United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Northern California Area Office
16349 Shasta Dam Boulevard
Shasta Lake, California 96019-8400

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NC-340
ENV-1.10

AUG - 9 2000

MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties (See Attached List)

Acting for
From: Michael J. Ryan
Area Manager

Subject: Availability of Final Environmental Assessment/Initial Study for the Saeltzer Dam Fish Passage and Flow Preservation Project

The Final Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) for the Saeltzer Dam Fish Passage and Flow Preservation Project has been prepared by Reclamation and the California Department of Fish and Game pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Final EA/IS is intended to update information and analysis presented in the Public Draft EA/IS for the Saeltzer Dam Fish Passage and Flow Preservation Project. Information and analysis from the Final EA/IS provides the basis for certifying the NEPA-mandated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and the CEQA-mandated Negative Declaration.

The Final EA/IS incorporates, by reference, the Draft EA/IS dated June 2000. However, information, analysis, and comments gathered during the public review period have resulted in a few changes to the Draft EA/IS. Due to the relatively minor nature of these changes, they are presented with the Final EA/IS.

The FONSI has been signed and certified by Reclamation under the NEPA, and Mr. Don Koch, Regional Manager of the Northern California-North Coast Region of the California Department of Fish and Game, has signed and certified the Negative Declaration, approving the project under the CEQA. A Notice of Determination under the CEQA was posted at the Office of the Shasta County Clerk's Office on August 7, 2000. Copies of the signed FONSI and Negative Declaration, and the Final EA/IS, which includes responses to comments received during the public review period, are available, upon request, from Reclamation at the above address, or by telephone at (530) 275-1554; TDD: (530) 275-8991. Thank you for your comments and participation in this important process.

Attachment

Russell P. Smith

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
Post Office Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

FROM: California Department of Fish and Game
601 Locust Street
Redding, California 96001

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code

PROJECT TITLE: Saeltzer Dam Fish Passage and Flow Protection Project

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 200006204

LEAD AGENCY: Department of Fish and Game ("Department")

CONTACT PERSON: Harry Rectenwald (530) 225-2368

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: None

PROJECT LOCATION: The project is located on Clear Creek in Shasta County between Whiskeytown Dam and the confluence of Clear Creek and the Sacramento River.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation") and the Department propose to remove Saeltzer Dam on Clear Creek. In addition to removing the dam, the project includes: (1) preserving the existing minimum flow schedule for Clear Creek that Reclamation has been following under an informal agreement with the National Park Service by formalizing that agreement; (2) terminating water deliveries from Clear Creek into the Townsend Flat Water Ditch Company's ("Townsend") ditch; and (3) delivering water to Townsend at Whiskeytown Dam instead of at Saeltzer Dam, part of which will be used outside of the Clear Creek watershed. Removal of Saeltzer Dam is scheduled to begin before the end of summer in 2000.

This is to advise that the Department, acting as a lead agency, approved the above described project on August 2, 2000, and has made the following determinations regarding the project:

1. The project as approved will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A joint negative declaration (ND)/finding of no significant impact (FONSI) was prepared for the project pursuant to the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

This is to certify that the final ND/FONSI with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the public at:

Northern California - North Coast Region
Department of Fish and Game
601 Locust Street
Redding, California 96001

Donald B. Koch, Regional Manager
Northern California-North Coast Region
Department of Fish and Game

Date 10/7/00

Date received for filing at Office of Planning and Research:_____