
Appendix F

Public Comments and Responses

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F Public Comments and Responses

On August 25, 2023, the City of Santa Cruz (City) circulated for public review a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) for the Anadromous Salmonid Habitat Conservation Plan (ASHCP or Proposed Project). As required by Section 15073 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the Draft IS/MND was circulated for a minimum of 30 days. The comment period closed on September 25, 2023. The City received one comment letter on the Draft IS/MND after the close of the public review period. The comments received on the Draft IS/MND are addressed in this appendix.

Section 15074(b) of the CEQA Guidelines requires the decision-making body to consider the IS/MND and comments received on it prior to considering the Proposed Project for approval. Responses to comments are not required by CEQA, although responses may be provided at the discretion of the lead agency. The City has prepared responses to comments received on the Draft IS/MND as part of this Final IS/MND.

Comments were received on the Draft IS/MND from the following commenters:

- Letter A: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (received September 26, 2023)

Comment letters and responses to comments are provided on the following pages.

F.1 Letter A: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Bay Delta Region
2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
Fairfield, CA 94534
(707) 428-2002
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 26, 2023

Mr. Ezekiel Bean
City of Santa Cruz
123 Jewell Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
EBean@santacruzca.gov

Subject: Anadromous Salmonid Habitat Conservation Plan (ASHCP), Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, SCH No. 2023080658, City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County

Dear Mr. Bean:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has received and reviewed the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) prepared by the City of Santa Cruz (City) for the Anadromous Salmonid Habitat Conservation Plan (ASHCP) (Project), located in Santa Cruz County, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.¹

CDFW submits this letter to acknowledge the City's continued coordination with CDFW on development of the Project since 2001. CDFW commends the City for working in partnership with CDFW to provide protective bypass flows for steelhead and coho salmon and for addressing, avoiding and minimizing potentially significant direct impacts from the City's operation and maintenance activities to these species. CDFW appreciates your previous coordination and looks forward to future collaboration on development of the City's Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for coho salmon and Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Notification for activities that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow; change or use material from the bed, channel, or bank (including associated riparian or wetland resources); or deposit or dispose of material where it may pass into a river, lake, or stream.

CDFW anticipates that the Project will have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of filing fees is necessary (Fish and Game Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089). 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.

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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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Mr. Ezekiel Bean
City of Santa Cruz
September 26, 2023
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project's IS/MND. If you have any questions regarding this letter or for further coordination with CDFW, please contact Ms. Serena Stumpf, Environmental Scientist, at (707) 337-1364 or Serena.Stumpf@wildlife.ca.gov; or Mr. Wesley Stokes, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), at (707) 339-6066 or Wesley.Stokes@wildlife.ca.gov.

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(cont'd)

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Erin Chappell

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Erin Chappell
Regional Manager
Bay Delta Region

cc: Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse (SCH No. 2023080658)

F.1.1 Response to Letter A: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Response to Comment A-1

The comment regarding continued coordination on the Proposed Project between the City and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is acknowledged. The City will pay the applicable environmental document filing fees to the Santa Cruz County Clerk when the notice of determination is filed.

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