



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Central Region
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Fresno, California 93710
(559) 243-4005
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



Governor's Office of Planning & Research

April 16 2024

April 15, 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Claudia Calderon, Acting Community Development Director
City of Porterville Community Development Department
291 N. Main Street
Porterville, California 93257
(559) 782-7460
ccalderon@ci.porterville.ca.us

**Subject: South of the Tule River Master Plan (Project)
Notice of Preparation (NOP)
State Clearinghouse No. 2023100508**

Dear Claudia Calderon:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received a Notice of Preparation (NOP) from the City of Porterville Community Development Department (City of Porterville) for the South of Tule River Master Plan (Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code.

After reviewing the provided NOP and associated Initial Study (IS), CDFW has determined that the survey recommendations and mitigation measures proposed in the IS are sufficient to identify and/or mitigate for impacts to fish and wildlife (biological) resources. As such, CDFW recommends that the biological resource survey and mitigation measures in the IS be conducted in support of or included within the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Project. Please note that changes to the Project and/or Project description and/or modification of the measures proposed in the IS may necessitate the need to include additional measures within the DEIR to identify and mitigate for potential impacts to biological resources.

¹ CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

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ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e)). Accordingly, please report any special-status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). The CNDDDB field survey form can be found at the following link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Submitting-Data>. The completed form can be mailed electronically to CNDDDB at the following email address: CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov. The types of information reported to CNDDDB can be found at the following link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Plants-and-Animals>.

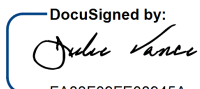
FILING FEES

If it is determined that the Project has the potential to impact biological resources, an assessment of filing fees will be necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089).

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Project to assist the City of Porterville in identifying and mitigating the Project's impacts on biological resources.

More information on survey and monitoring protocols for sensitive species can be found at CDFW's website (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols>). If you have any questions, please contact Kelley Nelson, Environmental Scientist, at the address provided on this letterhead, by telephone at (559) 580-3194, or by electronic mail at Kelley.Nelson@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager

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