



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 Northern Region
 601 Locust Street
 Redding, CA 96001
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



April 3, 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 03 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Lisa Lozier, Senior Planner
 Shasta County Department of Resource Management
 Planning Division
 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
 Redding, CA 96001

Subject: Review of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Chaparral Stables – Horse Boarding Facility Project, State Clearinghouse Number 2020039011, Shasta County

Dear Lisa Lozier:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) dated March 2020, for the above-referenced project (Project). As a trustee for the State's fish and wildlife resources, the Department has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and their habitat. As a responsible agency, the Department administers the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code that conserve the State's fish and wildlife public trust resources. The Department offers the following comments and recommendations on this Project in our role as a trustee and responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.

Project Description

The Project is a "boarding facility for up to 25 horses with additional services including riding lessons and training for boarding clients only. The boarding facility may be used to host small training events up to four times per year. A commercial riding stable and academy is permissible in the Unclassified zone district when consistent with the General Plan and with an approved use permit. Structures proposed to be constructed for the project include a 1,728-square-foot garage and storage area with a caretaker's apartment above, two 1,800 square-foot barns with paddocks, 800 square-foot hay storage barn, eight self-exercise paddocks with shade covers, a turnout pasture, 100-foot by 200-foot arena, and 60-foot diameter round pen. Both the round pen and arena will be equipped with lights and sprinklers. Two small wash and grooming areas as well as the driveway and parking areas will be graveled. An exception from the parking and surfacing standard as allowed SCC Sections 17.86.140 and 17.86.100 is requested to maintain to gravel drive and parking areas. A temporary mobile home may be on-site during the construction of the caretaker's residence. Signage will be included at the driveway entrance."

The Project is located in unincorporated Centerville Area of Shasta County on Assessor's Parcel Number 203-130-007. An unnamed seasonal drainage traverses the southwestern portion of the parcel.

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Comments and Recommendations

The Department commented on this Project on January 23, 2020, during the Early Consultation review period. The Department appreciates that many of our comments were incorporated into the MND. The Department has the following comment and recommendation:

Botanical Surveys

The Department requested a botanical and wildlife survey be conducted. A Biological Resource Assessment was prepared by VESTRA, Inc. and dated February 2020.

The Department had previously queried the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and two special status plant species were identified in the query: Piorkowski's clover (*Trifolium piorkowskii*) (California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2) and Dubious pea (*Lathyrus sulphureus* var. *argillaceus*) (California Rare Plant Rank 1B.3). The Biological Resource Assessment states that there is no habitat for either species; however, dubious pea could be present. It is often found in oak woodlands, near shrubs or in grassy areas. Both species bloom in April and May, so the Department recommends an additional survey during the appropriate blooming period to confirm neither species is present. An additional mitigation measure should be developed. An example could be something such as the following:

Prior to the start of construction, a focused botanical survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist, preferably a botanist, during the blooming period for potentially occurring plant species. Botanical surveys should follow California Department of Fish and Wildlife's March 20, 2018, *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities*. If no special status plant species are found during the botanical survey no other measures will be required. If special status plant species are found during the botanical surveys, the plants will be marked by a qualified biologist familiar with the species. If the area can be avoided, exclusionary fencing will be placed around the plants and no pedestrian or vehicular entry shall be allowed. If the area cannot be avoided, the County will coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the species. Potential measures for reducing project impacts on special status plants include limiting ground disturbance until annual plants have gone to seed, then stockpiling the topsoil during the initial excavation to be replaced as the tip layer during the final site rehabilitation. Botanical survey results shall be emailed to the CDFW at R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov or mailed to California Department of Fish and Wildlife, ATTN: CEQA, 601 Locust Street, Redding, California 96001.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Henderson, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), at (530) 225-2779, or by e-mail at Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Curt Babcock

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Curt Babcock

Habitat Conservation Program Manager

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