

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

REGION 2
1701 NIMBUS ROAD, SUITE A
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
(916) 355-7020



February 3, 1995

Mr. Luther P. Hintz, General Manager
Reclamation District 108 *SAC, R. COLUSA CO.*
P.O. Box 50
Grimes, California 95950

Dear Mr. Hintz:

We received your proposal entitled "1995 Electrical Fish Guidance Project" accompanied with a draft Negative Declaration. The project, as described, entails two major components: removal of approximately 2000 cubic yards of deposition from the entrance of Wilkins Slough to the Sacramento River, and installation of an electrified system of louvers that will span the entrance of the slough. The project is designed to decrease intake velocities and to test the feasibility of using an electrical field to prevent entrainment of migrating and resident fishes.

Although the period has expired in which comments were due to the State Clearinghouse, we will provide input directly to you, pursuant to a request by Dr. Charles Hanson, your project biologist. The DFG will also be preparing a separate 2081 agreement to authorize any take of State listed species.

The DFG has the authority to require placement of screens on diversions that may impact the State-and federally-listed winter-run chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha). It is the intention of the Department to gain compliance with this regulation for all diversions that occur within the critical habitat of this species and to do so when opportunity and funding permit. Additionally, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued a Biological Opinion that will allow an additional year of study at your site provided that plans and designs for a positive barrier screen proceed concurrent with the project. Experimental screen technology has yet to demonstrate levels of protection equivalent to a positive barrier screen. Nevertheless, we will continue to work closely with the District provided that all terms and conditions of the NMFS Biological Opinion are met.

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As written, the Negative Declaration does not describe in sufficient detail the proposed dredging activity and the subsequent disposition of the spoils to make specific comment. Our comments therefore, are based on discussions with you and your staff and from information disclosed at various meetings. Following is a list of general actions and precautions that would need to be taken for this project:

1. Soil, silt, or other organic or earthen materials shall not be placed where such materials could pass into surface waters or surface water drainage courses.
2. The discharge of petroleum products or other excavated materials to surface waters is prohibited.
3. Dredge or construction activities shall not cause more than a 20 percent increase in ambient turbidity levels in the mainstem Sacramento River. Every attempt shall be made to draft turbid water into the slough during dredging and/or construction.

Also be advised that work within the 100-year flood plain, consisting of but not limited to diversion or obstruction of the natural flow or changes in the channel, bed, or bank of any river, stream, or lake, will require notification to the Department as required by Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et sec. The notification (with fee), and subsequent agreement, must be completed prior to initiating any such work. Notification to the Department should be made after the project is approved by the Lead Agency. The Lead Agency is reminded that the Streambed Alteration Agreement process is not a Certified Regulatory Program per California Environmental Quality Act, Section 21080.5, and therefore cannot be used in lieu of specific mitigation measures in the environmental document.

If you need additional information please contact Mr. Nick Villa, Senior Fishery Biologist at (916) 355-7006, or Ms. Cindy Chadwick, Environmental Services Supervisor, at (916) 355-0267.

Sincerely,



L. Ryan Broddrick
Regional Manager

cc: See Attached List

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cc: Mr. Nick Villa
Ms. Cindy Chadwick
Mr. Brian Hunter
Department of Fish and Game
Rancho Cordova, California

Mr. John Turner, Chief
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Environmental Services Division
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Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Tim Farley, Chief
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Mr. Chris Mobley
National Marine Fisheries Service
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bc: Ms. Debbie Mckee
Mr. Dan Odenweller
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VILLA:ss

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