

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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February 25, 2025

SCH #: 1997044002
GTS #: 31297
GTS ID: 04-NAP-2023-00486
Co/Rt/Pm: NAPA/121/VAR

Richard Thomasser, Deputy Director of Public Works/District Manager
Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
804 First Street
Napa, CA 94559

Re: Napa River/Napa Creek Flood Protection Project, Increment 2 – Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)

Dear Richard Thomasser:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for Increment 2 of the Napa River/Napa Creek Flood Protection Project. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities. The following comments are based on our review of the January 2025 SEIR.

Please note this correspondence does not indicate an official position by Caltrans on this project and is for informational purposes only.

Project Understanding

The proposed project will implement measures to provide protection in the City and County of Napa from extensive flooding and associated property damage from the anticipated 100-year flood event. Increment 2 of the proposed project focuses on floodwall construction along Lincoln Avenue, floodwall closures at the Dry Bypass between McKinstry Street and West Street, and scour protection under the Lincoln Avenue Bridge. The project site is located near State Route (SR) 121 and SR 29.

Climate Change/Sea Level Rise

Please keep Caltrans informed about the various climate stressors and ongoing adaptation and resilience initiatives as they are developed and implemented at this project location. Caltrans is interested in the project initiative – especially with the implementation of flood walls due to the project's proximity to SR 121 and SR 29. For

any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact the Caltrans Bay Area Climate Change Planning Coordinators at D4_ClimateResilience@dot.ca.gov.

Biological Resources

Please note that the project location may fall under the proposed 91,630 acres of critical habitat designation for longfin smelt per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) proposed ruling on designation of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of Longfin Smelt from January 15, 2025, in Federal Register Volume 90, No. 9 ([link](#)). Please see the attachment at the end of this letter for a map of the critical habitat designation from page 19 of the Federal Register.

SEIR pg. 86, Table 3.6-1: Please consider updating the status of critical habitat for longfin smelt. Additional consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the 1998 biological opinion (BO) and 2000 supplemental BO may be required as only Central California Coast steelhead and the southern DPS of green sturgeon were covered.

SEIR pg. 154, Section 3.13.2: Please consult NMFS regarding the reinitiation request on November 26, 2024 that confirmed the project would not adversely modify critical habitat for delta smelt or longfin smelt, as the request occurred prior to the above-mentioned proposed ruling of longfin smelt critical habitat.

SEIR pg. 154, Section 3.13.2, Impact Analysis: It is stated that there is only one milkweed plant within the project area, while Table 3.13-5, Species Impact Analysis, states three plants were observed in the project area, and one is planned to be removed. Please clarify the number of milkweed plants in the project area.

Cultural Resources

Per the SEIR, impacts to cultural resources were determined to be significant and unavoidable. Should construction activities within Caltrans' Right-of-Way (ROW) take place in relation to this project, these mitigation measures shall be implemented if there is an archaeological discovery. In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code (PRC) 5024.5, and Caltrans Standard Environmental Reference (SER) Chapter 2 ([link](#)), all construction within 60 feet of the find shall cease. Please immediately contact the Caltrans Office of Cultural Resources Studies (OCRS) at (510) 847-1977. A Caltrans staff archaeologist will evaluate the find within one business day after contact. If an inadvertent discovery results in the necessity of archaeological investigations within State ROW, a data recovery plan will need to be approved by the OCRS prior to any further action in the area of the find.

Construction-Related Impacts

Project work that requires movement of oversized or excessive load vehicles on State

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roadways requires a transportation permit that is issued by Caltrans. To apply, please visit Caltrans Transportation Permits ([link](#)).

Prior to construction, coordination may be required with Caltrans to develop a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) to reduce construction traffic impacts to the State Transportation Network (STN).

Equitable Access

If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, those facilities must meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards after project completion. As well, the project must maintain bicycle and pedestrian access during construction. These access considerations support Caltrans' equity mission to provide a safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation network for all users.

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Luana Chen, Transportation Planner, via LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov. For future early coordination opportunities or project referrals, please visit Caltrans LDR website ([link](#)) or contact LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Melissa Hernandez
Acting Branch Chief, Local Development Review
Office of Regional and Community Planning

c: State Clearinghouse

