

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration (State Clearinghouse No. 94123009) and Extension of Time for Comments From December 8, 1999 to December 20, 1999.

ACTION: Notice of availability for public comment.

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SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of a joint draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/EIR) for the Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Hoopa Valley Tribe and Trinity County prepared a DEIS/EIR to assist the Secretary of the Interior in developing recommendations for permanent instream fishery flow requirements, habitat restoration projects, and operating criteria and procedures for Trinity River Division of the Central Valley Project, California, necessary for the restoration and maintenance of natural production of anadromous fish in the Trinity River. Such recommendations are required by: the January 14, 1981, U.S. Interior Secretarial Decision that initiated the Trinity River Flow Evaluation; the Trinity River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management Act (Management Act) (Pub. L. 98-541); and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA)(Pub. L. 102-575, Sec. 3406(b)(23)).

DATES: The comment period began on October 22, 1999 when the State Clearinghouse received the Draft EIS/EIR. The deadline for comments has been extended from the December 8, 1999 deadline stated in the Federal Register Notice dated October 19, 1999 (Volume 64, Number 201, Pages 56364-56365) to December 20, 1999.

Oral or written comments on this DEIS/EIR may be provided at any of the four public hearings. Joint NEPA/CEQA public hearings will be held from 1-3 p.m. and from 6-8 p.m. for each of the following dates and locations:

Tuesday, November 16, 1999 at the Holiday Inn Appaloosa Room, 1900 Hilltop Drive, Redding, California

Thursday, November 18, 1999 at the Sacramento Grand Ballroom, 629 J Street, Sacramento, California

Tuesday, November 23, 1999 at the Eureka Inn Colonnade Room, 518 7th Street, Eureka, California

The Trinity County Board of Supervisors will also hold a CEQA-only public hearing to receive public comments on December 7, 1999, from 7-9 p.m. at the Trinity County Library, 211 N. Main St., Weaverville, California. Persons wishing to provide oral

comments on the EIS portion of the document should make their comments at the other three joint public hearings.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the DEIS/EIR should be addressed to Mr. Joe Polos, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1125 16th Street, Room 209, Arcata, CA 95521. Written comments may also be sent by facsimile to (707) 822-8411. Please see Additional Addresses in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for additional information on the availability of the DEIS/EIR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Polos, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1125 16th Street, Room 209, Arcata, CA 95521 (707) 822-7201 or Tom Stokely, Trinity County Planning Department, Natural Resources Division, P.O. Box 156, 98A Clinic Ave., Hayfork, CA 96041-0156 (530) 628-5949.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

In 1992, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) (Public Law 102-575) was passed. Section 3406(b)(23) of the CVPIA provides, through the Trinity River Division (TRD) of the CVP, an instream release of not less than 340,000 acre-feet of water into the Trinity River to meet Federal trust responsibilities to protect fishery resources of the Hoopa Valley Tribe and to meet the fishery restoration goals of Management Act. The recommendations for mainstem Trinity River fishery restoration will be developed after appropriate consultations with Federal, State, Tribal, local agencies, and affected interests, and after completion of the Flow Evaluation Study. To restore the natural production of anadromous fish in the Trinity River in accordance with the 1981 Secretarial Decision, the Management Act, and the CVPIA, the DEIS/EIR analyzes the impacts of the following Project located within the Trinity River basin, California (Project Description):

- (1) Increased instream releases into the Trinity River to provide anadromous fish habitat and restore fluvial processes,
- (2) Implementation of a channel rehabilitation program in the mainstem Trinity River between Lewiston Dam and the North Fork Trinity River confluence,
- (3) Implementation of a spawning gravel supplementation program downstream of Lewiston Dam,
- (4) Implementation of a watershed rehabilitation program in the Trinity River basin below Lewiston Dam and in the tributary watersheds, and
- (5) Implementation of an Adaptive Management Program.

On October 12, 1994, a notice was published in the Federal Register (94 FR 25141) announcing the intent to prepare a joint EIS/EIR on the Mainstem Trinity River Fishery Restoration, and

inviting comments on the scope of the EIS/EIR. On November 21, 1994, Trinity County filed a Notice of Preparation with the State Clearinghouse. Comments were received and considered and are reflected in the DEIS/EIR made available for comment through this notice.

The DEIS/EIR is intended to accomplish the following:

- (1) Inform the public of the proposed action and alternatives;
- (2) Address public comments received during the scoping period;
- (3) Disclose the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the proposed action and each of the alternatives; and
- (4) Indicate any irreversible commitment of resources that would result from implementation of the proposed action.

The DEIS/EIR reports the anticipated significant impacts resulting from the preferred alternative. They are as follows:

Groundwater- Significant declines in groundwater levels could occur in the Sacramento Valley and Tulare Basin regions; declines in groundwater levels could result in increased land subsidence within limited areas within the San Joaquin Valley and Tulare Basin regions; additional groundwater pumping could result in upwelling of groundwater high in Total Dissolved Solids into productive groundwater zones within limited areas within the San Joaquin Valley and Tulare Basin regions.

Water Quality, Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat- Potentially significant short term turbidity impacts to water quality in the Trinity River Basin from channel rehabilitation projects; increased frequency of Sacramento River temperature violations and Shasta Reservoir carryover storage violations established in the Sacramento River winter run chinook salmon Biological Opinion; increased frequency of violation of state temperature objectives for the Sacramento River; Increased mortality of Sacramento River fall run(1 %) and winter run(2 %) Chinook salmon populations; Reductions in Delta outflows are a potentially significant impact on Delta habitat; significant impacts to Delta Smelt and Sacramento splittail as a result of changes in Delta inflow to export ratios

Vegetation, Wildlife and Wetlands- Construction of channel rehabilitation projects in the Trinity River could result in a losses of vegetation and special status plant populations along the Trinity River; construction could also result in direct mortality of foothill yellow-legged frogs or egg masses, adult western pond turtles and hatchlings and willow flycatcher nests and young; mechanical channel rehabilitation projects could impact wetland resources adjacent to the Trinity River.

Recreation- High flows in the Trinity River could reduce a number of recreation activities for at least a portion of the recreation season; increased frequency of dewatering boat ramps at Trinity Lake; impacts to public safety from Trinity River flows that are too high or too low (i.e.- outside the preferred range for boating); impacts to recreation activities from turbidity associated with construction of the channel rehabilitation projects.

Land Use- Increased flooding of Trinity River bridges and residences; Potentially significant Municipal & Industrial related impacts from decreased surface water supplies.

Agriculture- Substantially decreased irrigated acreage within the San Felipe Unit of the CVP

Cultural Resources- Impacts from Trinity River channel rehabilitation projects.

Air Quality- Spawning gravel placement and other heavy equipment work associated with the alternatives would result in potentially significant air quality impacts as a result of fugitive dust.

Power- Potentially significant power-related impacts from decreased surface-water supplies.

Trinity County and the Service invite the public to comment on the DEIS/EIR. All comments received will become part of the public record and may be released. The public will have 60 days from the date of the Federal Register Notice (October 19, 1999) to review and comment on this DEIS/EIR, and not less than 45 days from the publication of this Notice of Availability, or December 20, 1999, whichever is later. Written comments regarding the DEIS/EIR should be addressed to Mr. Joe Polos, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1125 16th Street, Room 209, Arcata, CA 95521.

Written comments may also be sent by facsimile to (707) 822-8411. Oral or written comments on this DEIS/EIR may also be provided at any of the four public hearings, except that the December 7, 1999 hearing will only be a hearing on the EIR portion of the document. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 15087 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

The Technical Appendixes (TA) for this DEIS/EIR will be made available upon request from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arcata Office, 1125 16th Street, Room 209, Arcata, CA 95521; (707) 822-7201. Documents cited in the DEIS/EIR will be available for viewing in Sacramento (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W2606; 916-414-6464), Arcata (U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, 1125 16th Street, Room 209; 707-822-7201), and Weaverville (Trinity County Library, 211 N. Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093, 530-623-1373).

#### Additional Addresses

Copies of the DEIS/EIR, or portions thereof, can be obtained at the following copy centers for duplication and mailing charges at the requesters expense: Sir Speedy, 601 North Market Boulevard, 350, Sacramento, California 95834, (916) 927-7171; Kinko's, 25 Stanyan Blvd, San Francisco, California 94118, (415) 750-1193; and Kinko's, 2021 Fifth Street, Eureka, California 95501, (707) 445-3334.

The DEIS/EIR will be available at the Fish and Wildlife Service website at <http://www.ccfwo.rl.fws.gov>. Copies of the DEIS/EIR will be available on compact disc which, along with a summary, can be obtained by contacting the Fish and Wildlife Service, 1125 16th Street, Room 209, Arcata, California 95521, (707) 822-7201. The documents are also available for review at the following government offices and libraries:

#### Government Offices

Fish and Wildlife Service, Coastal California Fish and Wildlife Office, 1125 16th Street, Room 209, Arcata, California 95521, (707)822-7201; Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W2606, Sacramento, California 95825, (916) 414-6464; Trinity County Planning Department, 303 Trinity Lakes Blvd, Weaverville, CA 96093 (530) 623-1351, ext. 1; Trinity County Natural Resources Division, 98A Clinic Ave., Hayfork, CA 96041, (530) 628-5949.

#### Libraries

Alameda Free Library, 2264 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, California 94501-4506, (510) 748-4669; Beale Memorial Library, 701 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield, California, 93301, (661) 868-0700; Cesar Chaves Central Library, 605 N. El Dorado St, Stockton, California, (209) 937-8415; California State Library, Information and Reference Center, 914 Capitol Mall, Room 301, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 654-0261; Colusa County Free Library, 738 Market Street, Colusa, California 95932-2398, (530) 458-7671; Contra Costa County Library, 1750 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill, California 94523-4497, (510) 646-6423; Coos Bay Public Library, 525 W. Anderson Ave., Coos Bay, Oregon, 97420, (541)269-1101; Del Norte County Library District, 190 Price Mall, Crescent City, California 95531-4395, (707) 464-9793; Fresno County Library, Central Branch, 2420 Mariposa St. Fresno, California,

(559) 488-3195; Humboldt County Library, 1313 Third Street, Eureka, California 95501-1088, (707) 269-1900; Humboldt State University Library, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California 95521, (707) 826-4939; Lake County Library, 1425 N. High Street, Lakeport, California 95453-3800, (707) 263-8816; Los Angeles Public Library, 630 W. Fifth Street, Los Angeles, California, 90071-2097, (213) 228-7515; Marin County Free Library, 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, California 94903-4188, (415) 499-6051; Mendocino County Library-Ft. Bragg, 499 E Laurel St. Fort Bragg, California, 95437, (707) 964-2020; Mendocino County Library-Ukiah, 105 N. Main Street, Ukiah, California 95482-4482, (707) 463-4491; Menlo Park Public Library, 800 Alma Street, Menlo Park, California 94025-3460, (650) 858-3460; Merced County Library, 2222 M St., Merced, California, 95340, (209) 385-7434; Modesto Jr. College Library, 425 College Ave, Modesto, California, 95350, (209) 575-6498; Monterey Public Library, 625 Pacific Street, Monterey, California, 93940, (831) 646-3932; Sacramento Public Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814-2589, (916) 264-2770; San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, California 94102-4796, (415) 557-4400; San Jose Public Library, 180 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose, California 95113-2096, (408) 277-4822; Santa Cruz Public Library, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, California 95060-3873, (408) 429-3532; Shasta County Library, 1855 Shasta Street, Redding, California 96001- 0460, (530) 225-5769; Siskiyou County Free Library, 719 Fourth Street, Yreka, California 96097-3381, (530) 842-8175; Sonoma County Library, Third and E Streets, Santa Rosa, California 95404-4400, (707)545-0831; Tehama County Library, 645 Madison Street, Red Bluff, California 96080-3383, (530) 527-0607; Trinity County Free Library, 211 N. Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093-1226, (530) 623-1373; Willows Public Library, 201 N. Lassen St., Willows, California, 95988, 530-934-5156; Central Library, 801 SW. 10th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97205, (503)248-5123; and National Clearinghouse Library, 624 Ninth Street, NW, 600, Washington, DC 20425, (202) 376-8110.

Dated: October 28, 1999.