



December 15, 2017

Interested Party

Subject: Invitation to Stakeholder Meeting on California Department of Fish and Wildlife Instream Flow Assessment Activities for Mill Creek, Tehama County.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has concluded an instream flow study on Mill Creek, Tehama County. As an agency charged with conserving and managing public trust resources, the Department has a responsibility to assure that stream flows are maintained at levels adequate for the long-term protection, maintenance, and stewardship of fish and wildlife resources. Mill Creek was selected for development of flow criteria because of its high resource value and importance in aiding recovery and perpetuation of wild stocks of Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Mill Creek is identified as one of five priority streams to implement Action 4 (Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems) of the California Water Action Plan¹. In addition, NOAA Fisheries identified Mill Creek as a high priority Core 1 watershed for species recovery because of its potential to support independent viable salmonid populations². The State Water Resources Control Board³, Delta Stewardship Council⁴, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service⁵ also identify Mill Creek as a priority stream. The Public Resources Code §10002 outlines the Department's responsibilities for developing and transmitting flow criteria to the State Water Resources Control Board for consideration as set forth in 1257.5 of the Water Code.

¹ California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). 2014. California Water Action Plan. Sacramento, CA. January 2014.

² National Marine Fisheries Service. 2014. Recovery Plan for the Evolutionarily Significant Units of Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon and Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon and the Distinct Population Segment of California Central Valley Steelhead. California Central Valley Area Office. July 2014.

³ State Water Resources Control Board. 2010. Instream Flow Studies for the Protection of Public Trust Resources: A prioritized Schedule and Estimate of Costs. December 2010. Sacramento, CA.

⁴ The Delta Plan. 2013 Chapter Four: Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem. Available at: http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/CH_04_2013.pdf

⁵ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2001. Final Restoration Plan for the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program: A Plan to Increase Natural Production of Anadromous Fish in the Central Valley of California.

As part of the public process, the Department will be holding a stakeholder meeting to outline and receive input on proposed instream flow criteria for Mill Creek. Staff from the Department will present an overview of the technical study elements and findings, as well as answer any questions. Staff from the State Water Resources Control Board will also be available to answer any questions and discuss potential utilization of the information generated through the Department's efforts.

The stakeholder meeting will take place at the Los Molinos Veterans Hall, 7980 Sherwood Blvd, Los Molinos, CA on January 17, 2018 from 6 - 8 p.m.

The Mill Creek instream flow study plan and technical report can be viewed at: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Instream-Flow/Studies/Mill-Creek-Study>

Please direct any questions regarding the stakeholder meeting to Paige Uttley, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Senior Environmental Scientist, at Paige.Uttley@wildlife.ca.gov.

Directions to the Veterans Hall in Los Molinos:

7980 Sherwood Blvd
Los Molinos, CA 96055

From Redding:

Take I-5 South toward Sacramento. Take exit 649 for CA-36/Antelope Blvd toward Central Red Bluff/ CA-99/ Chico/ Fair Ground/ Lassen National Park. Turn left onto CA-36 East/ Antelope Blvd. Continue onto CA-99. Turn left onto Tehama Vina Rd. Turn right onto Sherwood Blvd. 7980 is on your left hand side. If you reach Magnolia Street, you have gone too far.

From Sacramento:

Take I-5 North toward Redding. Take exit 636 for Gyle Rd toward Tehama/ Los Molinos. Turn right onto Gyle Rd (signs for Tehama/ Los Molinos/ County Route A11). Continue onto 5th street. Turn right onto C Street and continue to Aramayo Way. Turn left onto CA-99 North toward Red Bluff. Turn right at the first cross street onto Tehama Vina Rd. Turn right onto Sherwood Blvd. 7980 is on your left hand side. If you reach Magnolia Street, you have gone too far.

Sincerely,



Scott Cantrell
Chief, Water Branch
California Department of Fish and Wildlife