



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Central Region  
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**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director**



September 9, 2024

Claudia Calderon, Community Development Director  
City of Porterville Community Development Department  
291 N. Main Street  
Porterville, California 93257  
[ccalderon@ci.porterville.ca.us](mailto:ccalderon@ci.porterville.ca.us)

**Subject: South of the Tule River Master Plan (Plan)  
Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)  
State Clearinghouse No.: 2024030738**

Dear Claudia Calderon:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received a focused DEIR from the City of Porterville for the above-referenced Plan pursuant the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.<sup>1</sup>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Plan that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Plan 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 focused DEIR and associated Initial Study (IS), CDFW has determined that the survey recommendations and mitigation measures proposed 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 and Table 1-2 of the DEIR be included within the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Plan. Please note that changes to the Plan and/or Plan description and/or modification of the measures proposed in the focused DEIR may necessitate the need to include additional measures to identify and mitigate for potential impacts to biological resources.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 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](mailto: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>.

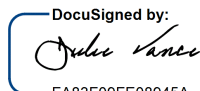
## FILING FEES

If it is determined that the Plan has the potential to impact biological resources, an assessment of filing fees is 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).

## CONCLUSION

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DEIR to assist the City of Porterville in identifying and mitigating Plan 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 regarding this letter or need further coordination, please contact Marile Colindres, Environmental Scientist, at the address provided on this letterhead, by telephone at (559) 974-3452, or by electronic mail at [marile.colindres@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:marile.colindres@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
FA83F09FE08945A...  
Julie A. Vance  
Regional Manager

ec: State Clearinghouse  
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