

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Redwoods to the Sea Corridor Forest Resilience

Lead Agency: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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Project Location: Honeydew, Humboldt County, CA

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Save the Redwoods League is working with the Mattole Restoration Council, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), landowner Robert Stansberry, and local contractors to implement fuels reduction treatments, including tree thinning, pruning, and shrub removal in order to reduce the fuel load, enhance the quality of trees and their ability to sequester and store greenhouse gases, and establish a 15.7-mile fuel break along the Pringle Ridge and Gilham Butte ridge tops. An approximately 4.2-mile, 200-foot wide shaded fuel break will be created across 102 acres of Stansberry Ranch and a 6.1-mile, 200-foot wide shaded fuel break will be created across 148 acres of BLM land. These two new shaded fuel breaks will connect to an existing 5.4-mile fuel break on Stansberry Ranch, thus creating a 15.7-mile long break along the ridge tops. Additionally, as part of this project, 230-400 small-to-moderate sized Douglas-fir trees will be removed from dense overly-stocked stands and flown by helicopter to Fourmile Creek and Sholes Creek (Mattole River tributaries) to be utilized for fish habitat structures. The total project area is 484 acres.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The proposed project will have a less than significant impact with mitigation on biological resources, cultural resources, and tribal cultural resources. The project includes methods, California Department of Fish and Wildlife 1600 Agreement conditions, Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 27 conditions, and mitigation measures designed to avoid, minimize and mitigate potential significant environmental effects of the project. 29 mitigation measures are contained in the document with inclusion of mitigation monitoring protocols. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce potential environmental impacts of the proposed project to a less than significant level.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

The lead agency knows of no areas of controversy associated with the project. Agencies and the public have not raised issues related to the project.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Other agencies with jurisdiction over the project include California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the State Water Quality Control Board. The project will require a Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (Order No. RI-2014-0011 Category F) from the Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region. The waiver will be obtained prior to commencement of operations, and the project will adhere to all of the stipulations in the waiver including implementation of an erosion control plan.

Categorical Waiver F: The General and Specific Conditions of this Categorical Waiver limit the scope of impacts from Timber Harvest Plans approved by CAL FIRE and other CEQA compliant timber harvesting activities so that the threatened discharges of waste will be minimized. Further, Regional Water Board staff participation in the CEQA functional equivalent THP review process ensures site-specific mitigation and appropriate project planning to protect water quality. As such, projects that meet the eligibility criteria for Category F are not expected to pose a significant threat to water quality, and therefore, it is appropriate to conditionally waive Waste Discharge Requirements.

A 1600 Agreement is required, and Agreement Number LSAA# 19-0527 has been filed with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The final 1600 Agreement has not been issued. The project is required to adhere to all of the conditions in the agreement.

The large wood placement qualifies for authorization under Department of the Army Nationwide Permit (NW P) 27 for Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Establishment Activities (82 Fed. Reg. 1860, January 6, 2017), pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA of 1972, as amended (33 U.S.C. § 1344 et seq.). A Nationwide Permit (NWP) 27 (File Number 2019-00229S) for Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement and Establishment Activities was obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers on July 3, 2019 and is valid until March 18, 2022. An air district burn permit will need to be obtained from the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District.