for the Lead Agency. QDFW's CEQA Findings are available at the CDFW office identified above.

Signed: Robert Hawkins

Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)

Northern Region

Date Received for filing at OPR:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

NOV 22 2019

## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FINDINGS FOR LAKE OR STREAMBED ALTERATION AGREEMENT No. 1600-2019-0865-R1

## Introduction

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Guidelines) (Section 15000, et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations) require that no public agency shall approve or carry out a project for which a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) has been completed that identifies one or more significant effects, unless the agency makes the following finding as to each significant effect:

Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which mitigate or avoid the significant effects on the environment.

The THP is a certified state regulatory program that provides a substitute document to a Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report, pursuant to Guidelines Sections 15251 and 15252. As the lead agency for the THP, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) certified the THP for the Project on **October 21, 2019**. The Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) found that the Project will not result in significant environmental effects with the mitigation measures required in or incorporated into the Project.

CDFW is entering into Streambed Alteration Agreement (Agreement) **No. 1600-2019-0865-R1** with **Mr. Mike Marvier representing Crane Mills**. The project is located on unnamed tributaries to Willow Creek in the Lower Willow Creek Planning Watershed (5523.100301), in the County of Tehama, State of California; Township 24N, Range 09W, Section 25; Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian; USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle, Ball Mountain, 1967.

Because CDFW is issuing the Agreement, it is a Responsible Agency under CEQA for the Project. As a CEQA Responsible Agency, CDFW is required by Guidelines Section 15096 to review the environmental document certified by the Lead Agency approving the projects or activities addressed in the Agreement and to make certain findings concerning a project's potential to cause significant, adverse environmental effects. However, when considering alternatives and mitigation measures approved by the Lead Agency, a Responsible Agency is more limited than the Lead Agency. When issuing the Agreement, CDFW is responsible only for ensuring that the direct or indirect environmental effects of activities addressed in the Agreement are adequately mitigated or avoided. Consequently, the findings adopted or independently made by CDFW with respect to an Agreement's activities are more limited than the findings of the Lead Agency funding, approving, or carrying out the project activities addressed in such Agreements.

## **Findings**

CDFW has considered the THP adopted by CALFIRE. CDFW has independently concluded that the Agreement should be issued under the terms and conditions specified therein. In this regard, CDFW hereby adopts the findings of CALFIRE, as set forth in the THP insofar as they pertain to the Project's impacts on biological resources.

Date:

Signed:

Robert Hawkins

Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)

Northern Region