



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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May 8, 2020

To Interested Parties

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Opportunity to Provide Comments on the Proposed Mattley Meadow Restoration Project, Calaveras County

The Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the Mattley Meadow Restoration Project (Project). A mitigated negative declaration (MND), describing potential adverse environmental impacts and associated mitigation measures, has been prepared by UMRWA in connection with this project. This notice is intended to provide interested individuals, organizations, and agencies the opportunity to comment on the environmental effects of the Project as described in the MND.

Project Location: The Mattley Meadow project is located in Calaveras County in the headwaters of Mattley Creek, tributary to the North Fork Mokelumne River on public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Stanislaus National Forest, Calaveras Ranger District, and private lands owned by Stan Dell'Orto in T70N, R17E, Sections 8 and 17 MDBM.

Project Description: The Mattley Meadow Restoration Project (Project) would restore channel-floodplain connectivity in Mattley and Mattley Creek Meadows at the headwaters of Mattley Creek, tributary to the North Fork Mokelumne River. The Project would eliminate incised gullies in the meadows. Construction will require one month during the low/no flow period (proposed for September 1-30, 2021). The Project would restore approximately 45 acres of riparian and meadow habitat (32 acres of federal lands, 13 acres on private property), enhancing wetland conditions on 30.86 acres of palustrine wetland (montane meadow), creating 1.61 acres of palustrine open water, and reconnecting 1,926 feet of riverine channel (0.64 acres) with the meadow floodplain.

Filling the incised channels would require excavation and placement, using heavy equipment, of 15,991 cubic yards of soil fill in 6 plugs to eliminate the existing gullies and raise/restore the base elevation of surface water flow in the meadow by redirecting flow into existing vegetated remnant channels. Fill sources include 9 borrow pits in meadow margins and other elevated features.

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Calaveras Public Utility District • East Bay Municipal Utility District • Jackson Valley Irrigation District

The Project will include the relocation of a 0.1-mile segment of a motorized trail (17EV16) that crosses Mattley Creek Meadow. The trail would be rerouted outside of the meadow to a rerouted trail segment approximately 0.2-0.4 miles in length. Five cubic yards of 6" rock would be used to armor the new re-routed trail crossing of Mattley Creek outside of the meadow. The existing trail segment within the meadow would be restored by scarifying the trail surface and placing woody debris and/or vegetation as needed to promote vegetation regrowth. Revegetation with native seed and riparian woody species (i.e. willows, aspens, etc.), and stockpiling of existing topsoil, sod mats, and willow wads are an integral component of the Project, as well.

Cattle grazing would be restricted within the meadow restoration areas until the sites have revegetated and stabilized, generally a minimum of 2-3 years. In Mattley Meadow, range fencing on the north property boundary and east edge of the meadow would be reconstructed. Temporary fencing would be constructed around the immediate restoration area in Mattley Creek Meadow. An off-channel water source may be constructed to increase dispersal of cattle.

The Project will be carried out by Plumas Corporation in coordination with the Stanislaus National Forest and private landowner. Short-term construction impacts would occur to approximately 6.01 acres, which would be restored with native vegetation. Construction is proposed during the low flow period of 2021 (anticipated September 1-30).

Regulatory Process: This notice serves as a notice of intent to adopt an MND for this project pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines section 15072.

Comment Deadline and How to Submit Comments: Please submit your comments on the MND via email to: rsykes@sbcglobal.net with the subject line "Mattley Meadow Restoration Project, attention Richard Sykes" no later than close of business on 12 June 2020.

A copy of the MND can be downloaded at the following:

<http://www.umarwa.org/docs.html>

To request a compact disc or hard copy of the MND, please call Plumas Corporation at (530)283-3739 or UMRWA at (510)390-4035. Due to COVID-19 documents are only available online or upon request hardcopies can be mailed.

Cc: Interested Parties Mailing List

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