

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO
CENTRAL VALLEY SALMON SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS
TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch

This Report Has Been Prepared Pursuant to the
California Environmental Quality Act of 1970
State of California
Natural Resources Agency
Fish and Game Commission

State Clearinghouse #

**INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO
CENTRAL VALLEY SALMON SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS
TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS**

The Project

The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend the Central Valley salmon sport fishing regulations as set forth in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. The current 2018 sport fishing regulations, Section 7.50, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, allow for salmon fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. Each year the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) evaluates the potential need to amend the existing Chinook Salmon bag and possession limits and seasons to align with management goals. Any proposed changes to the salmon fishing regulations are presented to the Commission for consideration.

The Findings

The initial study and the Commission's review of the project showed that the project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment and therefore no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or reduce any significant effects on the environment. The project will not have a significant effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Basis of the Findings

Based on the initial study, implementing the proposed project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment. Therefore, a negative declaration is filed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resource Code Section 21080, subdivision (c).

This proposed negative declaration consists of the following:

- Introduction – Project Description and Background Information on the Proposed Amendments to Central Valley Salmon Sport Fishing Regulations
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Explanation of the Response to the Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION
FOR
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO
CENTRAL VALLEY SALMON SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS
TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS**

Introduction

Annually, the Department recommends Central Valley salmon sport fishing regulations to the Commission. The Commission then makes the final determination on what amendments to the regulations should be implemented, and is the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA. Under Fish and Game Code Section 200, the Commission has the authority to regulate the taking or possession of fish for the purpose of sport fishing.

Project goals and objectives

The goal of this project is to amend the Central Valley salmon sport fishing regulations in furtherance of the state's policy on conservation, maintenance, and utilization of California's aquatic resources stated in Fish and Game Code Section 1700. This section includes the following objectives:

1. Maintain sufficient populations of all aquatic species to ensure their continued existence.
2. Maintain sufficient resources to support a reasonable sport use.
3. Management of fisheries using best available science and public input.

Background

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is responsible for adopting recommendations for the management of recreational and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone, which is located three to 200 miles off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. When approved by the Secretary of Commerce, these recommendations are implemented as ocean salmon fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The PFMC will develop the annual Pacific coast ocean salmon fisheries regulatory options for public review at its March 2019 meeting and develop the final PFMC regulatory recommendations for adoption by NMFS at its April 2019 meeting. Based on the regulations adopted by NMFS, the Department will recommend specific bag and possession limits to the Commission during a scheduled teleconference hearing on May 16, 2019.

The proposed salmon sport fishing regulations for the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers may:

- (1) allow for additional harvest of salmon to reduce impacts to spawning habitat if

low instream flow conditions occur; and

- (2) increase or decrease the current salmon bag and possession limits based on the PFMC salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season.

Project Location

Central Valley salmon sport fishing addressed by this environmental document occurs in the waters of the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers in northern and Central California in the counties of Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Colusa, Butte, Yuba, Sutter, Placer, El Dorado, Sacramento, Yolo, Solano, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin.

Schedule

If adopted by the Commission and approved by the Office of Administrative Law, the proposed regulatory amendments described below will go into effect around July 1, 2019.

Project Description

Current Regulations

In 2018, salmon sport fishing in the Central Valley was constrained for the first time since 2010 due to a low Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (SRFC) stock abundance forecast. At its March 2018 meeting, the PFMC determined it would be necessary to specify an ocean/inland sharing arrangement for the limited SRFC available for harvest (take) in 2018 for ocean sport and commercial fisheries, and in-river recreational fisheries in the Central Valley. As a result, the Department agreed to a one-time limit of the in-river harvest to 15 percent of the total available SRFC harvest.

In December 2017, the Commission provided notice of a range of alternatives for the 2018 Central Valley fishery, including a suite of bag and possession limit alternatives that were area-specific. However, because the Department did not anticipate the impending SRFC stock collapse, this range of alternatives did not include a number of other measures that might have been used to constrain inland SRFC catches to stay within the federal harvest projections. Consequently, the only management measure the Department could recommend to the Commission to target the federal in-river harvest projection was a reduction in the daily bag limit from two fish to one fish in all areas that would be open to retention during 2018.

Proposed Regulations

The Department recognizes the uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections. Therefore, for the 2019 Central Valley fishery, the Department is presenting three regulatory options for the Commission's consideration to tailor 2019 Central Valley

fishery management to target 2019 in-river fisheries harvest projections.

- Option 1 is the most liberal of the three options and allows take of any size Chinook Salmon up to the daily bag and possession limits.
- Option 2 allows for take of a limited number of adult Chinook Salmon, with grilse Chinook Salmon making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limits.
- Option 3 is the most conservative option and allows for a grilse-only Chinook Salmon fishery.

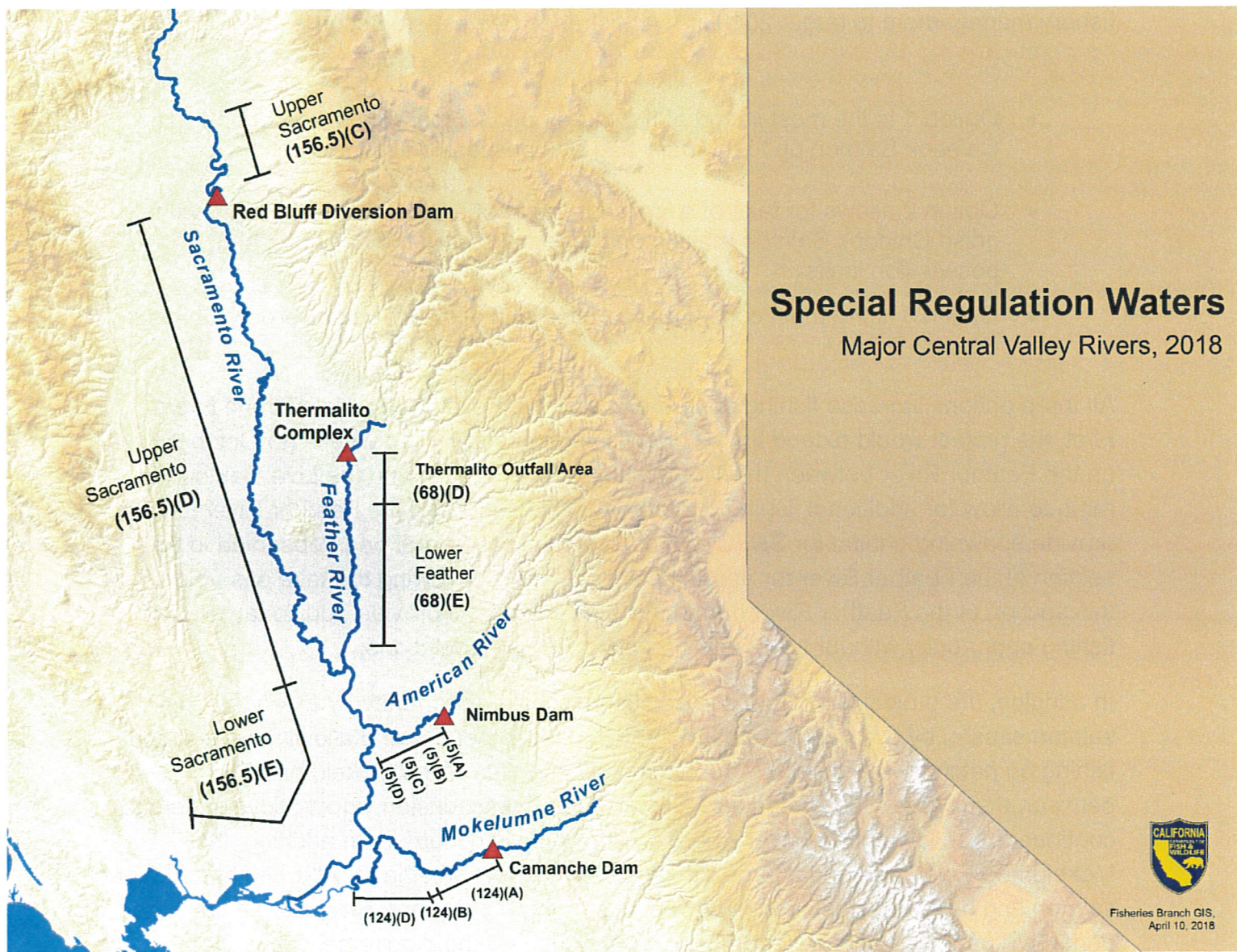
All three options increase fishing opportunities on the Feather and Mokelumne rivers. First, the project would extend the salmon fishing season by two weeks (to October 31) on the Feather River between the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall and the Live Oak boat ramp to allow for additional fishing opportunity. This section of the Feather River used to provide spawning habitat for SRFC, but adult spawning has not been observed in this section of the Feather River for approximately 10 years. Allowing the take of salmon in this section of the Feather River during this time period will provide additional sport fishing opportunity without adversely impacting SRFC populations.

In addition, the project would provide additional fishing opportunity by extending the salmon season by two and one-half months (to December 31) and allowing year-round fishing on hatchery steelhead on approximately 10 miles of the Mokelumne River between the Highway 99 Bridge and Elliott Road. This extension would allow anglers to continue to fish lower in the river where no spawning is occurring. In addition, the Mokelumne River supports a large run of hatchery origin steelhead. Allowing the take of salmon and hatchery steelhead in this section of the Mokelumne River during this time period will provide additional sport fishing opportunity without adversely impacting populations of SRFC or wild steelhead.

Key to Proposed Regulatory Changes:

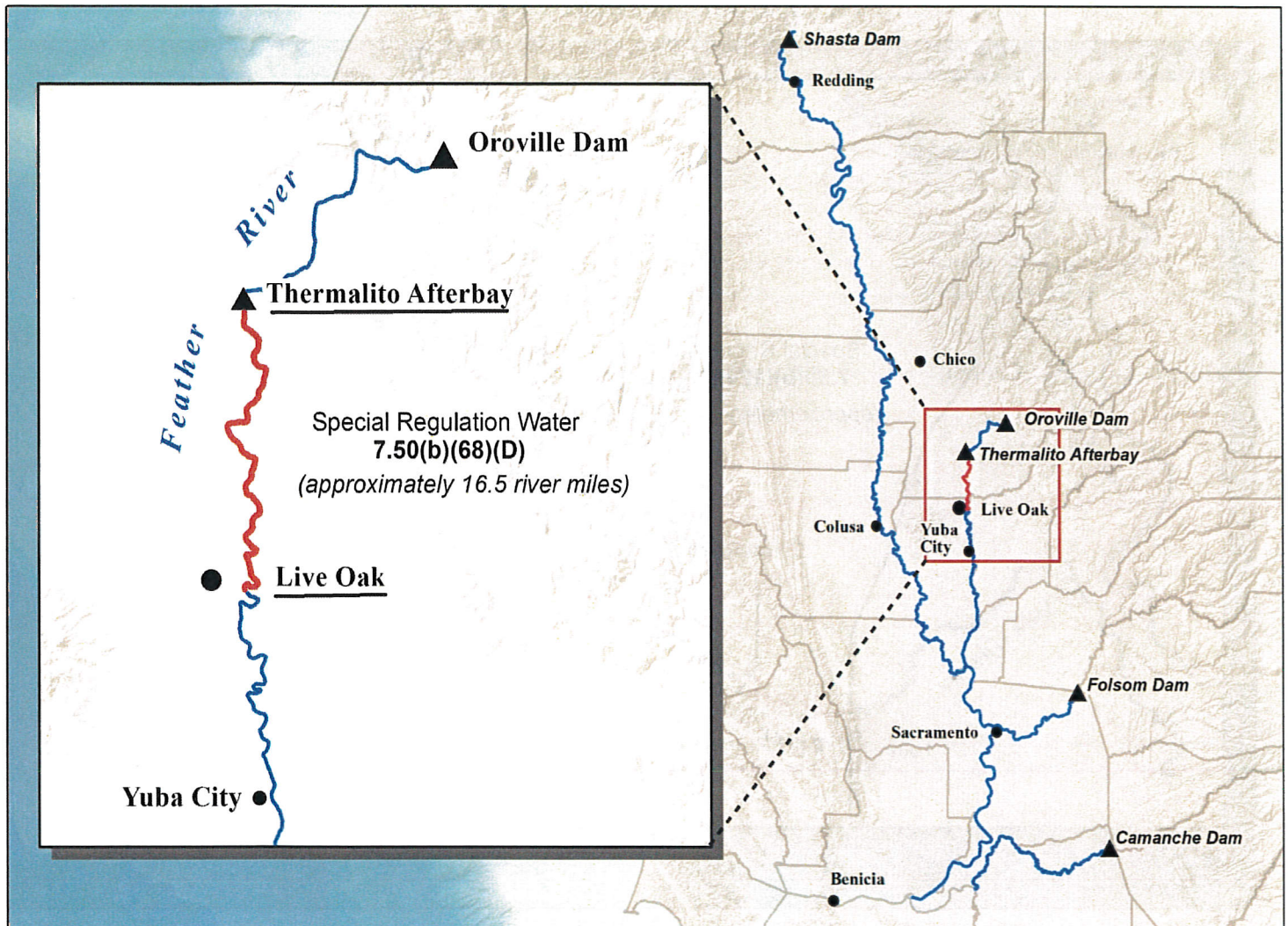
Because the PFMC recommendations are not known at this time, a range shown in [brackets] in the text below of bag and possession limits is indicated where it is desirable to continue Chinook Salmon fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

Bold text indicates changes to the in-river season or boundary.

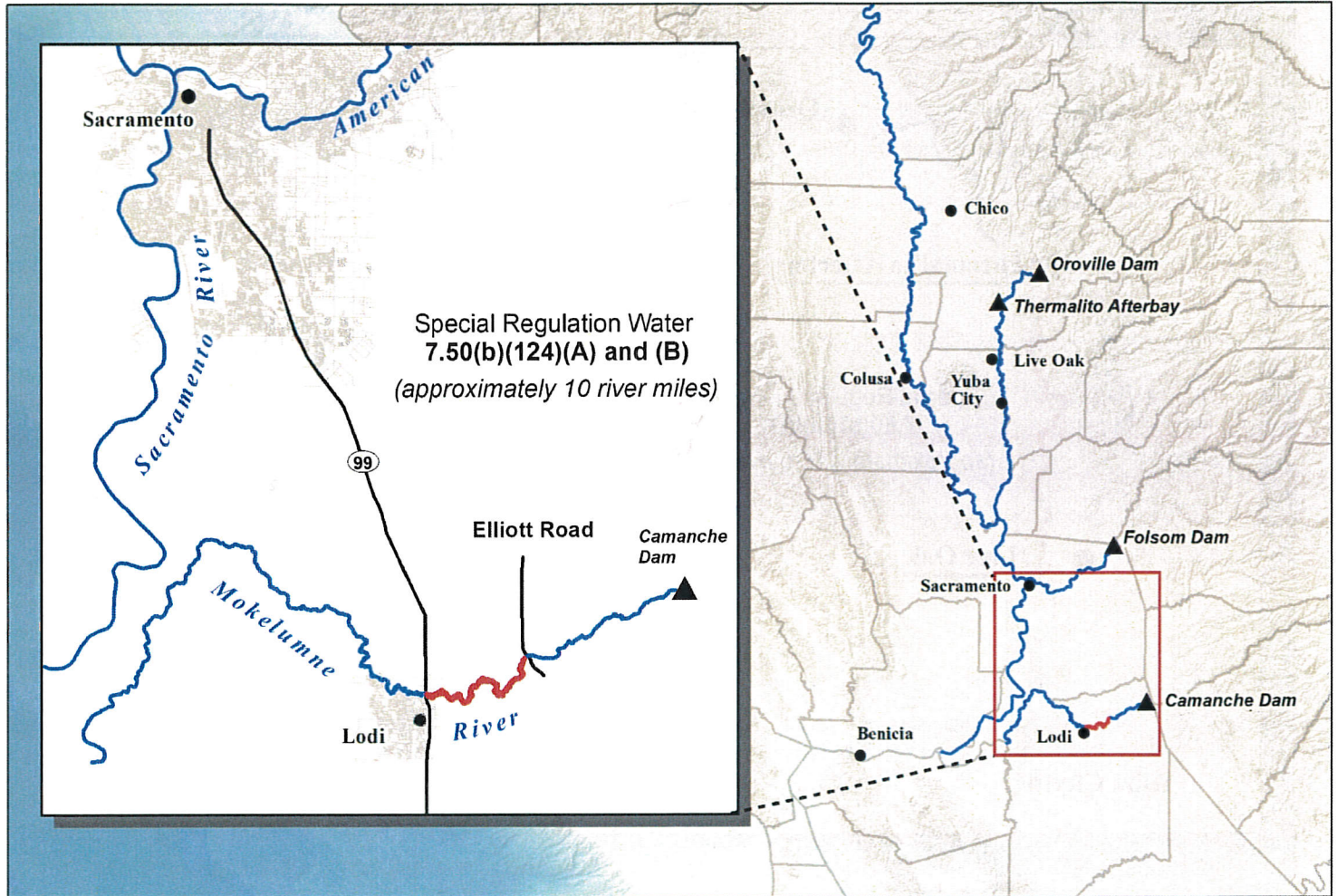


Feather River Proposal: Extend Salmon Fishing Season from Oct 15 to Oct 31

From Thermalito Afterbay South to the Live Oak Boat Ramp



**Mokelumne River Proposal: Extend Salmon and Hatchery Steelhead Fishing Seasons
on Approximately 10 Miles of River
Between the Highway 99 Bridge and Elliott Road**



Option 1 – Any Size Chinook Salmon Fishery

This option would allow anglers to take up to [0-4] Chinook Salmon of any size per day. This option is the Department's preferred option if the 2019 SRFC stock abundance forecast is sufficiently high to avoid the need to constrain in-river SRFC harvest.

American River, subsection 7.50(b)(5):

- (B) From the USGS gauging station cable crossing near Nimbus Hatchery to the SMUD power line crossing the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

July 16 through October 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park to the Jibboom Street bridge.

July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Feather River, subsection 7.50(b)(68):

- (D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

July 16 through **October 31** with a daily bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.50(b)(124):

- (A) From Camanche Dam to **Elliott Road**.

July 16 through October 15 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (B) From **Elliott Road** to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi Lake.

From July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth.

From July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.50(b)(156.5):

- (C) From Deschutes Road bridge to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam.

August 1 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From the Red Bluff Diversion Dam to the Highway 113 bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (E) From the Highway 113 bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Option 2 – Limited Adult and Grilse Salmon Fishery

This option would allow the take of a limited number of adult Chinook Salmon, with grilse Chinook Salmon making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limits. Should a reduction in the adult component of the stock be imposed by PFMC harvest projections, the Department is recommending specifying angling opportunities on the smaller, and possibly more numerous grilse salmon to increase angling harvest opportunities. Take of adult salmon would be limited under regulation, and the subsequent juvenile production would help rebuild the depressed stock size at a time when there is the need to restrict harvest of adult salmon.

American River, subsection 7.50(b)(5):

- (B) From the USGS gauging station cable crossing near Nimbus Hatchery to the SMUD power line crossing the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

July 16 through October 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over [26-28] inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish may be over [26-28] inches total length.

- (C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park to the Jibboom Street bridge.

July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over [26-28] inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish may be over [26-28] inches total length.

- (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over [26-28] inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish may be over [26-28] inches total length.

Feather River, subsection 7.50(b)(68):

- (D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

July 16 through **October 31** with a daily bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over [26-28] inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish may be over [26-28] inches total length.

- (E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over [26-28] inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish may be over [26-28] inches total length.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.50(b)(124)

- (A) From Camanche Dam to **Elliott Road**.

July 16 through October 15 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over [26-28] inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish may be over [26-28] inches total length.

- (B) From **Elliott Road** to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi

Lake.

From July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over [26-28] inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish may be over [26-28] inches total length.

- (D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth.

From July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over [26-28] inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish may be over [26-28] inches total length.

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.50(b)(156.5):

- (C) From Deschutes Road bridge to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam.

August 1 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over [26-28] inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish may be over [26-28] inches total length.

- (D) From the Red Bluff Diversion Dam to the Highway 113 bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over [26-28] inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish may be over [26-28] inches total length.

- (E) From the Highway 113 bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over [26-28] inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish may be over [26-28] inches total length.

Option 3 – Grilse-only Salmon Fishery

This option would allow for a grilse-only salmon fishery. Should a reduction in the adult component of the stock be imposed by PFMC harvest projections, the Department is recommending specifying angling opportunities on the smaller, and possibly more

numerous grilse salmon to increase angling harvest opportunities. Take of adult salmon would be prohibited under regulation, and the subsequent juvenile production would help rebuild the depressed stock size at a time when there is the need to restrict harvest of adult salmon.

American River, subsection 7.50(b)(5):

- (B) From the USGS gauging station cable crossing near Nimbus Hatchery to the SMUD power line crossing the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

July 16 through October 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

- (C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park to the Jibboom Street bridge.

July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

- (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Feather River, subsection 7.50(b)(68):

- (D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to the Live Oak boat ramp.

July 16 through **October 31** with a daily bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

- (E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.50(b)(124):

(A) From Camanche Dam to **Elliott Road**

July 16 through October 15 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

(B) From **Elliott Road** to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including lake Lodi.

From July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

(D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth.

From July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.50(b)(156.5):

(C) From Deschutes Road bridge to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam.

August 1 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

(D) From the Red Bluff Diversion Dam to the Highway 113 bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

(E) From the Highway 113 bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to [26-28] inches total length.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project Title:
Proposed Amendments to Central Valley Salmon Sport Fishing Regulations, Title 14, California Code of Regulations
2. Lead Agency Name and Address:
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Melissa Miller-Henson, (916) 653-4899
4. Project Location:
The American, Feather, Sacramento, and Mokelumne rivers.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch
830 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
6. General Plan designation:
N/A (statewide)
7. Zoning:
N/A (statewide)
8. Description of Project:
Potentially amend the daily bag and possession limits and fishing seasons for the Central Valley salmon sport fishery to maintain consistency with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.
9. Surrounding land uses and setting:
N/A
10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required:
None.
11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.31?
No.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐	Aesthetics	☐	Agriculture and Forestry	☐	Air Quality
☐	Biological Resources	☐	Cultural Resources	☐	Energy
☐	Geology/Soils	☐	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
☐	Hydrology/Water Quality	☐	Land Use/Planning	☐	Mineral Resources
☐	Noise	☐	Population/Housing	☐	Public Services
☐	Recreation	☐	Transportation	☐	Tribal Cultural Resources
☐	Utilities/Service Systems	☐	Wildfire	☐	Mandatory Findings of Significance

This project will not have a "Potential Significant Impact" on any of the environmental factors listed above; therefore, no boxes are checked.

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☒	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☐	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☐	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
☐	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.
--------------------------	--

Melissa A. Miller-Henson
Melissa Miller-Henson, Acting Executive Director

3/21/19
Date

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non- attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in any other emissions such as those leading to odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VI. ENERGY. Would the project:	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.				
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage system or provide substantial additional sources of pollution runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING.				
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES.				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XVI. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geologically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources,	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or				
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☐	☒
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonable foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	☐	☐	☐	☒
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel, breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXPLANATION OF RESPONSES TO INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

I. AESTHETICS

- a) The project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- b) The project will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- c) The project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- d) The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

- a) The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timber zoned Timberland Production. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- d) There will be no loss of forest land and the project will not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.

III. AIR QUALITY

- a) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard. Such an impact will not occur because the project involves no ongoing sources of air pollution.
- c) The project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not increase pollutant concentrations.
- d) The project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- a) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The project may result in an increase in the daily bag and possession limits for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (SRFC) in the American, Feather, Mokelumne and Sacramento rivers. Federally and state listed fish species including Central Valley steelhead, Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon, and Sacramento River winter-run Chinook Salmon occur in these waters; however, existing sport fishing regulations for SRFC, including seasonal and area closures, are in place to avoid contact with these species. In addition, all three species are protected from take under the federal and/or state Endangered Species Acts.

The project will increase fishing opportunity on the Feather River by extending the salmon fishing season by two weeks between the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall and the Live Oak boat ramp. Although Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead are native to the Feather River and return to the river annually to spawn, existing sport fishing regulations for SRFC, including seasonal and area closures which will not be changed by this project, are in place to avoid contact with these species. Almost all spring-run and steelhead spawning occurs outside the project area upstream of the Thermalito Afterbay Outlet. Steelhead spawning does not begin until December after the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to Live Oak boat ramp section closes to fishing. Spring-run Chinook Salmon spawning occurs in September and October, but most of the spawning adults have moved

upstream above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall before the SRFC fishing season begins in mid-July. As a result, contact with either species during the extended fishing season would be minimal. Furthermore, both species are protected from take under the federal and/or state Endangered Species Acts.

In addition, the project would extend the salmon and hatchery steelhead fishing seasons by two and one-half months and four and one-half months, respectively, between the Highway 99 Bridge and Elliott Road on the Mokelumne River. The expanded fishing opportunity is buffered by the overall large number of hatchery steelhead and salmon returns in the lower Mokelumne River. The project is not expected to have a significant effect on wild steelhead because spawning occurs outside this stretch of river. In addition, take of wild steelhead is prohibited under the federal Endangered Species Act. Spring-run Chinook Salmon were historically in the Mokelumne River but are now extirpated from the watershed. Thus, the project is not anticipated to significantly affect listed fish species in the area.

- b) The project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies and regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) or the USFWS. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- d) The project will not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not result in any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- f) The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work or work permanently modifying any existing structure or resource and thus no potential to affect historical resources.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect archaeological resources.
- c) The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect human remains.

VI. ENERGY

- a) The project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not use energy resources.
- b) The project will not affect nor obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- a i) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- a ii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- a iii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- a iv) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.

- b) The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- c) The project will not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable and potentially result in on- or off- site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- d) The project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- e) The project will not create any sources of waste water requiring a septic system.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- a. The project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The project will not involve construction, land alternation, or land use changes.

The project could result in additional angler trips to the Feather and Mokelumne rivers during the extended fishing seasons on these rivers. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters and their internal combustion engines will produce some greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, the number of additional angler trips is anticipated to be low due to the short duration of the extended season on the Feather River and low angling pressure on the Mokelumne River. Therefore, the small amount of GHG emissions resulting from the project would be similar to what occurs today under existing conditions and, thus, would not have a significant impact on the environment.

- b. The project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG. The project would result in the production of very low GHG emissions.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- a) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- b) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

- c) The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The project will not involve the transport, use, or emission of any hazardous materials.
- d) The project will not be located on any site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.
- e) The project will not be located within an airport land use plan area.
- f) The project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- g) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wild land fires. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- a) The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, water use, or water discharge.
- b) The project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.
- c i) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c ii) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c iii) The project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm-water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.

- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, the project would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation because the project would not involve any construction or land alteration.
- e) The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

- a) The project will not physically divide an established community. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

- a) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XIII. NOISE

- a) The project will not result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, and its implementation will not generate noise levels in excess of agency standards.
- b) The project will not result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.
- c) The project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

- a) The project will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not construct any new homes, businesses, roads, or other human infrastructure.
- b) The project will not displace any existing people or housing and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

- a) The project will not have any significant environmental impacts associated with new or physically altered governmental facilities. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XVI. RECREATION

- a) The project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

On the Feather River, the project would extend the salmon fishing season between the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall and the Live Oak boat ramp from October 16 to October 31. The project will result in additional angler trips to the project area during this period. Although the salmon and steelhead fisheries are open downstream after the October 15 closure, the project will most likely result in a shift in angler effort upstream into the project area during the last two weeks in October. A shift in angler effort would not be expected to result in the deterioration of existing recreational facilities because the extended fishing season is short and there are adequate facilities in the area to accommodate additional anglers. Most angling occurs from the shore at the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall and in the Oroville Wildlife Area it is a mix of boat and shore anglers. There are several boat launches in the project area, but most of them are unimproved boat launches in the Oroville Wildlife Area. Most boat anglers would use the upstream unimproved boat launch at Thermalito, but may use, in descending order of likelihood, the unimproved boat launches in the Oroville Wildlife Area, the Gridley boat launch, and lastly the Live Oak boat launch.

On the Mokelumne River, the project would extend the salmon fishing season by two and one-half months and the steelhead fishing season by four and one-half months between the Highway 99 Bridge and Elliott Road. In general, there is little shore/bank angling opportunity from Lake Camanche to Lodi. Most angling in the project area is done from floating water craft and access is mostly private in the lower Mokelumne River. There are public parks with river access above and below the project area that have kayak/canoe or small watercraft access. These and similar locations may see an increase in visitors. However, the number of additional visitors/anglers to the area would be minimal as existing angling pressure in the area is very light.

- b) The project does not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

- a) The project will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.
- b) The project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b), which pertains to vehicle miles traveled. The amount and distance of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations.
- c) The project will not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses with equipment. There will be no land use or transportation system modifications.
- d) The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k). There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

- a) The project will not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. There will be no construction or land alteration.
- b) The project requires no new water supplies.
- c) The project will not produce wastewater.
- d) The project will not generate solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with State and local standards for solid waste.
- e) The project will not create solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XX. WILDFIRE

- a) The project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- b) The project will not exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors.
- c) The project will not require the installation or maintenance of any infrastructure.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- a) The project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The project is consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.
- b) The project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because there are no potential adverse impacts due to project implementation.

- c) The project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or the creation of new infrastructure.