California Department of Transportation

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

July 19, 2021

July 20 2021

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

1-DN-101-PM 39.63 Rowdy Creek Passage Improvement SCH# 2021060436

Ms. Heidi Kunstal, Director Community Development Department County of Del Norte 981 H Street, Suite 110 Crescent City, CA 95531

Dear Ms. Kunstal:

Thank you for giving Caltrans the opportunity to review the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Rowdy and Dominie Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project. The project includes the demolition and removal of outdated fish hatchery infrastructure from within Rowdy and Dominie Creeks, and replacement with more modern equipment to enable continued hatchery operation. The Project also includes the installation of a roughened channel to improve instream habitat conditions and to improve fish passage beyond the hatchery diversion weir when not in operation. The project is located downstream of the US Route 101 bridge over Rowdy Creek in the unincorporated community of Smith River within the County of Del Norte. We have the following comments:

- The project is located adjacent to an access-controlled segment of US 101. Under normal circumstances, no access to adjacent parcels is allowed from accesscontrolled expressways and freeways. If, in this particular case, no alternate access to the parcel and/or display can feasibly be obtained other than from US 101, an "Exception to Policy" will need to be obtained prior to issuance of a Caltrans Encroachment Permit. A Caltrans Encroachment Permit (EP) will need to be obtained from Caltrans District 1 for any work within US Highway 101 right-of-way, including the development of temporary points of access to the proposed project site. For more information, please refer to the EP Manual, Chapter 300, Exceptions to Policy: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/ep-manual>.
- To streamline the EP application and review process, we require the applicant to consult with our EP staff prior to submitting an application. Requests for EP applications can be sent to: Caltrans District I Permits Office, P.O. Box 3700, Eureka, CA 95502-3700, or requested by phone at (707) 445-6385.



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 Construction work that will require oversize/weight equipment or vehicles to cross Rowdy Creek Bridge shall be reviewed by Structures Maintenance & Investigations as part of the Caltrans Permit to allow "extra-legal loads." Information about Caltrans Transportation Permits can be found on-line at: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/transportation-permits>.

• The proposed "Staging Area 1" (as shown on ISMND Sheet 140), and the activities to be conducted there, will need to be reviewed and approved by Caltrans due to concerns with the potential impacts of the construction work to the US Route 101 bridge over Rowdy Creek. Operations taking place at that location may cause erosion next to the bridge structure, embankments, guard rail, and the approach slabs. Caltrans prefers the use of alternative staging areas to the extent feasible.

• All proposed stream channel work within the Caltrans Right of Way at Rowdy Creek Bridge (as shown on ISMND Sheet 151) shall be reviewed by Structures Maintenance & Investigations. For reference, a US Route 101 right of way map in the segment containing the Rowdy Creek bridge is enclosed.

Please contact me with questions or for further assistance with this review at (707) 684-6879, or by email at: <jesse.robertson@dot.ca.gov>.

Sincerely,

Jesse Robertson

Jesse Robertson Transportation Planning Caltrans District 1

Enclosure: Caltrans Right of Way Map for 1-DN-101-PM 39.633

c: State Clearinghouse Heidi Quintrell, Office Chief, Caltrans District 1 Encroachment Permits

