring downstream portions of the NCC into a more meandering channel. These habitat enhancements and channel modifications will benefit non-natal rearing habitat for juvenile salmon – particularly winter-run salmon and other commercially or recreationally important fishes including fall-run Chinook salmon, California Central Valley (CCV) steelhead, and green sturgeon.

Document Availability: The Initial Study/MND will be available for review at the following location beginning on Monday, January 24, 2022:

- Reclamation District 1001 office, 1959 Cornelius Ave., Rio Oso, CA 95674
- The document will also be available on the CEQANet website: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>

Public Review Period: The 30-day public review period for the Initial Study/MND is from January 24 to February 23, 2022

Comments: Any person who wishes to comment on the District's intent to adopt the MND must submit written comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. Written comments may be sent to: Kimberly Reese, Manager, RD 1001, 1959 Cornelius Ave., Rio Oso, CA 95674.

Comments may also be sent by e-mail to kreese@rd1001.org.

Project Impacts: Based on the findings of the Initial Study, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect upon the environment based on mitigating measures, which will be attached to the project as conditions of approval. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared outlining a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan to mitigate potentially significant impacts to less than significant.

