



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



September 19, 2023

Jenny Coelho
City Hall Administrator
City of Tulelake
PO Box 847
Tulelake, CA 96134
jenny.coelho@cityoftulelake.com

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CITY OF TULELAKE LAND USE ELEMENT AND ZONING CODE UPDATE, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2023080491, SISKIYOU COUNTY

Dear Jenny Coelho,

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has reviewed the draft Initial Study and Negative Declaration (ISND), dated August 2023, for the above referenced project which proposes an update of the City of Tulelake General Plan Land Use Element and an update of Title 17, Zoning, of the Tulelake Municipal Code (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.

The update to the Tulelake Land Use Element and Zoning Code will not, in and of itself, result in impacts to biological resources therefore, the CDFW has no comments to offer the Lead Agency regarding the Project as it is described in the ISND. However, such updates include the facilitation of future land modification, maintenance activities, and development.

The City of Tulelake (City) is adjacent to several areas designated for their sensitive ecology and conservation of special status species and habitats including, but not limited to, the Sheepy Ridge State Wildlife Area, Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Lava Beds National Monument. As the ISND describes, numerous special status species have the potential to occur in the Project area therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to remind the City that CDFW staff is available for consultation throughout all stages of the project development process, including early consultation.


Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

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CDFW strongly encourages the City to consult with CDFW staff before and during the development of future Projects and their equivalent Environmental Documents, specifically with regard to analyzing biological resources and developing most appropriate avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures for such resources. Engaging with CDFW early-on plays a critical role in allowing us to fulfill our mandate to conserve California's valuable fish and wildlife resources and is more likely to aid in a smooth and comprehensive CEQA review.

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Project to assist the City of Tulelake in adequately analyzing and minimizing impacts to biological resources. If you have any questions regarding the information above, or for future CEQA consultation requests, please contact Erika Iacona, Senior Environmental Scientist, by email at R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager
Northern Region

ec: State Clearinghouse
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Erika Iacona
R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov