



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Northern Region
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



August 18, 2023

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Aug 18 2023

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Lio Salazar,
Planning Manager
Shasta County Resource Management
1855 Placer Street Suite 103
Redding, CA 96001
scplanning@co.shasta.ca.us

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF ZONE AMENDMENT 22-0008 AND USE PERMIT 22-0003,
STATE CLEARING HOUSE NUMBER 2023070441, SHASTA COUNTY**

Dear Lio Salazar:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has reviewed the draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND), dated July 2023, for the above referenced project which proposes a zone amendment to change the Light-Industrial combined with Design Review district (M-L-DR) zone district to the General Industrial combined with Design Review district (M-DR) zone district for an approximately 55-acre portion of an approximately 65-acre project site and a use permit for the development of a 5-megawatt bioenergy facility (Project). CDFW's review of this Project is pursuant to our role as the State's trustee agency for fish and wildlife resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, California Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. Additionally, as a State responsible agency, CDFW administers the California Endangered Species Act and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code that conserves the State's fish and wildlife public trust resources.

CDFW responded to an early consultation request from Shasta County in October 2023, and it appears CDFW's comments and recommendations were incorporated into the ISMND. The avoidance and minimization measures listed in the ISMND appear adequate in avoiding and minimizing impacts to biological resources therefore, CDFW has no additional comments pertaining to the Project as it is described.

As a general note to aid Shasta County in the most comprehensive biological assessments, for added efficiency throughout the project development process and to promote *avoidance* as first priority, CDFW recommends the implementation of protocol surveys for those species with potential to occur *before* project approval.

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

Lio Salazar
Shasta County
August 18, 2023
Page 2

CDFW understands that at times, project timelines can restrict certain protocol surveys from occurring prior to the environmental document however, in most instances it may not only be necessary but may prove to be most efficient for the Lead Agency. Identifying impacts early in the project development process will allow the Lead Agency to accurately identify impacts during the CEQA process, better implement avoidance strategies and will aid in developing the most suitable avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures.

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the ISMND to assist Shasta County in adequately analyzing and minimizing impacts to biological resources. If you have any questions, please contact Erika Iacona, Senior Environmental Scientist, by email at R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

132FDFECF23F4FD...
Jason Roberts for
Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager
Northern Region

ec: State Clearinghouse
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Erika Iacona
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