California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Negative Declaration Adoption

SCH No. 2022030031

Project Title: Chinook Salmon Coastal Release: Pillar Point Harbor

The Project's objective is to enhance local sport and commercial salmon fisheries. Released smolts will feed and grow along the coast and be available for harvest as adults in one to three years.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Mokelumne River Hatchery (MOK) would deliver 750,000 Central Valley fall-run Chinook Salmon (CV FRCS) smolts each spring to the Project location for acclimation and subsequent release in Pillar Point Harbor or nearby open ocean in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Trucks would be loaded, and fish transported according to MOK established standard operating procedures for transportation of salmon. Water in the trucks would be salted prior to adding fish at the hatchery. CDFW would deliver MOK CV FRCS smolts to Pillar Point Harbor in spring of 2022, 2023 and 2024. Exact dates and times would be scheduled as the time draws near and are dependent on fish size, growth rates, and environmental conditions in Pillar Point Harbor. Smolts would be transported in small batch increments on a weekly basis and acclimate in a net pen for 5 days followed by ocean release. This will occur for several weeks until all 750,000 smolts are released. CFC is implementing this project. CFC would provide all necessary boats for towing and servicing pen and fish as well as any other operational logistics.

Location and Custodian of the Negative Declaration Document:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Attention: Robyn Bilski
Robyn.Bilski@wildlife.ca.gov
Office: (916) 206-3758

A copy of the Negative Declaration, Initial Study, and supporting documents can be found on the Department's web site at
https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=199079

Determination:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife finds that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

The completed Initial Study, attached to this negative declaration, documents the basis for this finding, and CDFW's determination that no significant effect on the environment would occur as a result of Project implementation, and there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before CDFW, that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment (see Initial Study and environmental checklist). Therefore, a Negative Declaration has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resource Code Section 21080, subd. (c)(1).

The Initial Study concluded that the Project would have less than significant impacts to biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and public services. The Project would have no impacts to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry, air quality, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities/service systems, and wildfire.

Adoption Statement:

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), CDFW has independently reviewed and analyzed the initial study and negative declaration for the proposed project and finds these documents reflect the independent judgement of CDFW.

Jay Rowan

Jay Rowan, Fisheries Branch Chief

2022

Chinook Salmon Coastal Release: Pillar Point Harbor

CEQA: INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, FISHERIES BRANCH

Chinook Salmon Coastal Release: Pillar Point Harbor

Initial Study and Negative Declaration for Fall-Run Chinook Salmon Coastal Release Project in Pillar Point Harbor

Introduction

This document describes and evaluates the Chinook Salmon Coastal Release at Pillar Point Harbor (Project). The Coastside Fishing Club (CFC) is a membership-based community of recreational fishermen that are conservation minded volunteers with the goal of enhancing California's fishery. Coastside Fishing Club has been operating coastal net pen salmon releases since 2012. CFC proposes to release 750,000 juvenile hatchery-origin (HO) Central Valley fall-run Chinook Salmon (CV FRCS) *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* from Pillar Point Harbor in spring of 2022, 2023 and 2024. The 2022-2024 releases are the Project as described and evaluated in this Initial Study and Negative Declaration. Under the direction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), CFC would be responsible during spring for the release of 750,000 CV FRCS smolts from the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery. The Project's objective is to increase the number of ocean Chinook Salmon landings in California, enhancing local sport and commercial fisheries. Released smolts would feed and grow along the coast and be available for harvest as adults in one to three years.

The Findings

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife finds that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

The completed Initial Study, attached to this negative declaration, documents the basis for this finding, and CDFW's determination that no significant effect on the environment would occur as a result of Project implementation, and there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before CDFW, that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment (see Initial Study and environmental checklist). Therefore, a Negative Declaration has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resource Code Section 21080, subd. (c)(1).

The Initial Study concluded that the Project would have less than significant impacts to biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and public services. The Project would have no impacts to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry, air quality, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities/service systems, and wildfire.

Basis of the Findings

The proposed Negative Declaration consists of the following:

- Project Description and Background Information for Fall-Run Chinook Salmon Coastal Release Project in Pillar Point Harbor
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist
- Exhibit A: Statement of Work

Exhibit B: California Coastal Commission Notice of Permit Waiver

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- Exhibit C: Project Location and Quadrants Identification Map
- Exhibit D: CNDDB Elements Report

Project Description and Background Information for Fall-Run Chinook Salmon Coastal Release Project in Pillar Point Harbor

Introduction

The Chinook Salmon Coastal Release Project in Pillar Point Harbor is a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resource Code, § 21000 et seq). The CDFW is serving as lead agency for the Project because it has discretionary approval over the Project. Specifically, CDFW would provide juvenile salmon (smolts) necessary for the Project implementation from the Mokelumne River Hatchery (MOK) and would deliver those fish to the Pillar Point Harbor for their release.

The Commercial Salmon Trollers Advisory Committee (Salmon Stamp Committee) and CDFW support this Project. The cost for raising, marking and tagging, and delivery of CV FRCS smolts to Pillar Point Harbor will be covered by the Commercial Salmon Trollers Enhancement and Restoration Program fund and a matching share contributed by CDFW.

This Initial Study and Negative Declaration analyze the environmental impacts that may result from the implementation of the proposed Project.

Project Objective

The Project's objective is to enhance local sport and commercial salmon fisheries. Released smolts will feed and grow along the coast and be available for harvest as adults in one to three years.

Background

Adult returns of CV FRCS have fluctuated over the past 30 years (CDFW 2018). Record high numbers occurred between 2000 and 2003 with an estimated 872,699 adult salmon returning to the Central Valley (CV) during the 2002 spawning season. In contrast, between 2003 and 2009, returns declined significantly to record low levels. During the 2007 spawning season, an estimated 97,168 adults returned to the Central Valley. Return estimates dipped further during the 2008 season to 71,291 adults. Adult return estimates increased slowly over the next few years and reached a high of 447,621 in 2013. However, California's recent drought significantly affected survival of juvenile salmon migrating to the ocean. In 2017, only 101,222 adults returned to the CV. In addition to the drought, other factors such as loss of habitat, poor ocean conditions, low river flows, water diversions, pollution, and predation contributed to the population declines.

To improve survival to adulthood by avoiding the hazards associated with migration, CDFW transports CV FRCS downstream and releases them into net pens in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta or San Pablo Bay for acclimation, or directly into the Bay. It has been found that hatchery fish released into coastal net pens have higher survival rates and higher recovery rates in ocean fisheries (Palmer-Zwahlen, et al., 2019, Leet, W.S. et al. 1986). Net pens provide fish the opportunity to develop schooling behavior and acclimate to local water salinity and temperature.

The Central Valley Constant Fractional Marking Program is used to evaluate fishery and hatchery management practices using coded-wire-tag (CWT) recovery data. Three years of CWT recovery data shows a consistent trend that salmon from coastal and Bay net pen releases have higher ocean fishery recovery rates than in-basin (natal stream, near the hatchery) releases, and this can mean better survival (Palmer-Zwahlen and Kormos 2015). However, adult salmon from coastal and Bay net pen releases exhibited higher stray proportions than adult salmon from in-basin releases (Palmer-Zwahlen, et al. 2019).

"Homing" and "straying" are well-known behavioral traits in the ecology and life-history of Pacific Salmon (Quinn 2005). Homing may be defined as the instinctual ability of an adult Pacific Salmon to return to its natal stream to spawn. In contrast, straying may be defined as an adult migrating to a non-natal steam of origin. Studies have shown that salmon imprint as they migrate downstream and individuals that are released further downstream may show increased straying as compared to upriver releases (Quinn 2018, 127). Adult Chinook Salmon have been observed straying into several streams along the Central Coast as well as many San Francisco Bay streams for the past two decades, although historically these streams did not have native runs of Chinook Salmon (Neillands et al. 2015). In 2014, CDFW began annual observation monitoring for straying CV FRCS into a few Central Coast streams. The California Department of

Fish and Wildlife recovered and received heads from adult Chinook salmon having an adipose fin-clip and CWT with the cooperation from agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that monitor select San Francisco Bay streams. The observation monitoring and CWT recovery data for salmon released near the Pillar Point area indicate that adult salmon stray in relatively small numbers into coastal streams North of the San Francisco Bay and in streams between their release point and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta when streams are accessible (Neillands et al. 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019).

The CFC has conducted coastal net pen releases at Pillar Point Harbor since 2012. The CFC will provide the net pen, volunteers responsible for care and maintenance of the pens and smolts post-delivery from CDFW at Johnson Pier. The CFC will also be responsible for obtaining any required permits.

Project Location

Net pen acclimation and subsequent release will take place at Pillar Point Harbor near Half Moon Bay in San Mateo County. The harbor has an inner and outer breakwater. The inner harbor will be the location for offloading smolts into a net pen tied to Johnson Pier (37.501274°, -122.482717°) and will subsequently be towed to an outer harbor mooring (37.499480°, -122.485234°) for acclimation and release. Johnson Pier has a road running the length that will allow CDFW hatchery trucks direct access to the offloading location.

Schedule

CDFW would deliver MOK CV FRCS smolts to Pillar Point Harbor in spring of 2022, 2023 and 2024. Exact dates and times will be scheduled as the time draws near and are dependent on fish size, growth rates, and environmental conditions in Pillar Point Harbor. Fish will be delivered in increments of about 250,000 fish at one-week intervals.

Project Description

The CFC proposes to release 750,000 juvenile hatchery-origin Central Valley fall-run Chinook Salmon into Pillar Point Harbor each year, in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

At the MOK, juvenile salmon will be fractionally tagged with a Coded-Wire Tag (CWT) and marked with an adipose fin-clip at a rate of 25% of the total number of released fish, which matches requirements for mitigation and enhancement fish. Fish would be delivered from the hatchery using CDFW hatchery trucks.

The CFC, in anticipation of fish delivery from the MOK to the Pillar Point Harbor, has secured necessary equipment. CFC is prepared to provide both staffing and logistical support to

facilitate release of fish at the Project location. This includes necessary boats provided and operated by CFC to assist with net pen movement and release of smolts.

The CFC will provide, assemble, and deploy a floating net pen that has an inner net to contain juvenile salmon, an outer net to exclude predators, and overall net to exclude birds, and an automated feeder. Once fish are delivered into the net pen from CDFW hatchery trucks, the net pen would be towed by CFC volunteers to an existing mooring location in outer Pillar Point Harbor. Fish would be acclimated in the floating net pen for 5 days, at which point the CFC would tow the net pen outside of the harbor and remove the inner net to allow the juvenile salmon to escape into the ocean. The fish would be released in the outer harbor on an outgoing tide to facilitate their rapid exit to the ocean and to minimize in-harbor predation. The CFC would then tow the net pen back to Johnson Pier for the next delivery, or if all deliveries have been completed, to the Pillar Point launch ramp for cleaning, disassembly, and storage.

This Project is contingent upon CDFW approval after completion of CEQA. Project results will be assessed using data acquired from CDFW landings, carcass surveys, and monitoring programs.

Environmental Assessment

CDFW staff have reviewed the Project. It was determined that the Project would have less than significant impact to Biological Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Public Services at Pillar Point Harbor and surrounding areas, as set forth in detail in the following environmental checklist, and no impacts to other resource areas. Due to minimal in harbor acclimation time, the Project does not anticipate adults to return to Pillar Point Harbor as has been seen in some previous coastal release projects. The Project conforms to the standard method of acclimating fish in net pens prior to release into ocean waters and complies with CDFW hatchery release policies. CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) was reviewed to identify potential impacts to animals identified in the four Quadrants in the surrounding area.

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Initial Study Environmental Checklist: CEQA Appendix G

Project Title:

Chinook Salmon Coastal Release in Pillar Point Harbor

Lead Agency Name and Address:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 92444-2090

Contact Person and Phone Number:

Robyn Bilski, Fisheries Branch
916-206-3758
Robyn.Bilski@wildlife.ca.gov

Project Location:

San Mateo County
Pillar Point Harbor (37.501274°, -122.482717°)

Project Sponsor's Name and Address:

Coastside Fishing Club
P.O. Box 5501
San Mateo, CA 94402

General Plan Designation:

Plans are consistent with coastal zone designation

Zoning:

Coastal

Description of Project:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Mokelumne River Hatchery (MOK) would deliver 750,000 Central Valley fall-run Chinook Salmon (CV FRCS) smolts each spring to the Project location for acclimation and subsequent release in Pillar Point Harbor or nearby open ocean in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Trucks would be loaded, and fish transported according to MOK established standard operating procedures for transportation of salmon. Water in the trucks would be salted prior to adding fish at the hatchery. CDFW would deliver MOK CV FRCS smolts to Pillar Point Harbor in the spring of 2022, 2023 and 2024. Exact dates and times would be scheduled as the time draws near and are dependent on fish size, growth rates, and environmental conditions in Pillar Point Harbor. Smolts would be transported in small batch increments, approximately 250,000 fish per trip, on a weekly basis.

Fish would be held to acclimate in a net pen for 5 days followed by ocean release. This will occur for several weeks until all 750,000 smolts are released. CFC is implementing this project. CFC would provide all necessary boats for towing and servicing pen and fish as well as any other operational logistics. The Project's objective is to enhance the commercial and recreational salmon ocean fishery.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Half Moon Bay is an ocean inlet just south of San Francisco and the southern edge of the Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area. Pillar Point Harbor is run by San Mateo County Harbor District and is a protected harbor at the northern end of Half Moon Bay near the town of El Granada in San Mateo County. The net pens would be at the end of Johnson Pier for offloading and towed to the outer harbor for the acclimation period. Johnson Pier is in the center of the harbor and houses wholesale fish companies, a fuel and pump out dock, and commercial berths. The pier has a road running the length and is accessible for hatchery trucks to offload.

Approvals Needed from Other Public Agencies:

The Coastal Commission issued a Coastal Development Permit waiver (9-13-0498-W) for the Project on August 26, 2013. The California Coastal Commission considers coastal releases of Chinook salmon smolts exempt from future permits contingent on continuation of current release methods.

San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board confirmed that the project does not meet federal definition of a Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Facility (CAAPF) and concluded that the Project does not require permitting from the Regional Water Quality Control Board unless it expands in the future and falls within CAAPF or if operations result in impacts to water

quality or beneficial uses (Sandi Potter CA Water Boards, personal communication with Marc Gorelnik, May 4, 2011).

Tribal:

Notification letters describing the Project were mailed to all federally recognized California tribes and California tribes specifically requesting to be notified for all CEQA projects on December 14, 2021. CDFW received no responses. No tribes requested consultation.

Initial Study (cont): Environmental Factors, Determination, Evaluation of Environmental Impacts and Explanations

APPENDIX G:
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

NOTE: The following is a sample form that may be tailored to satisfy individual agencies' needs and project circumstances. It may be used to meet the requirements for an initial study when the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines have been met. Substantial evidence of potential impacts that are not listed on this form must also be considered. The sample questions in this form are intended to encourage thoughtful assessment of impacts, and do not necessarily represent thresholds of significance.

1. Project title: Chinook Salmon Coastal Release: Pillar Point Harbor
2. Lead agency name and address:
   California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fisheries Branch, 1010 Riverside Parkway
   West Sacramento, CA 95605
3. Contact person and phone number: Robyn Bilski, 916-206-3758, Robyn. Bilski@wildlife.ca.gov
4. Project location: San Mateo County, Pillar Point Harbor, 37.501303, -122.482784
5. Project sponsor's name and address:
   Coastside Fishing Club
   P.O. Box 5501, San Mateo, CA 94402
6. General plan designation: _____ 7. Zoning: Coastal
8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)
   California Dept of Fish and Wildlife's Mokelumne River Hatchery would deliver 750,000 Central Valley fall-run Chinook Salmon (CV FR) smolts for acclimation and release at the project location each spring for 2022, 2023 and 2024. Coastside Fishing Club is implementing the project. Exact dates and times would be scheduled as the time draws near and are dependent on fish size, growth rates, and environmental conditions in Pillar Point Harbor.
9. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:
   Johnson Pier is located in Pillar Point Harbor on the north end of Half Moon Bay, south of San Francisco. Pillar Point Harbor is in San Mateo County near the town of El Granada. Johnson Pier has a road for access and permanent moorings for acclimation pen.
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)
11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.? No

    Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic

Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

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 Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology /Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & 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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

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.

Jay Rowan — Signature

2/28/2022 — Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:

   a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

   b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

SAMPLE QUESTION

Issues:

	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) In non-urbanized areas, 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 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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☑
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:				
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 Game 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 Game or US 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	☐	☐	☐	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 operation?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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	☐	☐	☐	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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;	☐	☐	☐	☑
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 systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	☑
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 with 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 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	☐	☐	☐	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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	☐	☐	☐	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
environment?				
XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, 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 geographically 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, 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.	☐	☐	☐	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 reasonably 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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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	☐	☐	☐	☑

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21083.05, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21083, 21083.05, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21095, and 21151, Public Resources Code; *Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino,* (1988) 202 Cal.App.3d 296; *Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors,* (1990) 222 Cal.App.3d 1337; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109; *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.

Revised 2016
Authority: Public Resources Code sections 21083 and 21083.09
Reference: Public Resources Code sections 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3/ 21084.2 and 21084.3

I. Aesthetics a. – d.: No impact

Discussion: Any additional equipment or lighting that may be used for this project (i.e., net, barge, vessels) will be temporary and removed after use. There would be no other changes to scenic or urban landscapes. Pillar Point Harbor anticipates no impact to facilities or harbor at the time of the event or in following years (James Pruett, General Manager of San Mateo County Harbor District, personal communication, February 10, 2020).

II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources a.– e.: No impact

Discussion: Activities proposed by the Project would not occur in any Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program designated farmland, or area zoned for agricultural use, nor would the Project affect other resources related to agriculture, farmland or forest land.

III. Air Quality a.– e.: No impact

Discussion: Potential of air quality effects would be from hatchery trucks and boats used for offloading the smolts. This is not an ongoing Project and would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any air quality control plan. Any diesel fuel odors when delivering fish would be temporary and would not adversely affect a substantial number of people. Project emissions generated by hatchery trucks and boats were evaluated using Bay Area Air Quality Management District California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines. The quantities expected for the hatchery truck deliveries and boats for moving net pens are below listed thresholds for significant impacts.

IV. Biological Resources a.: Less Than Significant Impact

Discussion: The Pillar Point Harbor and Half Moon Bay area quadrants examined for this study include: Montara Mountain, Half Moon Bay, San Gregorio, and Pigeon Point. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Rare Find was used to report presence and status of all animals within these four quadrants (Attachment 2, Exhibit D: CNDDB Elements Report).

This Project would have less than significant impact on species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species.

Fishes

Based on a query of CNDDB Rare Find, this analysis considers whether any fish species that is documented to have occurred in the vicinity of the Project could be adversely affected by the presence of hatchery origin CV FRCS juveniles or returning adults.

The Project would result in less than significant impacts to California state and federally endangered Central California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit Coho Salmon *Oncorhynchus*

kisutch (CC Coho ESU), federally threatened Central California Coast Distinct Population Segment Steelhead (CCC Steelhead DPS) and South-Central Coast Steelhead (SCC Steelhead DPS) *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, and California Coastal Chinook Salmon (CC Chinook ESU) *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*.

Possible impacts include: 1) competition for resources with CC Coho ESU, CCC and SCC steelhead DPSs *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, and California Coastal Chinook Salmon (CC Chinook ESU) *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, 2) stock hybridization with CC Chinook ESU and CC Coho ESU, or 3) the establishment of an out-of-basin spawning population for CV FRCS in coastal streams where the species does not naturally occur. It is unlikely that these three concerns would result in any significant effects, either directly or indirectly. The three potential impacts above are addressed in turn, below.

1. If CV FRCS adults stray into coastal streams, some competition for resources with salmonids native to the area may occur. CDFW monitoring observations on select streams show that CV FRCS adults have strayed into three coastal streams within and outside the Project area: Lagunitas Creek (Marin), Arana Gulch, and San Lorenzo River (Neillands et al. 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019). Of these observations, only three CWT marked fish were recovered in Lagunitas Creek and later identified as returns from a Half Moon Bay net pen release. The remainder of the observations consisted of adipose fin-clipped live fish, carcasses, and redd counts that cannot be attributed to a particular release location. The mouth of Lagunitas Creek is open all year when the mouths of most coastal streams are blocked by sediment until fall rains begin and high flows flush open the mouth. This may be a reason more CV FRCS migrate into this stream to spawn. CV FRCS adults migrate earlier than Coho Salmon or steelhead, thus CV FRCS do not likely compete directly with adult Coho Salmon and steelhead for spawning habitat. Furthermore, expert opinion suggests that Lagunitas Creek is not reliable habitat for Chinook Salmon (E. Ettinger personal communication, 2019). The releases of CV FRCS planned for 2022, 2023 and 2024 would likely not cause significant impacts through competition with listed anadromous salmonid stocks in coastal streams.

2. CV FRCS are genetically different from CC Chinook ESU but the two are of the same species and genetic hybridization is possible. What keeps different populations genetically distinct is the tendency to migrate back to their natal streams (spatial), and the timing of those migrations (temporal). The genetic distinctiveness illustrated in Clemento et al. (2014) strongly suggests that Russian River and Eel River Chinook Salmon, both in the CC Chinook ESU, are more similar to the CC Chinook ESU than the

CV FRCS. In other words, if hybridization was occurring in the Russian or Eel Rivers, genetic samples would likely be more similar to CV FRCS. Video monitoring at Mirabel Dam on the Russian River has reported low numbers of adipose fin-clipped fish entering the basin.

Hybridization with Coho Salmon has been documented, although it is extremely rare (Chevassus 1979 (cited in Bartley et al. 1990)). It is unlikely for this to occur in or near the Project area due to the difference in timing of the two migrations. CC Coho Salmon return to spawn later than CV FRCS, usually late November to early February and peaking in December and January. However, this depends on stream access and flow and there can be some overlap and competition in some coastal streams when adult CV FRCS migration is delayed or when significant early rains change Coho Salmon migration timing. Adult CV FRCS returning to their natal streams typically migrate during the early-fall and spawn almost immediately (Moyle 2002). Recognition of the same species through olfactory senses is also thought to be an important mechanism maintaining reproductive isolation in salmonids (Lily 1982). Despite potential overlap in migration timing, it is unlikely that the releases planned for 2022, 2023 and 2024 would significantly impact listed anadromous salmon stocks due to hybridization with CV FRCS in coastal streams.

3. Hatchery fish have been transported and released into the San Francisco Bay for decades and more specifically, net pen smolt acclimations have occurred since 2010 and no out-of-basin spawning population has been observed. It is very unlikely that the releases planned for 2022, 2023 and 2024 would establish an out-of-basin spawning population of CV FRCS.

The Project would result in no impacts to federal and state protected Longfin Smelt *Spirinchus thaleichthys*. The CNDDB finding in Montara Mountain was from CDFW Bay study samples, which occur inside the Bay and not on the ocean side near Pillar Point. The CNDDB finding in San Gregorio was one individual in 1893, which was likely a stray from the San Francisco Bay-Delta population. It is extremely unlikely for Longfin Smelt to be present or adversely affected by the Project.

The Project would result in no impacts to federally endangered Tidewater Goby *Eucyclogobius newberryi*. Tidewater Goby is a small fish endemic to the California coast. Multiple occurrences in San Gregorio Quadrant and one occurrence in Pigeon Point are shown in the CNDBB. However, Tidewater Goby is found in shallow lagoons, brackish marshes and lower stream reaches. Salmonids migrate through lower stream reaches, but do not spawn in the habitat

used by Tidewater Goby and thus Tidewater Goby would not be adversely affected by the Project.

Birds, Amphibians, Reptiles, and Insects

Several special status birds occur in the Project area: Alameda song sparrow *Melospiza melodia pusillula*, bank swallow *Riparia*, burrowing owl *Athene cunicularia*, California Ridgway's rail *Rallus obsoletus*, great blue heron *Ardea* Herodias, marbled murrelet *Brachyramphus marmoratus*, merlin *Falco columbarius*, saltmarsh common yellowthroat Geothlypis trichas sinuosa, and western snowy plover *Charadrius alexandrines nivosus*. Because the Project would occur within the developed Pillar Point Harbor and given the short duration of the delivery and acclimation time there would be no potential for the Project to disrupt nesting, feeding, or other activities of these birds. In addition, any adult CV FRCS straying into coastal streams would be minimal and would not significantly affect these species.

Similarly, special status amphibians, reptiles, and insects have been documented to occur within the quadrants analyzed for this review (Exhibit D). But the Project would not significantly impact these species because it would occur within the developed Pillar Point Harbor over a short time.

Marine Mammals

Based on a query of CNDDB Rare Find, this analysis considers whether any marine mammal that is documented to have occurred in the vicinity of the Project could be adversely affected by the presence of hatchery origin CV FRCS juveniles or returning adults. No listed marine mammals were listed in the CNDDB for the quadrants selected.

b – f.: No impact

Discussion: The Project involves no changes to terrestrial habitats or wetlands and involves no activities that would impede movement within migratory corridors, or conflict with local ordinances or adopted conservation plans.

V. Cultural Resources a – c.: No impact

Discussion: The Project does not include usage of historical or archaeological resources, nor does it include any ground modifying activity.

VI. Energy a– b.: No impact

Discussion: The Project would be complete in a short amount of time and does not require local energy use or impact local energy plans. The extent of energy resources used would be hatchery trucks and boat fuel use covered in previous sections.

VII.Geology and Soils a– f.: No impact

Discussion: The Project does not include any ground disturbing work.

VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions a.: Less Than Significant Impact

Discussion: The Project would emit greenhouse gases (GHG) due to the use of fuel to transport the Chinook Salmon smolts from the MOK to Pillar Point Harbor and the use of a boat to assist in the acclimation and release of the smolts. Project emissions generated by hatchery trucks and boats were evaluated using Bay Area Air Quality Management District California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines. The quantities expected for the hatchery truck deliveries and boats for moving net pens are below listed thresholds for significant impacts.

b: No impact

Discussion: The very low levels of GHG emissions from the Project will not conflict with plans for reducing GHG.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials a– g.: No impact

Discussion: The Project will not be transporting hazardous materials, located in areas with hazardous materials, or blocking hazards.

X. Hydrology and Water Quality a– e.: No impact

Discussion: Juvenile salmon will be acclimated to saltwater in hatchery trucks and although they will be fed on site, the acclimation time is minimal. Any fecal matter produced on site will also be minimal. No local groundwater, existing drainage, tidal or river flow, or alteration of management plans would be affected or changed due to this Project and no pollutants will be released.

XI. Land Use and Planning a– b.: No impact

Discussion: There is no land use anticipated for this Project and net pens used will be removed after use.

XII. Mineral Resources a– b.: No impact

Discussion: No mineral resources will be used in the Project.

XIII. Noise a– c.: No impact

Discussion: The Project will not produce substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels and hatchery trucks and boats are within expected noise levels for Pillar Point Harbor and nearby communities.

XIV. Population and Housing a– b.: No impact

Discussion: The Project does not include any construction or alterations to local housing or population.

XV. Public Services a: Less Than Significant Impact

Discussion: Due to short acclimation time, adult salmon are not expected to return to Pillar Point Harbor as has been seen in previous coastal release projects. Previous impacts took place when net pen acclimation times were longer. Adult salmon returned to the release site, bringing traffic from recreational anglers. Given the changes in acclimation times, it is unlikely that significant numbers of CV FRCS adults would return to Pillar Point Harbor and lead to fishing in the area. If some adult salmon return to the harbor, their numbers are expected to be low, resulting in less than significant impacts to public services. The Project does not include any construction or alterations to facilities. The Project will use the public dock to build the net pen, however the dock is large enough to accommodate both this activity and normal harbor business (James Pruett, General Manager of San Mateo County Harbor District, personal communication, February 10, 2020).

XVI. Recreation a– b.: No impact

Discussion: The Project would not be in a regional park area and all aspects of potential additional public use would be centralized to Johnson Pier or nearby launch ramp where public facilities are present and capable of covering traffic. Pillar Point Harbor has not observed a considerable increase of salmon in the harbor from previous releases nor increased likelihood of catching fish in the harbor (James Pruett, General Manager of San Mateo County Harbor District, personal communication, February 10, 2020). No additional facilities are likely to be needed.

XVII. Transportation a– d.: No impact

Discussion: The Project does not involve alterations to public transportation facilities. The low number of vehicle miles associated with the hatchery trucks from the MOK to Pillar Point Harbor would not have an appreciable impact to roadways or pedestrian facilities or block any emergency access.

XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources a–b: No impact

Discussion: Notification letters describing the Project were mailed to all federally recognized tribes in California and California tribes specifically requesting to be notified for all CEQA projects on December 14, 2021. CDFW received no responses; no tribes requested consultation.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems a– e.: No impact

Discussion: The Project would not rely on utilities or service systems nor generate liquid or solid waste processed by utilities. The small amount of solid waste produced by juvenile salmon in a net pen is not expected to be significant or have an impact due to the short holding period and location in the harbor.

XX. Wildfire a– d.: No impact

Discussion: The Project would not block emergency vehicles or evacuations. There would be no increased wildfire or exposure to risks and the Project uses infrastructure already in existence with no additional infrastructure needed.

Mandatory Findings of Significance

a.: No impact

Discussion: The Project would not degrade the environment or species. Salmon smolts used for the Project would grow into adults in the nearby ocean environment and become available for harvest in commercial and recreational fisheries. Unharvested adults may stray or return to the MOK, but this would not impact habitat of other native species or substantially reduce the number of species or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal.

b.: No impact

Discussion: Adult salmon that were released in coastal net pens as juveniles are generally recovered at a higher rate in the ocean fisheries than salmon that were released in the river (Kormos and Palmer-Zwahlen 2015), but they also exhibit higher stray rates. There are concerns that adult strays (from coastal net pen releases) may adversely affect native stocks within coastal streams. However, this has yet to be shown to impact native fishes. Features of the Project serve to reduce the potential for Project fish to stray into coastal streams and minimize any impact in the event straying occurs. In addition, this Project has taken steps to reduce potential for straying through lowered acclimation times. Based on the available data, there will be no cumulative impacts.

c.: No impact

Discussion: The Project does not have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on humans either directly or indirectly.

Exhibit A: Statement of Work

Under the direction of the Grantor, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and under the following conditions and terms, the CFC Fishing Club (CFC) would fulfill the following:

1. CFC is responsible for acclimating and releasing 750,000 Chinook Salmon smolts each spring, provided by the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery in 2022, 2023 and 2024. CDFW would deliver fish to floating net pens for acclimation in batches of approximately 250,000 on a weekly basis. Fish will be acclimated for 5 days and subsequently released outside of the harbor.

This project has been reviewed and accepted by the California Coastal Commission and communication with Marc Gorelnik indicates there is a mutual understanding with the San Mateo Harbor District (Marc Gorelnik, personal communication, December 27, 2019).

2. CFC understands the availability of salmon for this project may be reduced based on availability. CDFW would mark and tag 25% of the salmon with a coded-wire tag (CWT) and adipose fin clip. Salmon would be healthy and disease free when delivered to Pillar Point Harbor. All fish would be delivered, acclimated, and released within five days. Fish are scheduled to be delivered mid-May depending on fish size, growth rates, and environmental conditions in Pillar Point Harbor and Half Moon Bay.

3. CFC agrees to provide a written report on all salmon releases to CDFW and Commercial Salmon Trollers Advisory Committee (CSTAC) by August 15 of each of the release years (2022, 2023 and 2024). The report will include the following information:

- Estimated number of fish, mortalities, and condition upon delivery
- Estimated number of fish mortalities and condition upon release
- Environmental conditions; water temperature, air temperature
- Estimated number and species of avian and marine predators present at release
- Location (latitude and longitude) of release site and time
- Duration of acclimation (hours, minutes)

4. CFC would provide a hard copy and an electronic copy of the final report in MS Word or PDF format.

5. CFC would obtain permits required by the Coastal Commission, local planners, and any other permits that may be needed to implement the project.

6. CFC would acknowledge the participation of the CDFW and Commercial Salmon Stamp on any signs, flyers, or other types of written communication or notice to advertise or explain the CFC Chinook Salmon Coastal Release Project in Pillar Point Harbor.

Exhibit B: California Coastal Commission Notice of Permit Waiver

STATE OF CALIFORNIA –NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., GOVERNOR

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
45 FREMONT, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105- 2219
VOICE AND TDD (415) 904- 5200
FAX (415) 904- 5400

NOTICE OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT DE MINIMIS WAIVER

DATE: August 26, 2013 **PERMIT NO. 9-13-0498-W**

TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Waiver of Coastal Development Permit Requirements

Based on the plans and information submitted by the applicants for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission (Commission) hereby waives the requirements for a coastal development permit, pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act.

Applicants:

Marc Gorelnik
Coastside Fishing Club
8042 Terrace Dr.
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Fisheries Branch
California Department of Fish and Game
830 S. Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Project Description and Background: The Coastside Fishing Club in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (the applicants), propose to install and operate a pair of floating salmon smolt acclimation net pens in the outer harbor portion of Pillar Point Harbor. The net pens would serve as a temporary holding facility for young hatchery-reared Chinook salmon from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) fish hatcheries in the Central Valley. DFW research has shown that salmon smolts released directly from these Central Valley hatcheries into rivers experience high rates of mortality as they move downstream towards the San Francisco Bay and ocean due to poor water quality, water diversions, and predation along the route. As a result, DFW has developed a system to transport young salmon in large tanker trucks from the hatcheries directly to the ocean and San Francisco Bay for release. However, this immediate transfer of juvenile fish from fresh water to estuarine or marine waters is known to result in a variety of shocks and stressors on the fish that can also make them susceptible to high levels of predation and mortality. In response, hatchery reared smolts are typically released into temporary holding pens that provide them with a protected area in which to recover from these shocks and acclimate to a salt water environment. After one to three weeks of acclimation, the fish are released into the wild in order to enhance existing populations.

The applicants propose to install and operate two salmon acclimation net pens for use by DFW. These pens were used successfully in 2012 and 2013 under authorization by the

Commission (CDP Waiver No. E-11-022-W). The net pens would be in place for the spring and summer (March through July) of each year that fish are available. By the end of July each year, the pens would be removed from the harbor and stored offsite. The applicants propose to use the Johnson Pier in the inner Pillar Point Harbor during stocking of the net pens, an activity that would occur approximately three to seven times each year. During stocking, the net pens would be towed to the pier to receive roughly 60,000 fish from DFW transport trucks. The stocked net pens would then be towed to an existing mooring location in the outer harbor and would remain in place for roughly seven to 21 days while the smolts are fed and provided with an opportunity to acclimate. Feeding would be carried out with an automated belt-operated fish feeder and would use roughly 26 pounds of three millimeter salmonid feed per day (assuming both pens are stocked at capacity with 60,000 fish each). Coastside Fishing Club volunteers would monitor the net pens and tend to the fish feeders on a daily basis. At the end of the acclimation period, the holding net would be opened and the smolts would be released into the outer Pillar Point Harbor near the entrance to the open ocean.

The pens would include an inner nylon net with a mesh size of 1/8 inch to keep the smolts in place as well as a heavy outer net with a mesh size of four inches that would function as a physical barrier against predators. The outer net would be weighted to maintain tautness and would extend from approximately three feet above the water line to a depth of 12 feet. In addition, a two inch mesh net would be erected over the top of the entire structure to protect the smolts from avian predators. Each net pen would measure approximately 30 feet wide by 54 feet long, including net supports and an encircling walkway.

The applicants have received approval for the project from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Water Quality Control Board, and San Mateo County Harbor District.

Waiver Rationale: For the following reasons, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on coastal resources, nor will it conflict with Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act:

- The net pens will use existing mooring locations in the outer Pillar Point Harbor and would not require the placement of permanent mooring devices or anchors on the seafloor.
- The net pens will only be in place seasonally (March through July) and would be removed from the water by the end of July each year.
- The net pens include predator exclusion netting to minimize interactions with predators such as marine mammals and seabirds. Such netting has been shown to be effective in protecting the enclosed fish while minimizing the potential entanglement or injury of predatory animals that may be attracted to the net pens.
- Coastside Fishing Club has developed a plan for addressing potential interactions with marine mammals and seabirds. This plan would be implemented as part of the project and it includes both daily inspections and the maintenance of a daily log as well as immediate reporting of any incidents involving marine mammals or seabirds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Marine Mammal Center.

- Coastside Fishing Club members would monitor the net pens on a daily basis to ensure that they are maintained in good repair and no fugitive materials are released into the marine environment.
- Feeding operations for the salmon smolts during acclimation would be limited and holding times for the fish would not exceed three weeks. At these levels, accumulation of uneaten feed and fecal materials below the net pens is expected to be minimal and not anticipated to adversely affect the water quality or benthic habitat of Pillar Point Harbor.
- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife will implement a contingency plan for the net pen operation to address any disease or parasite outbreak in the salmon population during acclimation. This plan includes daily monitoring, coordination with DFW pathologists, as well as management oversight by DFW staff during acclimation.

Important: This waiver is not effective unless the project site has been posted and until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission at the meeting of September 11-12 in Eureka, CA. If four or more Commissioners object to this waiver, a coastal development permit will be required.

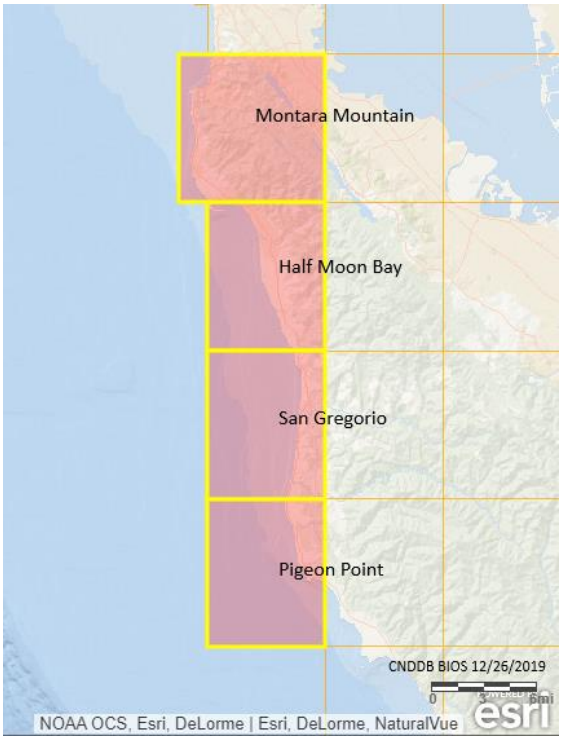
Sincerely,

CHARLES LESTER
Executive Director

By: _____
MARK DELAPLAINE
Manager

Exhibit C: Project Location and Quadrants Identification Map

Attachment 1: Pillar Point Harbor net pen location. Yellow circle indicates approximate net pen site. Release after acclimation will be in outer harbor.



Attachment 2: CNDDB Grids included in species review.

Exhibit D: CNDDB Elements Report

Selected Elements by Scientific Name
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (Montara Mountain (3712254) OR Half Moon Bay (3712244) OR San Gregorio (3712234) OR Pigeon Point (3712224))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Agrostis blasdalei Blasdale's bent grass	PMPOA04060	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Allium peninsulare var. franciscanum Franciscan onion	PMLIL021R1	None	None	G5T2	S2	1B.2
Antrozous pallidus pallid bat	AMACC10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
Arctostaphylos montaraensis Montara manzanita	PDERI042W0	None	None	G1	S1	1B.2
Arctostaphylos regismontana Kings Mountain manzanita	PDERI041C0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Ardea herodias great blue heron	ABNGA04010	None	None	G5	S4	
Astragalus pycnostachyus var. pycnostachyus coastal marsh milk-vetch	PDFAB0F7B2	None	None	G2T2	S2	1B.2
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
Bombus caliginosus obscure bumble bee	IIHYM24380	None	None	G4?	S1S2	
Bombus occidentalis western bumble bee	IIHYM24250	None	None	G2G3	S1	
Brachyramphus marmoratus marbled murrelet	ABNNN06010	Threatened	Endangered	G3	S2	
Callophrys mossii bayensis San Bruno elfin butterfly	IILEPE2202	Endangered	None	G4T1	S3	
Centromadia parryi ssp. parryi pappose tarplant	PDAST4R0P2	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.2
Charadrius nivosus nivosus western snowy plover	ABNNB03031	Threatened	None	G3T3	S2	SSC
Chorizanthe cuspidata var. cuspidata San Francisco Bay spineflower	PDPGN04081	None	None	G2T1	S1	1B.2
Cirsium andrewsii Franciscan thistle	PDAST2E050	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
Collinsia multicolor San Francisco collinsia	PDSCR0H0B0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Corynorhinus townsendii Townsend's big-eared bat	AMACC08010	None	None	G4	S2	SSC
Danaus plexippus pop. 1 monarch - California overwintering population	IILEPP2012	Candidate	None	G4T2T3	S2S3	

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Dicamptodon ensatus California giant salamander	AAAAH01020	None	None	G3	S2S3	SSC
Dirca occidentalis western leatherwood	PDTHY03010	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Emys marmorata western pond turtle	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
Eriophyllum latilobum San Mateo woolly sunflower	PDAST3N060	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
Eucyclogobius newberryi tidewater goby	AFCQN04010	Endangered	None	G3	S3	
Eumetopias jubatus Steller sea lion	AMAJC03010	Delisted	None	G3	S2	
Falco columbarius merlin	ABNKD06030	None	None	G5	S3S4	WL
Fritillaria biflora var. ineziana Hillsborough chocolate lily	PMLIL0V0M1	None	None	G3G4T1	S1	1B.1
Fritillaria liliacea fragrant fritillary	PMLIL0V0C0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Geothlypis trichas sinuosa saltmarsh common yellowthroat	ABPBX1201A	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
Grindelia hirsutula var. maritima San Francisco gumplant	PDAST470D3	None	None	G5T1Q	S1	3.2
Horkelia cuneata var. sericea Kellogg's horkelia	PDROS0W043	None	None	G4T1?	S1?	1B.1
Horkelia marinensis Point Reyes horkelia	PDROS0W0B0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Hypogymnia schizidiata island tube lichen	NLT0032640	None	None	G2G3	S2	1B.3
Icaricia icarioides missionensis Mission blue butterfly	IILEPG801A	Endangered	None	G5T1	S1	
Ischnura gemina San Francisco forktail damselfly	IIODO72010	None	None	G2	S2	
Lasiurus cinereus hoary bat	AMACC05030	None	None	G3G4	S4	
Lasthenia californica ssp. macrantha perennial goldfields	PDAST5L0C5	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.2
Leptosiphon croceus coast yellow leptosiphon	PDPLM09170	None	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
Leptosiphon rosaceus rose leptosiphon	PDPLM09180	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1
Lessingia arachnoidea Crystal Springs lessingia	PDAST5S0C0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Lichnanthe ursina bumblebee scarab beetle	IICOL67020	None	None	G2	S2	
Limnanthes douglasii ssp. ornduffii Ornduff's meadowfoam	PDLIM02039	None	None	G4T1	S1	1B.1
Malacothamnus arcuatus arcuate bush-mallow	PDMAL0Q0E0	None	None	G2Q	S2	1B.2
Melospiza melodia pusillula Alameda song sparrow	ABPBXA301S	None	None	G5T2?	S2S3	SSC
Microseris paludosa marsh microseris	PDAST6E0D0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Monolopia gracilens woodland woollythreads	PDAST6G010	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
Myotis thysanodes fringed myotis	AMACC01090	None	None	G4	S3	
N. Central Coast Calif. Roach/Stickleback/Steelhead Stream N. Central Coast Calif. Roach/Stickleback/Steelhead Stream	CARA2633CA	None	None	GNR	SNR	
Neotoma fuscipes annectens San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat	AMAFF08082	None	None	G5T2T3	S2S3	SSC
North Central Coast Steelhead/Sculpin Stream North Central Coast Steelhead/Sculpin Stream	CARA2637CA	None	None	GNR	SNR	
Northern Coastal Salt Marsh Northern Coastal Salt Marsh	CTT52110CA	None	None	G3	S3.2	
Northern Maritime Chaparral Northern Maritime Chaparral	CTT37C10CA	None	None	G1	S1.2	
Nyctinomops macrotis big free-tailed bat	AMACD04020	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 8 steelhead - central California coast DPS	AFCHA0209G	Threatened	None	G5T2T3Q	S2S3	
Pentachaeta bellidiflora white-rayed pentachaeta	PDAST6X030	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus Choris' popcornflower	PDBOR0V061	None	None	G3T1Q	S1	1B.2
Polemonium carneum Oregon polemonium	PDPLM0E050	None	None	G3G4	S2	2B.2
Potentilla hickmanii Hickman's cinquefoil	PDROS1B370	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
Rallus obsoletus obsoletus California Ridgway's rail	ABNME05011	Endangered	Endangered	G3T1	S1	FP
Rana boylii foothill yellow-legged frog	AAABH01050	None	Endangered	G3	S3	SSC
Rana draytonii California red-legged frog	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Riparia riparia bank swallow	ABPAU08010	None	Threatened	G5	S2	
Sacramento-San Joaquin Coastal Lagoon Sacramento-San Joaquin Coastal Lagoon	CALA1360CA	None	None	GNR	SNR	
Serpentine Bunchgrass Serpentine Bunchgrass	CTT42130CA	None	None	G2	S2.2	
Silene scouleri ssp. scouleri Scouler's catchfly	PDCAR0U1MC	None	None	G5T4T5	S2S3	2B.2
Silene verecunda ssp. verecunda San Francisco campion	PDCAR0U213	None	None	G5T1	S1	1B.2
Speyeria zerene myrtleae Myrtle's silverspot butterfly	IILEPJ608C	Endangered	None	G5T1	S1	
Spirinchus thaleichthys longfin smelt	AFCHB03010	Candidate	Threatened	G5	S1	
Taxidea taxus American badger	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia San Francisco gartersnake	ARADB3613B	Endangered	Endangered	G5T2Q	S2	FP
Triphysaria floribunda San Francisco owl's-clover	PDSCR2T010	None	None	G2?	S2?	1B.2
Triquetrella californica coastal triquetrella	NBMUS7S010	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Tryonia imitator mimic tryonia (=California brackishwater snail)	IMGASJ7040	None	None	G2	S2	
Valley Needlegrass Grassland Valley Needlegrass Grassland	CTT42110CA	None	None	G3	S3.1	

Record Count: 74