



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2022 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/22) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print **StartOver** **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:
 04 — 10/20/2022 — 082
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY Butte County Resource Conservation District	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 10/20/2022
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING Butte	DOCUMENT NUMBER	

PROJECT TITLE

Clear Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME Butte County Resource Conservation	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (530)693-3173
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 150 Chuck Yeager Way, Ste A	CITY Oroville	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95965

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

- Local Public Agency
 School District
 Other Special District
 State Agency
 Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- | | | | |
|---|------------|----|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR) | \$3,539.25 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) | \$2,548.00 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW | \$1,203.25 | \$ | 0.00 |
|
 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt from fee | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption (attach) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CDFW No Effect Determination (attach) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy) | | | |

- | | | | |
|---|----------|----|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) | \$850.00 | \$ | 0.00 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee | | \$ | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | \$ | |

PAYMENT METHOD:

- Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE X R. REID	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE R. Reid, Deputy Clerk/Recorder
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State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2022 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
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NOTICE

Each project applicant shall remit to the county clerk the environmental filing fee before or at the time of filing a Notice of Determination (Pub. Resources Code, § 21152; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subdivision (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5). Without the appropriate fee, statutory or categorical exemption, or a valid No Effect Determination issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Notice of Determination is not operative, vested, or final, and shall not be accepted by the county clerk.

COUNTY DOCUMENTARY HANDLING FEE

The county clerk may charge a documentary handling fee of fifty dollars (\$50) per filing in addition to the environmental filing fee (Fish & G. Code, § 711.4, subd. (e); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 753.5, subd. (g)(1)). A county board of supervisors shall have the authority to increase or decrease the fee or charge, that is otherwise authorized to be levied by another provision of law, in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service or the cost of enforcing any regulation for which the fee or charge is levied (Gov. Code, § 54985, subd. (a)).

COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

Filing Notice of Determination (NOD):

- Collect environmental filing fee or copy of previously issued cash receipt. *(Do not collect fee if project applicant presents a No Effect Determination signed by CDFW. An additional fee is required for each separate environmental document. An addendum is not considered a separate environmental document. Checks should be made payable to the county.)*
- Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- Attach copy of cash receipt and, if applicable, previously issued cash receipt, to NOD.
- Mail filing fees for **CRP** document to CDFW prior to filing the NOD or equivalent final approval (Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 753.5 (b)(5)). The CRP should request receipt from CDFW to show proof of payment for filing the NOD or equivalent approval. Please mail payment to address below made attention to the Cash Receipts Unit of the Accounting Services Branch.

If the project applicant presents a **No Effect Determination** signed by CDFW, also:

- Attach No Effect Determination to NOD *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

Filing Notice of Exemption (NOE) *(Statutorily or categorically exempt project (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §§ 15260-15285, 15300-15333))*

- Issue cash receipt to project applicant.
- Attach copy of cash receipt to NOE *(no environmental filing fee is due)*.

Within 30 days after the end of each month in which the environmental filing fees are collected, each county shall summarize and record the amount collected on the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31) and remit the amount collected to the State Treasurer. Identify the remittance on Form No. CA25 as "Environmental Document Filing Fees" per Fish and Game Code section 711.4.

The county clerk shall mail the following documents to CDFW on a monthly basis:

- ✓ A photocopy of the monthly State of California Form No. CA25 (TC31)
- ✓ CDFW/ASB copies of all cash receipts (including all voided receipts)
- ✓ A copy of all CDFW No Effect Determinations filed in lieu of fee payment
- ✓ A copy of all NODs filed with the county during the preceding month
- ✓ A list of the name, address and telephone number of all project applicants for which an NOD has been filed. If this information is contained on the cash receipt filed with CDFW under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 753.5, subdivision (e)(6), no additional information is required.

DOCUMENT RETENTION

The county shall retain two copies of the cash receipt (for lead agency and county clerk) and a copy of all documents described above for at least 12 months.

RECEIPT NUMBER

- # The first two digits automatically populate by making the appropriate selection in the County/State Agency of Filing drop down menu.
- # The next eight digits automatically populate when a date is entered.
- # The last three digits correspond with the sequential order of issuance for each calendar year. For example, the first receipt number issued on January 1 should end in 001. If a county issued 252 receipts for the year ending on December 31, the last receipt number should end in 252. CDFW recommends that counties and state agencies 1) save a local copy of this form, and 2) track receipt numbers on a spreadsheet tabbed by month to ensure accuracy.

DO NOT COMBINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL FEES WITH THE STATE SHARE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE FEES.

Mail to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Accounting Services Branch
 P.O. Box 944209
 Sacramento, California 94244-2090

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency) Butte County Resource Conservation District
150 Chuck Yeager Way, Ste A
Oroville, CA, 95965

(Address)

County Clerk / County of Butte

155 Nelson Ave

Oroville, CA 95965-3411

Project Title: Clear Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project

Project Applicant: Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria

Project Location – Specific: T20N, R03E, portions of sections 5 & 6

Project Location - City: Butte Valley (uninc.)

Project Location - County: Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Along a 1.6 mile degraded stretch of Clear Creek, the project would plant a total of 42 acres with a mix of native plants (24 acres of riparian vegetation and 18 acres of oak woodland). The objectives of the project are to 1) improve quantity, quality, complexity, and connectivity of riparian and oak woodland habitats; 2) reduce pressure from invasive weed species such as yellow star thistle (YST); and 3) increase availability of cultural, medicinal, and ceremonial plant resources in the project area for Tribal members.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Butte County Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption, Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land (§15304)
- Statutory Exemptions.

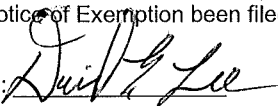
Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is non-ground disturbing except for the minor disturbance of planting native plants as a mix of plugs, pots, cuttings and seeds. Prior to planting, site preparation will be achieved using mowing, prescribed grazing, cultural fire, and/or selective manual and/or mechanical weed removal. The project takes place entirely on lands held by the United States government in trust for the Mechoopda Indian Tribe, and a comprehensive NEPA review of the creek restoration project has been undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers, resulting in a signed Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (FREA) with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on Feb 5, 2021. Letters of concurrence with this finding have been supplied by USFWS with regard to endangered species with potential to occur in the project area; by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with regard to section 404 of the Clean Water Act; and by the Mechoopda Tribal Historic Preservation Office itself with regard to cultural resources. Because the Tribe intends to use grant funding from the State of California to complete the planting, the planting project must still comply with CEQA and therefore an Environmental Review Report was completed. This review concluded that project implementation, as designed, would have less than significant impact in each resource area and an exemption pursuant to §15304 is indicated.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Thad Walker, District Manager Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 693-3173

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project: Yes No

Signature: 

Date: 10/20/22

Title: Board Chairman

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Butte County Resource Conservation District
CLEAR CREEK ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

Author: Wolfgang D. Rougle
 Title: Conservation Project Manager
 Address: 150 Chuck Yeager Way, Ste. A, Oroville, CA 95965
 Phone: (530) 693-3173
 Email: wolffy@bcrcd.org

Project Name: CLEAR CREEK ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT
 Project Number: n/a

County: Butte
 Acres: 42 acres of native tree, shrub and grass planting
 Legal Location: T20N, R03E, portions of sections 5 & 6 MDBM
 Name of USGS 7.5' Quad Map(s): Shippee, Hamlin Cyn
 Project Vicinity Map Attached Project Location Map Attached Photos Attached

Other Public Agency Review/Permit Required:	YES	NO
Would the project result in:		
alterations to a watercourse (DFG - Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
conversion of timberland (CAL FIRE - Conversion Permit or Exemption)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB SWPPP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
fill of possible wetlands (404 Permit - USACE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Project Description and Environmental Setting :

The project site is a 599-acre parcel in the Clear Creek-Dry Creek watershed (part of the larger Butte Creek watershed) of Butte County, California. The lands were re-acquired by the Tribe in 2003 and, since 2018, have been held by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in trust for the Mechoopda Indian Tribe and is thus considered part of "Indian Country" and is considered an informal reservation (USACE 2021). The property, known as Wajim Kumbali (Land of Potatoes) for its abundance of edible *waji* or *Brodiaea* spp. plants, experiences a Mediterranean climate with a cool-wet winter growing season and a hot-dry summer season. During the summer, most plants, except those that can tap into perennial water sources, go dormant. Accordingly, most of the property is rangeland dominated by a mix of Mediterranean annual and Californian annual and perennial grasses. However, along the 1.6 mile stretch of Clear Creek that bisects the property, a struggling riparian forest can be found. Although the riparian community's potential is currently limited by heavy invasive plant infestations (e.g. yellow star thistle, *Brassica* spp, *Aegilops* sp, etc) it still hosts many native plants such as Valley cottonwood, deergrass, Valley oak, blue oak, willow, dogbane, milkweed, cattail, and tule. Without intervention (i.e., under a no-project alternative), the native plants would continue to struggle in competition with the well-established infestations of noxious weeds. Wildlife habitat and cultural gathering opportunities would continue to be suboptimal.

To enhance native Californian plant resources and improve the ecosystem functionality of the Clear Creek riparian corridor, the project would plant a total of 42 acres with a mix of native plants. Of this, 24 acres (in a corridor 100-150' from the center of the stream channel) would be planted with riparian vegetation. The remaining 18 acres, which are slightly further from the core channel of Clear Creek, would be planted in mixed oak woodland. The objectives of the project are to 1) improve quantity, quality, complexity, and connectivity of riparian and oak woodland habitats; 2) reduce pressure from invasive weed species such as yellow star thistle (YST); and 3) increase availability of cultural, medicinal, and ceremonial plant resources in the project area for Tribal members.

The project is non-ground disturbing, except for the minor disturbance of hand-planting a mix of plugs, pots, cuttings and seeds. Prior to planting, some portions of the planting site will experience re-grading and bank shaping as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' channel restoration project, which is authorized separately under NEPA and will conclude before this project begins. Once planting commences, it will be carried out by Tribal members, by hand. In order to prepare the non-graded majority of the site for planting, invasive weeds will first be mowed, removed by hand, and/or reduced through prescribed grazing and/or cultural fire. Multiple re-entries of weed reduction will likely be needed in order to re-establish a thriving riparian woodland, so native plantings may be tubed or caged (as appropriate) to protect them from mowing/grazing/fire during the establishment interval. Plantings are expected to be watered during their first year likely using the Tribe's 2500-gallon water truck. The area already has road access and no new road construction or other infrastructure is needed.

Environmental Impacts Analysis

Aesthetics:

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Agriculture and Forest Resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project is located on a 599-acre parcel zoned for Agriculture. The Tribe uses its property for a variety of minor agricultural uses such as beekeeping, rotational grazing, youth and teaching garden plots, and traditional cultivation and gathering of plant resources; the project will not affect any of these uses. Opportunities for traditional cultivation and gathering will be enhanced. No trees will be felled, and no prime or unique farmland converted to non-ag uses. There is no timberland on the property.

- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Air Quality

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project includes the use of fire as a fuels reduction and ecological management tool. Fire produces smoke. However, it is the role of local and State air quality regulations to set acceptable quotas for daily and seasonal smoke production and to allocate these production quotas across numerous beneficial land uses, including the project's. Therefore, by complying with all State and local regulations and obtaining all required permits, prescribed and cultural fire projects of this size categorically avoid imposing significant air quality effects on the environment and the public.

- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Biological Resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The property is extensively and recently surveyed due to a recent NEPA document produced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE 2021) for an adjacent project that involves some channel fill and grading, as well as invasive weed removal and native re-planting, to restore hydrological function to Clear Creek. BCRCO reviewed this Environmental Assessment and its Appendix D (biological resources appendix) and agreed with its findings that the project would result in no significant impact on wildlife or rare plants. Furthermore, BCRCO also conducted a nine-quad search of CNDDDB resources and a field tour of the planting sites to confirm no potentially affected species with special status at the State level had been omitted from the environmental analysis at the Federal level. BCRCO found the integrated design features of the proposed project were adequate to avoid any significant impacts on rare or common wildlife and that the project is likely to be beneficial, on the whole, to riparian and upland native plant communities.

- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Cultural resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Activities will be non-ground disturbing except for (1) incidental disturbance during hand-planting of native seeds, plugs, and cuttings, and (2) incidental ground disturbance from small prescribed fires. See further analysis under Tribal Cultural Resources.

- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Energy

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
Click or tap here to enter text.
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Geology and Soils

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
The project is non-ground disturbing and does not contain steep slopes or expose people or structures to soil-related hazards.
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
The greenhouse gas emissions from riparian woodland restoration activities are negligible and likely to be offset over time by some carbon sequestration from trees planted during the project. The greenhouse gas emissions from fuels reduction activities are likewise negligible and likely to be offset over time by the reduced risk of future wildfire emissions.
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
No hazardous material or hazardous waste sites are in or near the project area and the project as designed will not expose people to additional hazards or hazardous materials.
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
No channel disturbance or work in streams is part of the project; the site is level and the project does not include any ground disturbance or earthmoving.
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Land Use and Planning

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
Click or tap here to enter text.
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Mineral Resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
Click or tap here to enter text.
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Noise

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
Some limited use of gasoline-powered equipment (e.g. mowers, water trucks) would be part of the project during ordinary working hours. No homes or sensitive receptors (e.g. hospitals, daycare centers, etc) are within ¼ mile of the project area, which is along a well-traveled frontage road not far from CA State Hwy 149.
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Population and Housing

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Public Services

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
The project will not increase the need for any public services or utilities
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Recreation

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Transportation/Traffic

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
Vehicle trips to the project area associated with the project would not increase traffic noticeably on the frontage road that accesses the property. Parking is adequate for project needs.
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Tribal Cultural Resources

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
The project is non-ground disturbing and would be carried out on Tribally owned property in historically Mechoopda territory (MITCR 2022). The project would enhance various living cultural resources present on the property and would contribute to improved interpretation opportunities for the Clear Creek cultural landscape.
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Utilities and Service Systems

- This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:
- Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project
- No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Wildfire

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project includes the application of small patches of prescribed fire. Also, piles could be burned as a method of fuels reduction and nutrient cycling. The use of fire as a restoration and management tool always carries some risk, but the risk is balanced by the benefits, which include the significant reduction of future wildfire risk. The project's compliance with all applicable State and local laws and permits reduces the very small risk of prescribed fire escape to below the threshold of significance. The project could include the use of some gasoline- or battery-powered equipment that could generate a spark, such as weed trimmers to reduce invasive species. The use of gasoline- or battery-powered equipment always carries some risk, but the risk is balanced by the benefits, which include the significant reduction of future wildfire risk. The project's compliance with all applicable State and local laws and permits reduces the very small risk of inadvertent fire ignition to below the threshold of significance. Many of the applicant's crew members hold the Firefighter Type 2 certification or above and tools to control fire will always be present on the project site. The site is not particularly remote or steep. In case of an emergency, cell phone connectivity and fire response times are normally good.

Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project

No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

Mandatory Findings of Significance

This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project does not have the potential to 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, 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 does not have impacts that are cumulatively considerable (i.e., incremental effects that become considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects). The project does not have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Based on the above analysis, an exemption *is not appropriate* for this project

No unusual circumstances exist. Project qualifies as exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15304.

References

CNDDDB (California Natural Diversity Database). 2022. Commercial subscription version. Last accessed July 2022 at <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/bios/?tool=cnddbQuick>.

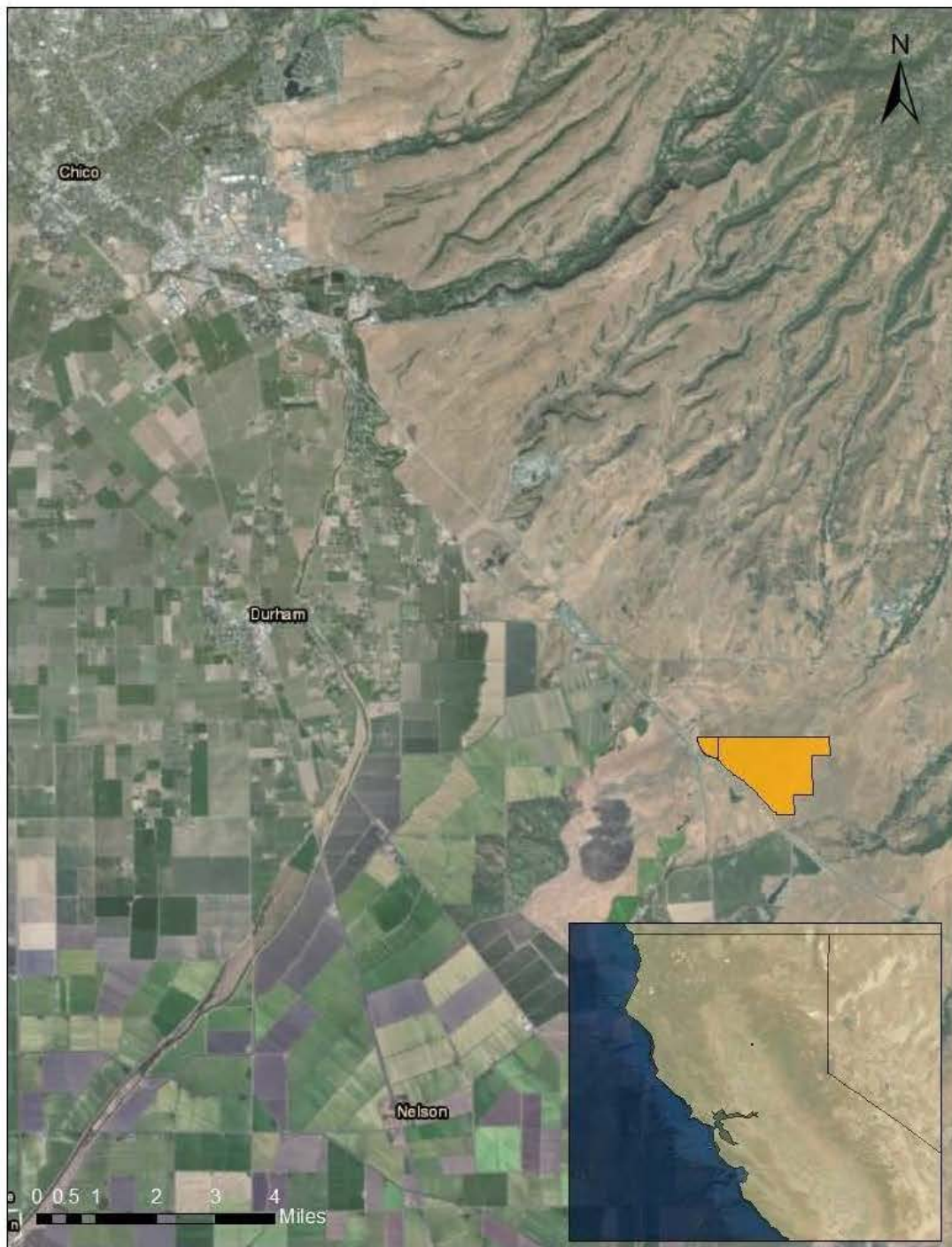
Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria. 2022. "Past, present, future." Web article. Accessible online at <https://mechoopda-nsn.gov/>.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2017. Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Sacramento, California. 28 pp.

USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). 2021 (January). Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment: Clear Creek Ecosystem Restoration Study, California. Prepared under Section 203- Tribal Partnership Program. Sacramento, CA: 153 pp.

Map 1: General Location Map

The proposed action takes place along a 1.6 mile stretch of Clear Creek passing through Mechoopda Tribal trust land in Butte County, California. The Tribal trust property is highlighted in yellow in the figure below, and occupies portions of Township and Range T20N-R3E-S5 and T20N-R3E-S6.



Source for map: USACE 2021, Appendix D, p 9

Map 2: Project Site Map

The image below, taken from USACE 2021, shows the arrangement of the 42 acres of riparian and oak woodland restoration along the corridor of Clear Creek. The bank grading activities shown are not analyzed in this document because they are not subject to CEQA (i.e., they will be carried out using 100% Federal and Tribal funds, not State funds, and accordingly have already been exhaustively analyzed under NEPA). "Alternative B" is USACE 2021's name for the final selected project design as shown.

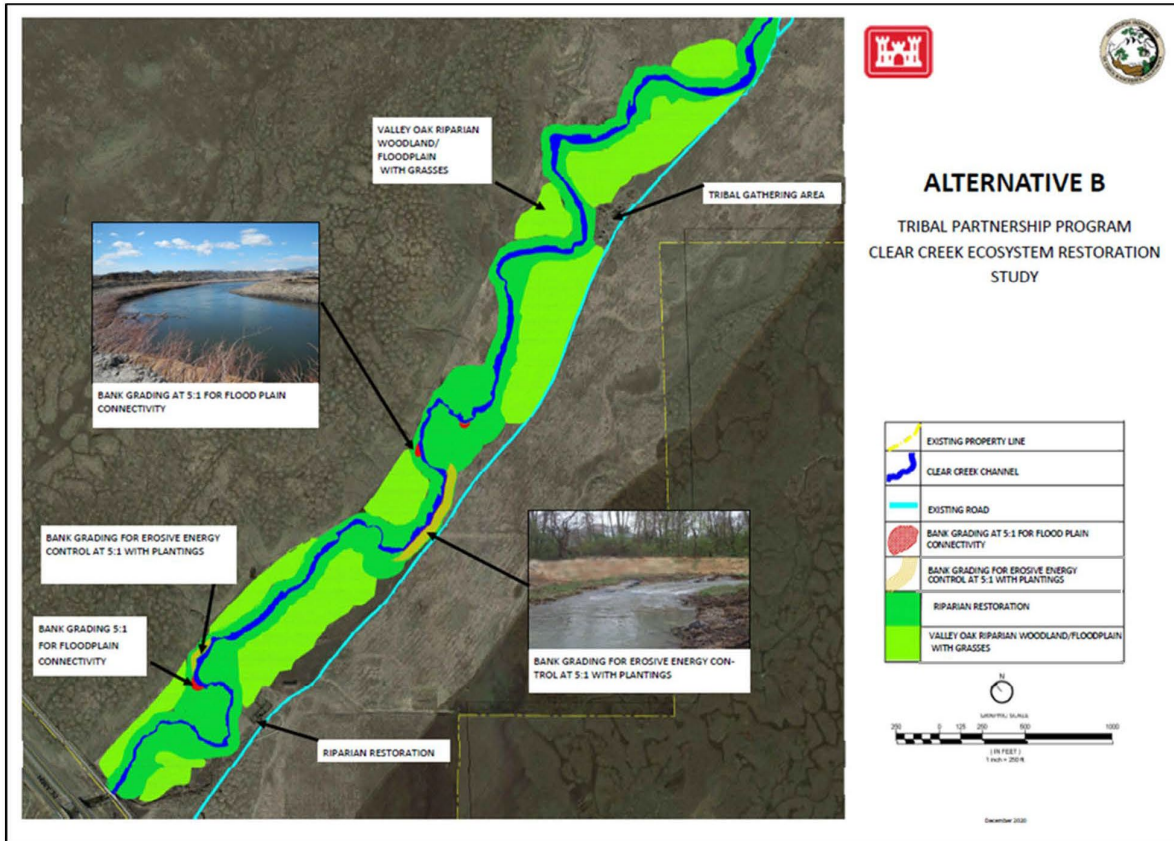


Figure ES 0-2. Features of Alternative B

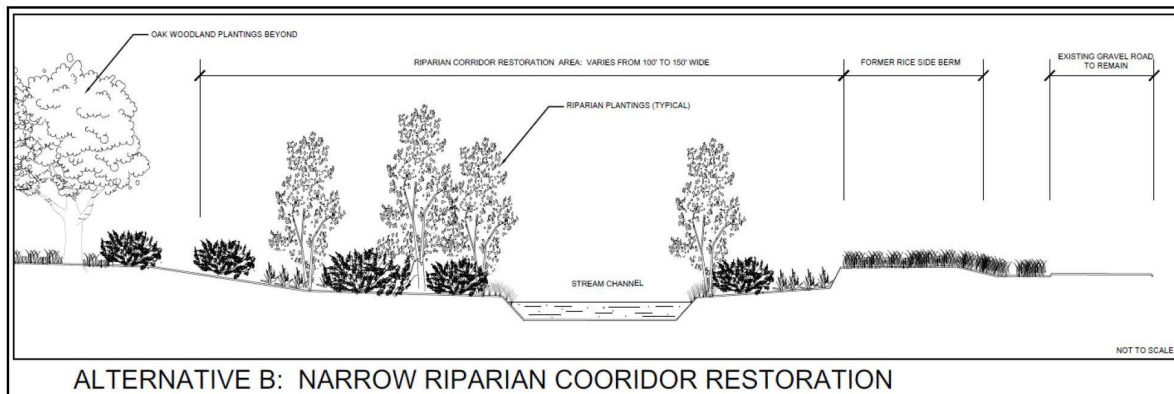


Figure ES 0-3. Cross Section of Alternative B