

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO
2023-2024 KLAMATH RIVER BASIN SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS
TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch

APRIL 2023

This report has been prepared pursuant to the
California Environmental Quality Act of 1970

Project Summary and Findings

The Project

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations as set forth in Title 14, subsection 7.40(b)(50) of the California Code of Regulations for Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon (KRFC) based on federal fisheries management goals and to make additional changes for clarity (project). The current Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations allow sport fishing for KRFC in the Klamath River and Trinity River systems, subject to specific limitations. Each year the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) evaluates the potential need to update the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations for KRFC to align with federal fisheries management goals and presents any proposed amendments to the Commission for consideration.

The Findings

The initial study and the Commission's review of the project showed that the project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment, and therefore no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or reduce any significant effects on the environment. The project will not have a significant effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Basis of the Findings

Based on the initial study, implementing the project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment. Therefore, the Commission is filing this negative declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21080, subdivision (c).

This proposed negative declaration consists of:

- Project Description and Background Information on the Proposed Amendments to Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations for KRFC
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Explanation of the Responses to the Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO
KLAMATH RIVER BASIN SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS
TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS**

Each year the Department evaluates the potential need to update the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations for KRFC to align with management goals and presents any proposed amendments to the Commission for consideration. The Department is proposing amendments to the bag and possession limits and the adult quota based on Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) recommendations for federal fishery management goals. In addition, the Department is proposing a range of size limits to determine between grilse and adult Chinook Salmon. The Commission makes the final determination on what, if any, amendments to the regulations will be implemented and is the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA. Under Fish and Game Code Section 200, the Commission has the authority to regulate the taking or possession of fish for the purpose of sport fishing.

Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of this project is to amend the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations in furtherance of the state's policy on conservation, maintenance, and utilization of California's aquatic resources stated in Fish and Game Code Section 1700. This Section includes the following objectives:

1. Maintain sufficient populations of all aquatic species to ensure their continued existence.
2. Maintain sufficient resources to support a reasonable sport use.
3. Management of fisheries using best available science and public input.

Background

The Klamath River Basin, which consists of the Klamath River and Trinity River systems is managed for fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) through a cooperative system of state, federal, and tribal management agencies. Salmonid regulations are designed to meet natural and hatchery escapement needs for salmonid stocks, while providing equitable harvest opportunities for ocean sport, ocean commercial, river sport, and tribal fisheries.

PFMC is responsible for adopting recommendations for the management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. When approved by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the recommendations are implemented as ocean salmon fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The Commission adopts regulations for the ocean salmon sport (inside three miles) and the Klamath River Basin (in-river) sport fisheries which are consistent with federal fishery management goals. Tribal entities within the Klamath River Basin maintain fishing rights for ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial fisheries that are managed consistent with federal fishery management goals. Tribal fishing regulations are promulgated by individual tribal governments.

The Klamath River Basin in-river KRFC sport fishery is managed using adult quotas. A quota range of 0–67,600 adult KRFC in the Klamath River Basin is utilized for public notice purposes for the in-river sport fishery. This recommended range encompasses the historical range of the Klamath River Basin allocations and allows PFMC and the Commission to make adjustments during the 2023 regulatory cycle. The annual KRFC in-river harvest quota specified in subsection 7.40(b)(50)(D)1 is split between four geographic areas between the Klamath and Trinity rivers with a subquota for each area, expressed as a percentage of the total in-river quota. These geographic areas are based upon the historical distribution of angler effort to ensure equitable harvest of adult KRFC in the Klamath River and Trinity River.

The PFMC 2022 allocation for the Klamath River Basin sport harvest was 2,119 adult KRFC. The PFMC allocation for the Klamath River Basin sport harvest is normally a minimum of 15 percent of the non-tribal PFMC harvest allocation of KRFC. The 2023 basin allocation will be recommended by PFMC in April 2023. That allocation will inform the quota that the Department proposes to the Commission for adoption as a quota for the in-river sport harvest at the Commission’s May 2023 teleconference meeting.

The Commission may adopt a KRFC in-river sport harvest quota that is different than the quota proposed by the Department or the PFMC 2023 allocation for that fishery. Commission modifications need to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the FMP.

The proposed sport fishing regulations for the Klamath and Trinity rivers *may*:

- (1) increase or decrease the current salmon bag and possession limits;
- (2) increase or decrease the size limit for adult salmon; or
- (3) close all KRFC fishing in the Klamath and Trinity rivers and all associated tributaries, or specific areas/bodies of water, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b)(50) to provide protection to KRFC.

The proposed sport fishing regulations for the Klamath and Trinity rivers *will*:

- (1) set a Klamath River Basin quota between 0 and 67,600 adult KRFC and subquotas based on that quota.

Project Location

The sport fishing addressed by this environmental document occurs in the waters of the Klamath River Basin, which consists of the Klamath River and Trinity River systems.

The Klamath River Basin is in the northern California counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Siskiyou, and Trinity.

Schedule

If adopted by the Commission and approved by the Office of Administrative Law, the proposed regulatory amendments described below will go into effect around August 15, 2023.

Current Regulations

At its May 19, 2022, teleconference, the Commission adopted Klamath River Basin bag and possession limits and an adult quota for KRFC in alignment with federal regulations. These regulatory amendments went into effect on August 15, 2022, after they were approved by the Office of Administrative Law. A summary of the 2022 Klamath River Basin bag and possession limits and the KRFC adult quota is:

1. A daily bag limit of 2 Chinook Salmon, of which no more than 1 Chinook Salmon over 23 inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over 23 inches total length is allowed.
2. A possession limit of 6 Chinook Salmon, of which no more than 3 Chinook Salmon over 23 inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over 23 inches total length is allowed.
3. A Klamath River Basin quota of 2,119 adult KRFC (greater than 23 inches total length).

The 2022 Klamath River Basin quota of 2,119 adult KRFC aligned with the 2022 federal regulations, which provided guidance on allocations between ocean sport and commercial fisheries, inland sport fisheries, and recognized tribal fisheries.

Sport fishing seasons for KRFC were not changed and remained as follows:

1. Klamath River - August 15 through December 31
2. Trinity River - September 1 through December 31

Proposed Changes

Key to Proposed Regulatory Changes

Because the PFMC recommendations are not known at this time, ranges are shown in [brackets] in the proposed regulatory text below of bag and possession limits which encompass historical quotas. All are proposed for the 2023 KRFC fishery in the Klamath and Trinity rivers.

The final KRFC bag and possession limits will align with the final federal regulations to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the FMP.

KRFC Fishery Closure Option

The Department is proposing a “no fishing” option for the 2023 KRFC in-river sport fishery. Based on recent information related to the status and trend for the KRFC encountered in PFMC managed ocean fisheries, the Department expects that a full KRFC fishery closure is likely warranted for all California management areas in 2023. At its March 15, 2023, meeting, the PFMC adopted three management measure alternatives for the 2023 ocean commercial and recreational salmon fisheries beginning May 16. All three alternatives have zero allocation for recreational and commercial ocean salmon fisheries.

The proposed “no fishing” option would close all KRFC fishing in the Klamath and Trinity rivers and all associated tributaries, or specific areas/bodies of water, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b)(50) to provide protection to KRFC. This option would prohibit all methods of targeting salmon including catch and release fishing. Unless otherwise noted, this option would still allow take of other species in specific areas/bodies of water, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b)(50).

KRFC Adult Stocks (Sport Fishery Quota Management)

Quota: For public notice requirements, the Department recommends the Commission consider a quota range of 0 - 67,600 adult KRFC in the Klamath River Basin for the in-river sport fishery. This recommended range encompasses the historical range of the Klamath River Basin allocations and allows PFMC and the Commission to make adjustments during the 2023 regulatory cycle.

Subquotas: The proposed subquotas for KRFC are shown in **Figure 1.**, and are as follows:

1. Main stem Klamath River from 3,500 feet downstream of the Iron Gate Dam to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec -- 17 percent of the total quota equates to [0-11,492];
2. Main stem Klamath River from downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth -- 50 percent of the total quota equates to [0-33,800];
3. Main stem Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat -- 16.5 percent of the total quota equates to [0-11,154]; and
4. Main stem Trinity River downstream from the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the confluence with the Klamath River -- 16.5 percent of the total quota equates to [0-11,154].

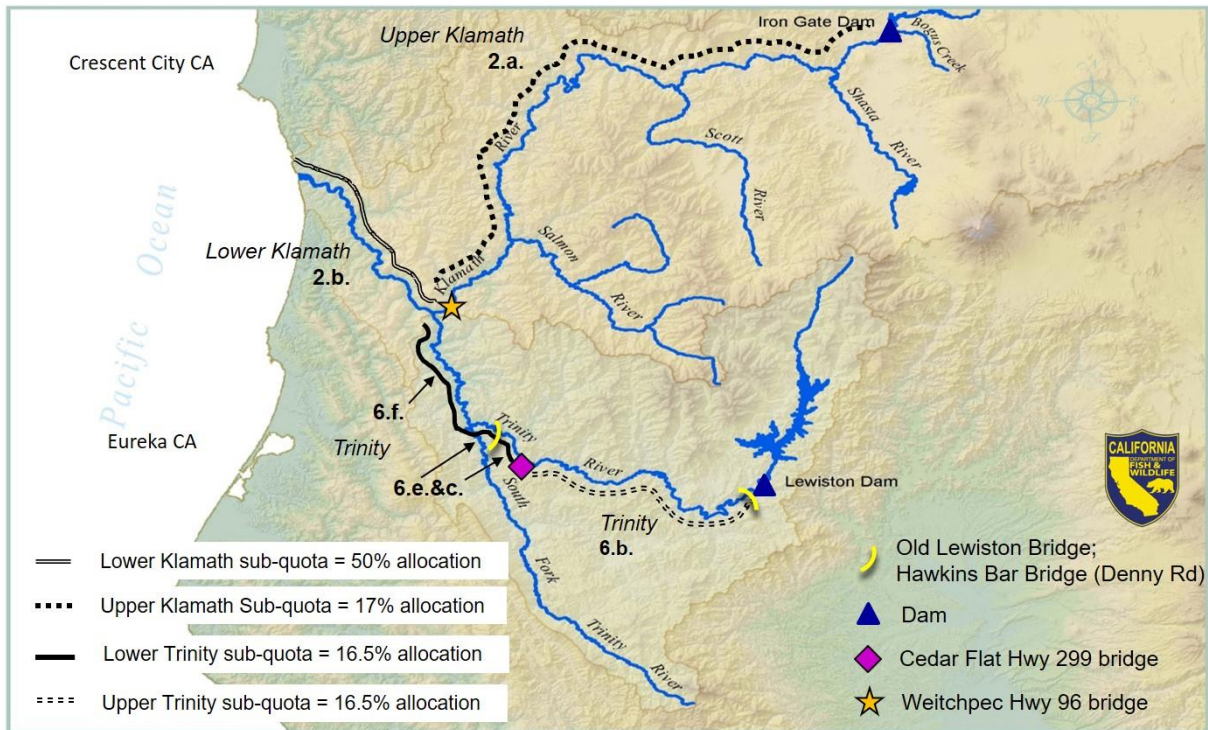


Figure 1. Map of the Klamath River Basin, showing the subquotas by reach of Trinity and Klamath rivers, and the associated subsections of 7.40(b)(50)(E).

Seasons: No changes are proposed for the Klamath River and Trinity River KRFC seasons:

- Klamath River - August 15 to December 31
- Trinity River - September 1 to December 31

Bag and Possession Limits: As in previous years, no retention of adult KRFC is proposed once the subquota has been met.

The range of proposed bag and possession limits for KRFC stocks are:

- Bag Limit - [0-4] Chinook Salmon – of which no more than [0-4] fish over [20-24] inches total length may be retained until the subquota is met, then 0 fish over [20-24] inches total length.
- Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0–4] fish over [20-24] inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over [20-24] inches total length is allowed.

Implementing a range of lengths for determination of grilse/adult KRFC

Size Limits: the proposed regulations include a range of size limits shown in [brackets] to determine between grilse and adult Chinook Salmon. This allows for annual variation in size cutoffs, as informed by previous year(s) data to more effectively manage the harvest of the adult KRFC quota.

The Department is proposing a grilse salmon size limit cutoff range of less than or equal to 20 inches (50.8 cm) to 24 inches (58.4 cm) total length (TL) for discussion before the Commission before the Department makes a final recommendation. Considered in this context, the size limit cutoff discussion is a trade-off between restricting take of the available adult salmon and quota management versus increasing harvest of two-year-old grilse salmon.

KRFC are managed based on adult quotas which is the maximum number of adult fish (age three and older) that can be harvested, meaning that once the area quota has been attained, the fishery for adult-sized KRFC is closed. The Klamath basin is divided into four subquota zones – two each in the Klamath and Trinity rivers – to provide equitable harvest opportunities to recreational anglers throughout the basin. Each subquota area has its own adult allocation and can be closed independently based on near real-time adult KRFC harvest estimates. In most years, regulations allow for a grilse (age two) fishery to continue if or when an adult closure has occurred, which affords extended recreational harvest opportunity when adult quotas are attained. Department data has demonstrated that the sizes of grilse and adults overlap in all years to some degree. Consequently, the fishery in general, and the grilse fishery in particular, need to be structured to minimize impacts to adult KRFC conservation objectives as a result of exceeding adult harvest quotas.

Current management in the Klamath River assumes an adult size limit of greater than 23 inches (58.4 cm) total length (TL) for recreational harvest. Typically, the preliminary adult size cutoff for research and monitoring is 21.7 inches (55 cm) fork length (FL). Total length is used for recreational harvest because it is consistent with fishing regulations for all species statewide. Fork length is used for scientific data collection because it is less variable than total length with regards to salmon approaching the end of their life (physical degradation), as fin erosion can drastically affect total length measurements. These size limits are used independently to separate grilse from adults during the season because the true age of individual fish cannot be determined until well after the time of harvest.

Until recently, a fixed length of 22 inch TL had effectively served as a preliminary length cutoff. Historically, the 22 inch TL recreational size cutoff proved effective overall in managing the adult quota (excluding 2006 and 2017 when adult KRFC harvest was closed) and protecting against substantial harvest overages. In 2020, the size cutoff was increased to 23 inch TL in response to requests from fishing guide and sportsman groups seeking parity in length measurements between regulatory and scientific cutoff lengths. This coincided with the return of an age three cohort of KRFC that presumably experienced suboptimal ocean growth conditions in the year(s) leading up to spawning escapement, resulting in a large proportion of the adult run being smaller than the regulatory cutoff length for adults. A large number of adults harvested were initially classified as grilse during creel data collection, but were correctly classified as adult fish during post-season assessment. In-season estimates for real-time quota management are derived using a preliminary length cut-off (55 centimeter FL), while post-season assessment utilizes data from coded wire tag recoveries and scale aging methods to apportion age classes to the entire harvest estimate. Although the change in regulatory

length only accounted for approximately 10% of the harvest overage, it exacerbated the conditions that led to the highest harvest overage (5,117 adults harvested from the 1,296 allocation) since the quota managed/creel survey monitored fishery began in the late 1990s. Further, the data suggest that the prior regulatory cutoff was also too large in this year, given 90% of the adult fish harvested beyond the quota were smaller than the historic cutoff. This observation is consistent with a continued decline in the size of KRFC adults over the last decade and what is being documented along the West Coast of North America. This change in size at age can be problematic and should be avoided in the future to the degree practical.

Ohlberger et. al. (2018), shows long-term trends of decreasing size of adult Chinook ranging from Alaska to California. Additionally, the proportions of older year classes (age four to age six) are also in decline. In many cases the age two and age three component of the populations are increasing relative to older age classes, resulting in a smaller range of size in adult fish. With age three fish being the first year class of adult Chinook, when presented with poor ocean forage or other suboptimal growth conditions, the likelihood of a significant proportion of returning adults being of a smaller size (i.e., below a fixed regulatory size cutoff) increases. The Department is actively exploring predictive tools to forecast the length cutoff for the upcoming year. These tools are still being analyzed for relative performance, but if improved management performance can be demonstrated in retrospect then one will be selected and used to determine the appropriate length recommendation prior to the Commission's adoption hearing for this proposed regulation in Spring 2023.

The Department is actively exploring predictive tools to forecast the length cutoff for the upcoming year. These tools are still being analyzed for relative performance, but if improved management performance can be demonstrated in retrospect, then one will be selected and used to determine the appropriate length recommendation prior to the adoption hearing in Spring 2023.

All methods currently under consideration use the complete set of length and age data collected from coded wire tag recoveries across the Klamath and Trinity River basins, including harvest, natural spawning grounds, and hatchery recoveries from return years 2003 to 2022. Within each year, the mean and standard deviation of lengths for age-two and age-three fish were estimated. These statistics were then used in combination with estimated total returns to the Klamath basin for each age class to simulate age-specific length distributions from which the nadir was numerically identified. This process was repeated for 1000 iterations and the mean of the resulting 1000 nadirs was used as an empirically estimated nadir for each year. Three year geometric means were also calculated from these data (e.g., the three year geometric mean for 2022 was calculated using nadirs from 2020-2022). In addition, linear regression models were fit to each of the resulting data sets using the nadir (or geometric mean) in a given year to predict the nadir of the following year. These methods result in the following four potential models to forecast the length cutoff for an upcoming season:

1. Empirically estimated nadirs between age two and age three: used directly to forecast the following year.

2. Three-year geometric means of age two and age three empirically estimated nadirs: used directly to forecast following year.
3. Regression model fit to empirically estimated nadirs between age two and age three: input value into regression equation from previous year to forecast following year.
4. Regression model fit to three-year geometric means of age two and age three empirically estimated nadirs: input value into regression equation from previous year to forecast following year.

Notably, using the nadir separating age two and age three fish to forecast the nadir for the following year, regardless of which model is used, is intended to strike a balance between minimizing the potential for exceeding adult quotas and providing angling opportunity on age two fish after the adult quota has been met. One alternative is to select a length cutoff intended primarily to minimize the potential for exceeding adult quotas, which would presumably result in a lower size cutoff and reduce angling opportunities following closure of the adult fishery. Another alternative would be to close the fishery entirely once the adult quota has been met.

The overlap in size between grilse and adults in 2020 exemplifies the need for an annually variable size cutoff for adult KRFC. The Department is investigating predictive tools that will provide for a cutoff that better ensures adult quota attainment without significant overages. The Department anticipates that this will be a useful regulatory tool to more effectively manage quotas, particularly when relatively small in-river allocations are afforded in response to depressed populations, and on a stock that remains in an “overfished” designation. Future objectives related to repopulation of new habitat on the mainstem Klamath River following the removal of the Iron Gate Dam amplify the need for more accurate and adaptive management of adult quotas moving forward.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project Title:
Proposed 2023-2024 Amendments to Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations, Title 14, California Code of Regulations
2. Lead Agency Name and Address:
California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Melissa Miller-Henson, (916) 653-4899
4. Project Location:
The Klamath River and Trinity River systems.

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605
6. General Plan designation: N/A (statewide)
7. Zoning: N/A (statewide)
8. Description of Project:
Potentially amend the daily bag and possession limits and adult quota for Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon for the Klamath River Basin sport fishery based on PFMC recommendations; adjust the adult/grisle cutoff length to more effectively manage the harvest of the adult KRFC quota; or close all KRFC fishing in the Klamath and Trinity rivers and all associated tributaries, or specific areas/bodies of water, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b)(50) to provide protection to KRFC.
9. Surrounding land uses and setting: N/A
10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required: None
11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.31?
No.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |

Recreation

Transportation

Tribal Cultural Resources

Utilities/Service Systems

Wildfire

Mandatory Findings of Significance

This project will not have a "Potential Significant Impact" on any of the environmental factors listed above; therefore, no boxes are checked.

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DE CLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.


Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director

April 14, 2023

Date

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
<p>II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Result in any other emissions (such as those leading to odors) affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LTS	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
VI. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.				
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.				
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of pollution runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
value to the region and the residents of the state?				
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING.				
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES.				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XVI. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LTS	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XX WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

Explanation of Responses to Initial Study Environmental Checklist

I. Aesthetics

- a) The project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- b) The project will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- c) The project will not substantially degrade, in nonurbanized areas, the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- d) The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

- a) The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timber zoned Timberland Production. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- d) There will be no loss of forest land and the project will not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

III. Air Quality

- a) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. Such an impact will not occur because the project involves no ongoing sources of air pollution.
- c) The project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not increase pollutant concentrations.
- d) The project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

IV. Biological Resources

- a) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the Department, NMFS or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The proposed sport fishing regulations for the Klamath and Trinity rivers *may*:

- (1) increase or decrease the current salmon bag and possession limits;
- (2) increase or decrease the size limit for adult salmon from greater than 23 inches total length to greater than 20 to 24 inches total length; or
- (3) close all KRFC fishing in the Klamath and Trinity rivers and all associated tributaries, or specific areas/bodies of water, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b)(50) to provide protection to KRFC.

The proposed sport fishing regulations for the Klamath and Trinity rivers *will*:

- (1) set a Klamath River Basin quota between 0 and 67,000 adult KRFC and subquotas based on that quota.

Any changes to the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations will be based on the 2023 PFMC recommendations for the management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California and 2023 NMFS ocean salmon fishing regulations and aligned with KRFC biological and fishery allocation goals. The PFMC recommendation process includes the consolidation and consideration of the best scientific information available from California, Oregon, and Washington on the status of various salmon stocks.

The Department conducts annual creel surveys to monitor harvest of KRFC and closes the fishery to the harvest of adult KRFC when it is anticipated that the adult KRFC quota will be met. Typically, grilse KRFC fisheries continue after the adult KRFC quota has been met. Current management in the Klamath River assumes an adult size limit of greater than 23 inches (58.4 cm) total length (TL) for recreational harvest. The Department is proposing a grilse salmon size limit cutoff range of less than or equal to 20 inches (50.8 cm) to 24 inches (58.4 cm) total length (TL). This allows for annual variation in size cutoffs, as informed by previous year(s) data to more effectively manage the harvest of the adult KRFC quota. Coho Salmon are currently protected by harvest prohibitions and the proposed change will have no significant impacts to this species.

Coho Salmon, which is federally- and state-listed, and spring Chinook Salmon, which is state-listed as a candidate species, co-occur in the project area. Existing regulations prohibit take of Coho Salmon; spring Chinook Salmon are currently protected by regulations which have a reduced bag limit and season length. Spring Chinook Salmon will not incur significant impacts as a result of the proposed project because the proposed change is limited to KRFC and the overlap of the two ecotypes in run and spawn timing is minimal.

- b) The project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies and regulations, or by the Department or the USFWS. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- d) The project will not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not result in any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- f) The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

V. Cultural Resources

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work or work permanently modifying any existing structure or resource and thus no potential to affect historical resources.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect archaeological resources.
- c) The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect human remains.

VI. Energy

- a) The project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not use energy resources.
- b) The project will not affect nor obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

VII. Geology and Soils

- a i) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the state geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- a ii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- a iii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- a iv) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.

- b) The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- c) The project will not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable and potentially result in on- or off- site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- d) The project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- e) The project will not create any sources of waste water requiring a septic system.
- f) The project will not indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- a) The project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The project will not involve construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG. The project would result in the production of very low GHG emissions.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- a) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- b) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- c) The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The project will not involve the transport, use, or emission of any hazardous materials.
- d) The project will not be located on any site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.
- e) The project will not be located within an airport land use plan area.

- f) The project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- g) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

X. Hydrology and Water Quality

- a) The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, water use, or water discharge.
- b) The project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.
- c i) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c ii) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c iii) The project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm-water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c iv) The project will not impede or redirect flood flows because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, the project would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation because the project would not involve any construction or land alteration.
- e) The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.

XI. Land Use and Planning

- a) The project will not physically divide an established community. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XII. Mineral Resources

- a) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XIII. Noise

- a) The project will not result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, and its implementation will not generate noise levels in excess of agency standards.
- b) The project will not result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.
- c) The project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

XIV. Population and Housing

- a) The project will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not construct any new homes, businesses, roads, or other human infrastructure.
- b) The project will not displace any existing people or housing and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

XV. Public Services

- a) The project will not have any significant environmental impacts associated with new or physically altered governmental facilities. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XVI. Recreation

- a) The project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

The proposed changes to the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations for KRFC will have minimal to no impact on recreational facilities. Based on the PFMC process for the 2022 salmon fishing season, the Commission may adopt a quota for adult KRFC that is lower or higher than that quota for the 2021 season. Also, the Commission is not considering changing the length of the season for KRFC in the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations.

- b) The project does not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

XVII. Transportation

- a) The project will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.
- b) The project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b), which pertains to vehicle miles traveled. The amount and distance of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations.
- c) The project will not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses with equipment. There will be no land use or transportation system modifications.
- d) The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.

XVIII. Tribal and Cultural Resources

- a) The project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe. Further,

- a i) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k). There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.
- a ii) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

- a) The project will not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. There will be no construction or land alteration.
- b) The project requires no new water supplies.
- c) The project will not produce wastewater.
- d) The project will not generate solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with state and local standards for solid waste.
- e) The project will not create solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XX. Wildfire

- a) The project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- b) The project will not exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors.
- c) The project will not require the installation or maintenance of any infrastructure.
- d) The project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

XXI. Mandatory Findings and Significance

- a) The project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a

fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The project is consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.

- b) The project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because there are no potential adverse impacts due to project implementation.
- c) The project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or the creation of new infrastructure.