

Notice of Determination

To:

Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
Contact: Jennifer Blackhall
Email: Jennifer.Blackhall@wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: (858) 354-3285



Lead Agency

San Diego River Conservancy
1350 Front Street, Suite #3024
San Diego, CA 92101
Contact: Dustin Harrison
Email: Dustin.Harrison@sdrc.ca.gov
Phone: (619) 390-0571

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2009071036

Project Title: San Diego River Watershed Invasive Non-Native Plant Control and Restoration Program (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. EPIMS-SDO-48171-R5)

Project Location (San Diego County): The San Diego River Watershed Invasive Non-Native Plant Control and Restoration Program (Project) is located across 278,000 acres of the San Diego River watershed, in the County of San Diego, State of California. The Project is located within the subregional San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), a comprehensive conservation planning program, specifically within the City of San Diego Subarea Plan, pursuant to the Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act (Fish & G. Code § 2800 et seq.).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (EPIMS-SDO-48171-R5), pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, the project Applicant, San Diego River Conservancy (SDRC).

The Project is limited to the removal of invasive non-native vegetation, reduction of vegetative fuel loads, and restoration of portions of the San Diego River watershed to restore hydrologic function and reduce fire risk. The Project is intended to cover all river segments, tributaries, ponds, wetlands, and disturbed riparian habitat that contain invasive non-native plant species that alter the function of the San Diego River watershed. Primary target species include giant reed, tamarisk, pepper trees, eucalyptus trees, and palm trees. Additional invasive non-native vegetation, with guidance by the California Invasive Plant Council list, will be removed from the sites as well. After invasive species have been removed, bare areas will be re-planted with appropriate native vegetation. The vegetation removal processes used will depend on the plant species to be removed.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the project described above on September 3, 2024, and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. CDFW considered the **Mitigated Negative Declaration** prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures **were** made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.

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4. A Mitigation Reporting or Monitoring Plan **was** adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as a Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:
Signature: Heather A. Pert Date: 9/3/2024
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Heather A. Pert, Environmental Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____