

Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
Contact: Megan Rooney
Phone: (559) 203-2792



Lead Agency:
Merced Irrigation District
744 W 20th Street
Merced, California 95340
Contact: Michael Morris
Phone: (209) 354-2882

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

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022010622

Project Title: Merced River Agricultural Diversion and Fish Habitat Enhancement Project – Cowell 1 (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-MER-44619-R4)

Project Location: The Project is located at an agricultural diversion site referred to as Cowell 1 Diversion, within and adjacent to the Merced River; in the unincorporated community of Snelling, County of Merced, California; centered at coordinates 37.496382, -120.466602; Section 00 and 17, Township 5 South, and Range 14 East; U.S. Geological Survey map Yosemite Lake; Assessor’s parcel numbers 043-080-004; 043-080-005; 043-080-007; and 043-080-008.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-MER-44619-R4), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, to the project Applicant, Merced Irrigation District, represented by Michael Morris.

The Project involves activities related to the modification of agricultural diversion infrastructure and improvements to in-channel spawning and off-channel rearing habitat located within the vicinity of diversion infrastructure.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on 5/1/2024 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. CDFW considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of CDFW’s approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan was 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 California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Mitigated 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 of project approval as a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW’s regional office.

DocuSigned by:

Signature: _____ **Date:** 5/1/2024
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Julie A Vance, Regional Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____