

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

SHASTA COUNTY CLERK

DATE: May 25, 2022

Based upon the conclusions set forth in the Initial Study, the CEQA Lead Agency finds that the Juvenile Salmonid Collection System Pilot Project (proposed Project), which includes measures and mitigations designed to minimize environmental impacts, would not result in significant adverse effects on the environment. The CEQA Lead Agency has prepared this Notice of Intent to adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to 14 CCR Section 15072.

Title: JUVENILE SALMONID COLLECTION SYSTEM PILOT PROJECT

Project Description: The Juvenile Salmonid Collection System (JSCS) is an experimental, adaptive, and mobile guidance and capture system designed to collect out-migrating juvenile salmonids at the head of a reservoir, just downstream from where rivers enter the reservoir. Given its adaptability, the JSCS may be considered for other reintroduction efforts above high-head dams in California.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) with the assistance of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), are developing the JSCS Pilot Project (proposed Project) to determine if the system can be a critical part of the effort to reintroduce native anadromous salmonids back into historical spawning and rearing tributaries of the upper Sacramento River system. DWR also acknowledges the Winnemem Wintu Tribe (WWT) as a key partner on the proposed Project and appreciates that the WWT have shared their knowledge and understanding of the value of revitalizing the salmon population, which has informed the development of this document and benefits the project through continued coordination and partnership.

The proposed Project does not reintroduce fish or use fish for testing; it aims to demonstrate the feasibility and viability of the JSCS to provide proper conditions for capturing juvenile salmonids by altering flow patterns and velocities and controlling water temperatures.

Project Location: The Study Area for the proposed Project is within the McCloud Arm of Shasta Reservoir. The exact location for each year of the proposed Project (Project footprint) is not known because reservoir pool (water surface) elevations vary year to year in the September through November target period for deployment. The actual location of the proposed Project would be determined based on: 1) the actual reservoir elevation estimated in the summer months—and refined in the weeks—prior to installation; 2) consideration for the specifics of installation feasibility and site geometries; 3) presence of biological resources; and 4) collaboration with the WWT, to avoid any sensitive cultural and/or biological resources in the area that are considered important to the tribal community.

Project Proponent: DWR

Lead Agency: DWR

Public Review Period: A 30-day public review period will begin on May 25, 2022. Written comments must be submitted to the Lead Agency no later than 5:00 PM on June 23 2022.

Available Material: More information may be obtained by calling (916) 653-5791. A copy of the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and supporting material are available online at <https://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices> or physically at California Department of Water Resources,

Division of Regional Assistance, Riverine Stewardship Program 715 P Street, 6th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 or by calling (916) 653-5791.

Contact for Public Comments: Written comments on the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be addressed to: California Department of Water Resources P.O. Box 942836 Sacramento CA 94236-001 Attn: Randy Beckwith, Div. of Regional Assistance/6-0468 or RSP@water.ca.gov.