



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



January 25, 2024

Re: Virtual, informational public meeting notification for the *Draft Study Plan: Instream Flow Evaluation for Clear Lake Hitch Passage in Tributaries of the Clear Lake Watershed, Lake County.*

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is hosting a virtual, informational public meeting on February 7, 2024, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm PST, to present the *Draft Study Plan: Instream Flow Evaluation for Clear Lake Hitch Passage in Tributaries of the Clear Lake Watershed, Lake County.* The Clear Lake Hitch (CLH) is a large minnow endemic to Clear Lake and its surrounding tributaries. The CLH was listed under the California Endangered Species Act as a threatened species in 2014. In March 2023, Governor Newsom signed [Executive Order N-5-23](#), directing the Department to evaluate minimum instream flows to protect CLH.

The Department is coordinating and collaborating with California Native American Tribes, local, state, and federal agencies in carrying out the instream flow study. The goal of the study is to characterize relationships between streamflow and habitat/fish passage in the tributaries of the Clear Lake watershed. Hydraulic habitat modeling will be used to produce two-dimensional area estimates of depth and velocity over a range of flows to evaluate fish passage on Middle, Scotts, Manning, Adobe, Kelsey, and Cole Creeks.

The public meeting can be accessed on February 7, 2024, at 11:00 am PST here: [Clear Lake Watershed Informational Public Meeting](#). The Draft Study Plan and meeting recording (once available) will be available on the Department's Instream Flow Program webpage after the meeting at the following link: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Instream-Flow/Studies/Clear-Lake-Watershed-Studies>.

For any questions regarding the Department's Draft Study Plan, please email instreamflow@wildlife.ca.gov.