

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A JOINT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT /MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
ANTELOPE CREEK FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

LEAD AGENCY:	Resource Conservation District of Tehama County 2 Sutter Street, Suite D, Red Bluff, CA 96080
PROJECT TITLE:	Antelope Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project
PROJECT LOCATION:	T27N, R2W, MDBM, Red Bluff East quadrangle map (Tehama County)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (RCDT) has proposed a fish passage improvement project on Antelope Creek near the Edwards Diversion Dam (EDD) (Lat. 40°11'13.50"N, Long. 122° 8'5.43"W). The objective of the project is to improve downstream passage of fish, reduce risk of entrainment, and improve accuracy, precision and timing of irrigation diversions. The proposed project involves consolidating the two EDD diversions into the Los Molinos Mutual Water Company (LMMWC) Ditch (also called the east ditch), constructing an inverted siphon to route water from the LMMWC Ditch under New Creek to the Edwards Ditch (also called the west ditch), replacing the LMMWC Ditch fish screen and installing a new fish bypass system for the combined diversion screen. Also addressed is the scour zone near the LMMWC headgate through the installation of rock scour hole repair.

Funding is from the State Water Resources Control Board through the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40) Integrated Watershed Management Program and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through the Anadromous Fisheries Screen Program and the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program. The RCDTC is the lead agency for the project under the California Environmental Quality Act, and the USFWS is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act.

FINDINGS/DETERMINATION: The USFWS and RCDTC have prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA)/Initial Study (IS) for this project, and the RCDTC has determined that with mitigation applied, no significant impacts would occur. In addition, the RCDTC also concludes that by improving fish passage conditions, a net benefit to Chinook salmon, steelhead and other aquatic fish and wildlife species would result.

The proposed project will have a less-than-significant impact or no impact as related to aesthetics, agricultural/forestry resources, greenhouse gas emissions, land use/planning, noise, population/housing, public services/utilities, recreation, and transportation/traffic. Potential project impacts will be reduced to a level of less-than-significant through adherence to established best management practices and implementation of mitigation measures related to air quality, biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, soils/geology/minerals, and wildfires.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: A 30-day public review period for the proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) will commence on September 13, 2019 and end on October 12, 2019 for interested and concerned individuals and public agencies to submit written comments on the document. Any written comments must be received at the above address within the public review period. Copies of the proposed FONSI/MND are available for review at the Tehama County Library, Red Bluff Branch, 545 Diamond Avenue, Red Bluff, CA 96080. The proposed Joint EA/IS and FONSI/MND and supporting materials are available for review on the Red Bluff Fish and Wildlife Office website at www.fws.gov/redbluff/afrp.html. For additional information, please contact Mr. Jon Barrett at (530) 727-1293 or email at Jon@tehamacountyrcd.org.