

## MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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**PROJECT NAME:** DEL RIO WOODS SUMMER DAM

**Date of Preparation:** November 1, 2007

**Lead Agency:** Del Rio Woods Recreation and Park District

**Project Description:** The District is directing design of a seasonal flashboard dam with a permanent foundation and fold-down flashboards similar to the one currently in use at Vacation Beach in Guerneville. The dam will replace the historically used gravel berm dam. The flashboard dam will utilize the existing spillway structure that was used for the gravel dam. A permanent foundation will be constructed across that river channel that will incorporate fold-down flashboards and supports that will lay flat and remain in the stream channel.

**Project Location:** 2580 S. Fitch Mountain Road, Healdsburg

**Assessor's Parcel No:** APN 087-101-001

**General Plan:** County of Sonoma General Plan—Rural Residential

**Zoning:** County of Sonoma Zoning Ordinance—Rural Residential, B8, Biotic Resources, F1

**Findings:**

1. This project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, nor to curtail the diversity of the environment.
2. This project will not have a detrimental effect upon either short-term or long-term environmental goals.
3. This project will not have impacts that are cumulatively considerable.
4. This project will not have environmental impacts that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.
  - The proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment and a **Negative Declaration** will be prepared.
  - 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.

**Public Review Period:** November 1, 2007 through November 30, 2007

**Mitigation Measures:** See Initial Study

**Where to Submit Comments:** Del Rio Woods Recreation and Park District  
35 Rockwood Court  
San Francisco, CA 94127  
Attn: Justice Donald B. King

**Contact Person:** Justice Donald B. King, President  
415/759-1461

**Attachment:** Initial Study

**DEL RIO WOODS SUMMER DAM**  
Healdsburg, Sonoma County, California

**Initial Study**

**November 2007**

Prepared for:

Del Rio Woods Recreation and Park District  
35 Rockwood Court  
San Francisco CA 94127  
415/759-1461

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## PROJECT DATA

Project Title: Del Rio Woods Summer Dam

Lead Agency: Del Rio Woods Recreation and Park District  
35 Rockwood Court  
San Francisco, CA 94127

Contact Person: Justice Donald B. King, President  
415/759-1461

Project Location: 2580 S. Fitch Mountain Road, Healdsburg  
APN 087-101-001

General Plan Designation: Rural Residential

Zoning: Rural Residential, B8, Biotic Resources, F1

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Initial Study is to provide the Lead Agency, the Del Rio Woods Recreation and Park District (District), with an assessment of relevant environmental information associated with implementation of the proposed project in order to determine whether a Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be required for the Del Rio Woods Summer Dam. This environmental evaluation is intended to fully inform the Lead Agency, other interested agencies and the public of the proposed plan and associated environmental impacts. This Initial Study has been prepared in conformance with the requirements of §15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

If the Lead Agency determines that there is no substantial evidence that the project may cause a significant effect on the environment, then a Negative Declaration may be prepared. A Negative Declaration may include conditions of approval to avoid or reduce potential impacts. However, if the Initial Study determines that the project may cause an unavoidable or unknown significant effect on the environment, the Lead Agency must prepare an EIR.

The Initial Study process also enables an applicant to modify a project, mitigating adverse effects before an EIR is prepared, thereby enabling the project to qualify for a Mitigated Negative Declaration. This facilitates the environmental evaluation portion of the project development process and eliminates unnecessary EIRs.

## PROJECT PURPOSE

The District has operated a summer dam on the Russian River east of Fitch Mountain in Healdsburg for approximately 60 years. The dam has historically been constructed of river gravel moved onto each side of a permanent spillway in the river in late June/early July and breached in early September. In 2002, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) prohibited construction of the summer dam citing sediment concerns associated with breaching the dam. Since then, the District has worked with the RWQCB, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) to find a solution that will be permitable.

The District desires to design and construct a summertime flashboard dam in the location of its historical gravel dam that will meet regulatory objectives of eliminating downstream sedimentation associated with the breach of the historical gravel dam. The summer dam would continue to provide a beneficial recreational facility for the public that has been in the community for generations.

## PROJECT SETTING

The District is a public park and recreation district with a beach located at approximately 2660 S. Fitch Mountain Road on the Russian River east of Fitch Mountain in Healdsburg. The District maintains a summer recreation facility on an approximately 6-acre parcel (APN 087-101-001) and an adjacent parking lot for the recreation area (APN 087-101-008). The Fitch Mountain area is a rural community in unincorporated Sonoma County. Fitch Mountain Road on the west of the project site is densely developed with residential uses. Rio Lindo Avenue on the east side of the project is surrounded by low-density rural residential and agricultural uses.

Winter Russian River flows are typically high in this reach of the river with summer flows being low and exposing large gravel beaches. The river typically supports only a narrow riparian corridor in this area, the greater part generally having been removed in the past by agricultural uses.

The project location is regionally shown on Figure 1. An aerial view of the project location and surroundings is shown on Figure 2.

## POLICY SETTING

The District is within an unincorporated portion of the County of Sonoma. Development in the area is guided by the Sonoma County General Plan and the Sonoma County Zoning Ordinance.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Currently, the District is directing design of a seasonal flashboard dam with a permanent foundation and removable flashboards comprised of wooden stop logs inserted in vertical steel support beams similar to the one currently in use at Vacation Beach in Guerneville. The removable flashboard dam will utilize the existing spillway structure, historically used for the gravel dam. A permanent foundation will be constructed across the river channel that will incorporate removable flashboards and supports that can lay flat and remain in the stream channel. This type of dam has been suggested by CDFG. The proposed dam is shown of Figure 3 through Figure 6.

Based on potential project budget constraints, the dam may need to be constructed in two phases. Phase I would construct the portion of the dam to the east of the existing spillway structure. During the interim period between Phase I and construction of Phase II, the western portion of the dam would continue to affect river closure by construction of a gravel embankment. No gravel would be placed in the actively flowing stream channel and the release of the impounded water would be released from the dam by removal of the Phase I stop logs and subsequently the lowering or removing of the supporting steel beams. This would avoid the creation of sediment impacts in the stream channel. The gravel would be left in place for redistribution during high river flows.

The dam will be comprised of an approximately 52-foot long section of foundation and flashboard structure to the east of the spillway and a similar 82-foot long section to the west of the spillway. A 16-foot by nine-foot abutment would be constructed at the eastern bank and a 41-foot by 7.5 foot embankment would be constructed in the gravel beach on the west. The flashboards would impound a maximum reservoir water surface elevation of approximately 88 feet above sea level and a normal water surface elevation of 86 feet above sea level. The actual depth of impounded water would be approximately six to eight feet deep in the deepest areas. The impounded water backs up the Russian River approximately 1.5 miles.

Consultation with permitting agencies has resulted in a determination that no fish ladder will be necessary as the downstream seasonal dam at Healdsburg Memorial Beach effectively blocks fish migration during the period it is in place<sup>1</sup>. The Del Rio Woods summer dam would be erected and dismantled to coincide with the Healdsburg Memorial Beach dam to ensure it does not impact fish migration—erected between June 30 and July 3 and removed between September 8 and September 11.

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<sup>1</sup> Meeting with NOAA Fisheries. NOAA attendees included: William Hern, Steven Thomas, John McKeon and Dick Butler. March 30, 2007.

Construction of Phase I would require temporarily diverting river flows to the west of the existing spillway. A temporary pipe culverts diversion structure would be placed west of the existing spillway and a diversion structure immediately upstream of the Phase I construction work area to divert river flows into culverts around the spillway. The culverts would be sufficient to allow construction equipment and materials to access the area from the west.

Once river diversion was established, a gravel fill work pad would be placed on the east side of the existing spillway to support the construction equipment. The steel pile joist foundation system and sheet pile cut off walls would then be installed. The steel pile joists would be driven into predrilled sockets that extend into bed rock. After construction of the foundation support system, a steel reinforced concrete pile cap would be formed and poured and supported on the piles. The pile cap, or sill, would have steel brackets attached to support and secure the steel joist structure that in turn would support the wooden stop-logs forming the dam flashboards.

The Phase 2 structure would be similarly constructed. After completion of the Phase 1 structure the temporary structure would be removed allowing the river to flow over the Phase 1 sill. After this was achieved, the pipe culvert diversion would also be removed and the closure of the sheet pile wall made.

The District would close beach access and the parking lot to the public during construction for safety. Equipment staging and material stockpiling would be accomplished at the District's parking lot or above the high water mark on the beach adjacent to the construction. Additionally, vehicle and equipment fueling and maintenance would be done at the parking lot.





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## **OTHER PUBLIC AGENCY PERMIT APPROVALS**

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, USACE has authority over fill placed within waters of the United States. USACE has issued permits for the summer dam in the past, the most recent being in 2004 for the inflatable dam.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries): NOAA Fisheries has authority over species listed on the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) that live all or part of their lives in the ocean. As part of the Section 404 process, the USACE must consult with NOAA Fisheries and the other (Fish and Wild Life Service, CDFG, etc.) resources agencies to comply with Section 7 of the FESA.

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG): Pursuant to Section 1601 of the CDFG Code, CDFG has authority over any activity modifying a lake or stream. The District will need to enter into a Streambed Alteration Agreement with CDFG prior to construction of the project.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE CHECKLIST:

The following list of questions is provided by Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, in order to determine a project's environmental impacts.

Based on the project description, answers to the questions fall into one of four categories:

- Potentially Significant Impact (**PS**)
- Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation (**LSM**)
- Less Than Significant Impact (**LS**)
- No Impact (**NI**)

With regard to the checklist, a “No Impact” response indicates that no impact would result from implementation of the project. A “Less Than Significant Impact” response indicates that an impact would occur, but the level of impact would be less than significant. A “Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation” response indicates that an impact is involved, and, with implementation of the identified mitigation measure, such impact would be less than significant. A “Potentially Significant Impact” response indicates that there is substantial evidence that impacts may be significant if mitigation measures are unknown, infeasible, or not proposed. Each response is discussed at a level of detail commensurate with the potential for adverse environmental effect.

The discussion following each checklist item consists of an *Analysis* section, a *Cumulative Impacts* discussion, and a section for identification of *Mitigation Measures*, as necessary. The *Analysis* section includes a discussion addressing whether the project would result in potential adverse environmental impacts. All potential impacts have been considered, including on-site and off-site impacts, direct and indirect impacts, construction and operation-related effects, as well as cumulative effects. The recently updated CEQA Guidelines contain revised regulations relative to the project's potential for contributing to cumulative effects<sup>2</sup>. The *Cumulative Impacts* section presents information regarding the project's potential cumulative impacts and is included in this section. If an impact(s) has been identified and mitigation is identified to reduce the impact to a less than significant level, then such measures are contained in the *Mitigation Measures* section.

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<sup>2</sup> California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, §15064(i).

## I AESTHETICS

### Analysis

- a. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

**LS** The Del Rio Woods summer dam has been in existence since at least the 1940s and its impoundment and recreational uses have become part of the scenic character of the site. The proposed project will not differ visually from the historic use of a gravel berm in any significant way—the project site will still be that of a summer swimming recreation area. The project will have a less than significant impact a scenic vista.

- b. Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

**NI** The project is not visible from any state scenic highway. See item (c.) below for a discussion of scenic resources.

- c. Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

**LS** The project will not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The Russian River corridor is designated a scenic resource by the Sonoma County General Plan. However, the Del Rio Woods summer dam existed at the time that designation was made and continued use of the site in similar fashion will not negatively impact the Russian River's scenic designation.

- d. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

**NI** No lighting is proposed with the summer dam project. The project is not expected to increase use of the adjacent parking lot so new glare will not result from vehicles.

### Cumulative Impacts

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to aesthetic resources resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

### Mitigation Measures

No adverse environmental impacts to aesthetic resources have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

## II AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

### Analysis

- a. Would the project 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?

**NI** The project site is designated as Other Land by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program<sup>3</sup>. As such, the project will not convert Farmland to non-agricultural uses.

- b. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

**NI** The project site is not located on a parcel with a Williamson Act contract.

- c. Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?

**NI** The project occurs within the banks of the Russian River. The area is not suitable for agricultural uses and implementation of the project will not result in the conversion of Farmland.

### Cumulative Impacts

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to agricultural resources resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

### Mitigation Measures

No adverse environmental impacts to agricultural resources have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

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<sup>3</sup> *Sonoma County Important Farmland—1996*. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency.

### III AIR QUALITY

#### Analysis

- a. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

**NI** The project is within the NSCAPCD. The NSCAPCD is responsible for monitoring and reporting air quality data for northern Sonoma County. Air quality is generally at attainment levels. Therefore, the NSCAPCD does not have an air quality plan so the project would not conflict or obstruct with implementation of an air quality plan.

- b. Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

**LS** Data from air quality monitoring stations in Sonoma County did not indicate any violations of state or federal standards between 2003 and 2005 for ozone, PM10, PM2.5, carbon monoxide or nitrogen dioxide<sup>4</sup>. The project will not result in any substantial increase in emissions. Construction of the project will require the use of some heavy equipment and annual construction of the gravel berm (during the first phase of the project) will continue to require the use of a bulldozer. Emissions associated with that equipment is considered to be less than significant based on the attainment status of the air district and the limited amount and time of such emissions.

- c. Would the project 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 (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

**NI** The project itself will not result in emissions except as described in (b.) above. As a historically existing facility, the project will not result in increased vehicular traffic to or from the site.

- d. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

**LS** The project will not result in ongoing pollutant emissions or concentrate pollutants. Short-term construction related emissions will occur associated with construction of the flashboard dam and the gravel berm (Phase I). However, such emissions are short-term and considered to be less than significant.

- e. Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

**NI** The project will not create objectionable odors during routine operation. No odors have occurred historically associated with the dam and none are expected to occur with the new dam.

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<sup>4</sup> Air Resources Board, Aerometric Data Analysis and Management (ADAM) <http://www.arb.ca.gov/adam/cgi-bin/db2www/adamtop4b.d2w/Branch>. Data from nearest available monitoring station.

## **Cumulative Impacts**

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to air quality resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

## **Mitigation Measures**

No adverse environmental impacts to air quality have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

## IV BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

### Analysis

- a. Would the project 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?

**LSM** The Russian River supports several federally and state listed fish species that could be impacted by the summer dam. Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) are listed as threatened by the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) are listed as endangered by the FESA and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Additionally, the Russian River has been designated critical habitat by NOAA Fisheries for all three species. These salmonid species are anadromous, migrating from the ocean into freshwater tributaries to spawn.

Seasonal use of the dam would result in blockage of salmonid migration and loss of potential spawning habitat while time the dam is erected. Continued use of the westerly gravel berm during Phase I could result in minimal downstream sedimentation at the time the berm was redistributed during high winter flows, but such sedimentation would be remediated by completion of Phase II. These are potentially significant impacts that have been associated with the historical dam. Implementation of the new flashboard dam is intended to alleviate past issues with downstream sedimentation associated with the breach of the gravel berm. Raising and lowering of the flashboard dam will correspond with the downstream Healdsburg Memorial Beach dam to ensure that fish passage impediments are not cumulatively increased.

Mitigation Measure BR1 requires the District to obtain appropriate permits from USACE (Section 404), RWQCB (Section 401 Water Quality Certification) and CDFG (Streambed Alteration Agreement) to ensure that impacts to special status species and riparian habitat are minimized to a level of less than significant. Any permit issuance by USACE will require consultation with NOAA Fisheries. Permit conditions are expected to contain mitigations similar to those below (NOTE: Final mitigation measures shall be specified by the permitting agencies—mitigations shown below are illustrative only):

#### Construction

1. No construction shall occur in an actively flowing stream.
2. All work in or near the stream shall be confined to the period May 1 to October 15.
3. Disturbance or removal of vegetation adjacent to the creek shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the proposed construction operations. The disturbed portions of any stream channel within the high water mark of the stream shall be restored to as near their original condition as possible. Restoration shall include the revegetation of striped or exposed areas using native plant materials
4. Installation of bridges, culverts or other structures shall be such that water flow is not impaired and upstream or downstream passage of any aquatic species is

permitted at all times. The inverts of temporary culverts shall be placed at or below stream channel grade.

5. No equipment will be operated in actively flowing stream channels.
6. Any dewatering shall utilize NOAA Fisheries approved screens on the pump intakes to prevent entrainment of salmonids.
7. No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, rubbish, cement or concrete or washings thereof, oil or petroleum products or other organic or earthen material from construction or associated activity of whatever nature shall be allowed to enter into or placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into waters of the United States. When operations are completed, any excess materials or debris shall be removed from the work area. No trash shall be deposited within 150 feet of the high water mark of any stream.
8. When work in an actively flowing stream is unavoidable, the entire stream flow shall be diverted around the work area by a barrier and temporary culvert capable of permitting upstream and downstream species movement. Before any construction begins, the operator shall bypass the flow of the creek around the work area through a temporary culvert. Rubber Dams, and bags, hay bales or clean well graded gravel may be used to dam the stream to direct the water to the temporary culvert. No dirt fill shall be placed in the stream channel. Construction of the barrier and/or the new culvert shall normally begin in the downstream area and continue in an upstream direction, and the flow shall be diverted only when construction of the diversion is completed. The culvert and/or barrier construction shall be adequate to prevent seepage into or from the work area. The culvert and the barrier material shall be removed when work is completed and the removal shall normally proceed from downstream in an upstream direction.

#### Dam Filling

1. Dam raising shall correspond to the raising of the downstream Healdsburg Memorial Beach dam in Healdsburg to prevent salmonid migration barriers.
2. Bypass flows shall be maintained during dam filling sufficient to maintain 75 percent of the wetted width of the channel downstream of the dam to minimize the risk of fish stranding.
3. During Phase I, the western gravel berm will be placed outside of flowing water. Approximately one half of the berm material shall come from downstream of the berm site.

#### Dam Lowering

1. Dam lowering shall correspond to the raising of the downstream Memorial Beach dam in Healdsburg to prevent salmonid migration barriers.
  2. The impounded water will be released at a rate so that the water elevation shall not drop more than six inches per hour to reduce upstream fish stranding.
  3. During Phase I, the eastern stoplog flashboard section of the dam will be breached. The western portion of the gravel berm shall be flattened to roughly the adjacent beach contours.
- b. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

**LS** The project is generally contained within the nonvegetated river channel. Minor vegetation removal may be necessary for construction of the easternmost portion of the east abutment. However, based on the small footprint (nine feet wide and 16 feet long) and continuous riparian vegetation along the eastern bank, any such impact is considered to be less than significant.

- c. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

**NI** The project will not impact any wetlands. However, as described in (a.) above, the project is subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and will require a permit from the USACE and Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB.

- d. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

**LSM** As indicated in (a.) above, Mitigation Measure BR1 requires that the District to retain necessary permits from USACE, RWQCB and CDFG. Preliminary discussions with NOAA Fisheries has indicated that a permit condition will require raising and lowering the dam to coincide with the downstream Healdsburg Memorial Beach dam, and thus not create an additional barrier to migratory fish<sup>5</sup>.

- e. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

**LSM** The project will not result in any tree removal. The project occurs within a Biological Resources zoning combining district. However, compliance with Mitigation Measure BR1 will ensure that those biological resources are protected.

- f. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

**NI** The project is not within an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

## Cumulative Impacts

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to biological resources resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

## Mitigation Measures

**BR1** The project shall not be implemented until appropriate permits are obtained from USACE (Section 404), RWQCB (Section 401 Water Quality Certification) and CDFG (Streambed Alteration Agreement). Those permits shall specify appropriate avoidance and/or mitigation

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<sup>5</sup> Meeting with NOAA Fisheries. NOAA attendees included: William Hern, Steven Thomas, John McKeon and Dick Butler. March 30, 2007.

measures to reduce impacts to water quality, habitat and special status species to a level of less than significant.

## V CULTURAL RESOURCES

Section 15064.5 of CEQA includes a broad definition of historical and archaeological resources. CEQA defines such resources as: 1) a resource listed in or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources; 2) a resource included in a local register of historical resources or identified as significant in an historical resource survey; and/or 3) any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, provided the determination is supported by substantial evidence, including the following: a) is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage, b) is associated with the lives of persons important in our past, c) embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values, or d) has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history<sup>6</sup>.

Paleontology is the study of fossils—the recognizable remains and traces of once-living, non-human organisms that are incorporated into the Earth's rocks. Shells, bones, leaves, tracks, trails, and a variety of other remains constitute a record of the history of life on the planet dating back 3.5 billion years<sup>7</sup>. Fossils provide the basic data to establish a relative time scale of the physical history of the Earth. Fossils are found in a definite succession in sedimentary and slightly metamorphosed rocks. Fossils are generally most common in rocks formed in relatively shallow marine waters. In freshwater environments, fossils of animals are usually most abundant in rocks formed in lakes. Fossils tend to be least abundant in rocks that formed on dry land because dead plants and animals ordinarily are exposed to the air for long periods of time (precluding fossiliferous formation). Most fossils are relatively small and are collected either by picking up loose specimens on weathered rocks surfaces or by using simple hand tools.

### Analysis

- a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

**LSM** No historical resources are known or suspected to be present. The summer dam has been seasonally constructed for more than 60 years but is not considered a historical resource. No other historical resources would be impacted by the project. In the unlikely event that historical resources are discovered during construction work, Mitigation Measure CR1 will reduce such impact to a less than significant level.

- b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

**LSM** Based on the ongoing transport of gravel within the channel, it is extremely unlikely that archaeological resources exist in the vicinity of the dam. In the unlikely event that

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<sup>6</sup> California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines. §15064.5(a).

<sup>7</sup> Paleontological Collecting, National Academy Press. Washington, DC. 1987.

archaeological resources are discovered during construction work, Mitigation Measure CR1 will reduce such impact to a less than significant level.

- c. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

**LSM** Construction of project components is not anticipated to disturb any paleontological resources. However, the remote possibility exists that paleontological indicators might be discovered during construction of the facilities. Mitigation Measure CR2 will reduce such impact to a less than significant level.

- d. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

**LSM** There are no known human remains in the project area. However, the remote possibility exists that human remains could be discovered during construction. In such an event, Mitigation Measure CR3 will reduce such impact to a less than significant level.

## Cumulative Impacts

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to cultural resources resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

## Mitigation Measures

**CR1** The project plans and specifications shall provide that in the event prehistoric-era or historic-era archaeological site indicators are unearthed during the course of grading, excavation and/or trenching, all ground disturbing work in the vicinity of the discovery shall cease and all exposed materials shall be left in place. Prehistoric-era archaeological site indicators could include chipped chert and obsidian tools and tool manufacture waste flakes, grinding implements such as mortars and pestles, and locally darkened soil containing the previously mentioned items as well as fire altered stone and dietary debris such as bone and shellfish fragments. Historic-era archaeological site indicators could include items of ceramic, glass and metal, and features such as structural ruins, wells and pits containing such artifacts. After cessation of excavation, the contractor shall immediately contact the District. The District shall contact a qualified professional archaeologist immediately after the find. Such archaeologist shall conduct an evaluation of significance of the site, and assess the necessity for mitigation. The contractor shall not resume construction activities until authorization to proceed is received from the District.

**CR2** The project plans and specifications shall provide that in the event paleontological site indicators are unearthed during the course of grading, excavation and/or trenching, all ground disturbing work in the vicinity of the discovery shall cease and all exposed materials shall be left in place. After cessation of excavation, the contractor shall immediately contact the District. The District shall contact a qualified professional geologist or paleontologist immediately after the find. Such consultant shall conduct an evaluation of significance of the site, and assess the necessity for mitigation. The contractor shall not resume construction activities until authorization to proceed is received from the District.

**CR3** If human remains are encountered during grading, excavation or trenching, all construction activity shall cease and the contractor shall immediately contact the District and the Sonoma County Coroner's Office. If the remains are determined by the Coroner's Office to be of Native American origin, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted and the procedures outlined in CEQA §15064.5(e) shall be implemented by the District or its designee.

## VI GEOLOGY AND SOILS

### Analysis

- a. Would the project expose people or structures to 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.

**LS** The nearest Alquist-Priolo earthquake special studies zone is approximately 2.4 miles southeasterly of the project location<sup>8</sup>. While all coastal northern California is subject to seismic-related ground shaking, the risk to the project from fault rupture is considered to be less than significant.
  - ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

**LS** The site is not within an Earthquake Fault Zone, as defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, and no known active or potentially active faults exist on the site. Appropriate design according to professional standards and regulations contained in the most recent edition of the UBC and California Building Code will ensure that any seismic-related risk of dam failure is less than significant.
  - iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

**LS** The project is located within the Russian River channel, predominantly on alluvial gravel. Project design includes sheet pile cutoff walls and driven steel H piles into pre-drilled sockets in bedrock to ensure stability of the dam foundation. Appropriate dam engineering incorporated into the design ensures that any risk of ground failure is less than significant.
  - iv. Landslides?

**NI** The project area is not at risk of landslides.
- b. Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

**LS** The project occurs within the Russian River channel on gravel. Soil erosion or loss of topsoil will not occur with this project as no soils exist within the project extents. Gravel used for the berm (Phase I) will be similar to that used historically and come from the immediate project area. The new dam configuration will allow the dam breach to occur in the easterly flashboard section to eliminate downstream siltation that occurred with the historic breach of the gravel berm. The berm would then be washed downstream during winter high flows. Downstream gravel transport is a natural function of the river and the project will not alter this condition.

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<sup>8</sup> *Fault-rupture Hazard Zones in California*. Special Publication 42. Revised 1997. Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. Healdsburg Quadrangle.

- c. Would the project 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?

**LS** The project is located within the Russian River channel, predominantly on alluvial gravel. Project design includes sheet pile cutoff walls and driven steel H piles extending into pre-drilled sockets that extend into bedrock to ensure stability of the dam foundation. Appropriate design according to professional standards and regulations contained in the most recent edition of the UBC and California Building Code will ensure that any unstable soil-related risk of dam failure is less than significant.

- d. Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

**NI** The project is not located on expansive soils. See item (c.) above.

- e. Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

**NI** The project does not utilize septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal.

## Cumulative Impacts

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to geology and soils resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

## Mitigation Measures

No adverse environmental impacts to geology and soils have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

## VII HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

### Analysis

- a. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

**NI** The project will not involve the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials. No impact is expected.

- b. Would the project 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?

**LSM** Construction of the flashboard dam, raising the flashboards during the inundation period and continued use of a partial gravel impoundment during Phase I would use diesel and/or gas construction equipment. Such activities have the potential for accidental discharge of fuel or hydraulic fluid. Mitigation Measure HM1 reduces such potential to a less than significant level.

- c. Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

**NI** The project will not emit hazardous emission or entail the use of hazardous materials.

- d. Would the project 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?

**NI** The project is not located on any list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5<sup>9</sup>.

- 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 for people residing or working in the project area?

**NI** The project is not within an airport land use plan. The Healdsburg Municipal Airport is approximately 3.5 miles northwesterly of the project site but is not included within the land use plan<sup>10</sup>.

- f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

**NI** The project is not in the vicinity of a private airstrip.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/CorteseList/default.htm>

<sup>10</sup> *Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan for Sonoma County*. 2001. Airport Land Use Commission.

- g. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

**NI** The project will not impair an emergency response or evacuation plan. The project is located within the Russian River channel and will not have any impact to emergency response in the area.

- h. Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

**LSM** There is the potential for wildland fires in the project vicinity as the area to either side of the Russian River in the project area is forested. The project itself will not increase the likelihood of fires in the area. Project construction will occur within the Russian River channel which is generally devoid of or very sparsely vegetated. While the dam project itself will not increase the risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, there is a remote possibility that a spark from construction vehicles or equipment could ignite a fire. Mitigation Measure HM2 is provided to reduce such impact to an insignificant level.

## Cumulative Impacts

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to or from hazards/hazardous materials resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

## Mitigation Measures

**HM1** In the event of an accidental spill, the contractor shall be required to follow the provisions of § 5163 through 5167 of the General Industry Safety Orders (California Code of Regulations, Title 8) to protect the project area from being contaminated by accidental release of any hazardous materials. If hazardous materials are encountered during construction or occur as a result of an accidental spill, the contractor shall halt construction immediately, notify the District, and implement remediation in accordance with the project specifications and applicable requirements of the RWQCB. Disposal of all hazardous materials shall be in compliance with current California hazardous waste disposal laws.

In addition, the contractor shall do the following to minimize the potential for accidental discharges within the Russian River:

- Equipment fueling and repair shall not occur within the banks of the Russian River and shall only be conducted on an appropriate surface and with appropriate spill prevention and remediation equipment on-site.
- Equipment shall be inspected for leaks daily and any leaks discovered shall be repaired prior to use.

**HM2** The project plans and specifications shall require that construction vehicles and equipment have appropriate exhaust systems and/or spark-arresting devices installed and that vehicles and equipment be parked appropriately away from combustible materials.

## VIII HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

### Analysis

- a. Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

**LSM** In 2002, the RWQCB noted sedimentation and siltation downstream of the gravel dam after it had been breached. Based on that, the RWQCB required the District to cease use of the gravel berm. In spring of 2003, the District applied for a new Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB for a dam project that utilized an inflatable dam, eliminating the need to breach a gravel dam and significantly reducing downstream sedimentation. In practice, the inflatable dam did not function to retain the impounded water. Subsequently, the District has begun design of the currently proposed flashboard summer dam to be constructed in two phases. Phase I would still use a gravel berm on the westerly portion of the dam but the berm would not be breached so downstream sedimentation during low flow conditions would be avoided. The Phase II project would not use any gravel berm so high flow redeposition of the westerly gravel berm would not occur. It is expected that this new project significantly improves water quality over the historical gravel impoundment and supports continued beneficial uses while reducing downstream sedimentation. This is considered a beneficial impact.

Additionally, Mitigation Measure BR1 contained in the Biological Resources section, requires the District to obtain permits from USACE (Section 404), RWQCB (Section 401 Water Quality Certification) and CDFG (Streambed Alteration Agreement) to ensure that impacts to special status species and riparian habitat are minimized to a level of less than significant.

- b. Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

**NI** The project is an on-stream summertime dam. No impact to ground water supplies or recharge would occur.

- c. Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

**LS** The project will impound Russian River flows behind the summer flashboard dam. Historically, the gravel berm used for the dam would be breached and the impounded water would flow through the breach, resulting in downstream siltation. The new flashboard dam would eliminate that breach and reduce associated downstream sedimentation. Any sedimentation associated with raising and lowering the flashboard dam is considered to be less than significant.

- d. Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

**NI** The project will impound Russian River flows behind the summer flashboard dam. However, flows will continue downstream from underflow and water exiting the impoundment area via the dam's spillway. All water impounded will be contained within the river channel. Lowering of the flashboards during wintertime flows will ensure that there is no impediment to flows that would result in flooding.

- e. Would the project 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?

**NI** The project will not create or contribute runoff water or utilize a storm water drainage system.

- f. Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

**NI** Please see the response to item (a.) above.

- g. Would the project place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

**NI** The project is located within a 100-year flood hazard area but does not include housing.

- h. Would the project place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

**NI** The project is located within a 100-year flood hazard area. The stoplog flashboard dam will be dismantled or lowered prior to wintertime flows and will not impede or redirect those flows. Summertime impoundment will be contained within the river channel as has historically occurred. The east and west abutments will not impede or redirect flows<sup>11</sup>.

- i. Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

**LS** The new summertime flashboard dam will impound water within the river channel in a similar fashion to that of the historic gravel berm. Phase I will include the continued use of the gravel berm on the western side of the existing spillway. Breaching the summer dam will involve lowering the flashboards in a fashion that slowly releases impounded water. All water would be contained by the river channel and historic observation of previous breaches shows that the surge in water does not travel far downstream. The District does not allow the initial breach to occur until the area downstream of the dam is free of people. The risk of injury or death due to the failure of the summer dam is considered to be less than significant.

- j. Would the project be subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

**NI** The project are is not subject to seiche, tsunami or mudflow.

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<sup>11</sup> Personal communication. Charles Logie, project engineer. 2007.

## **Cumulative Impacts**

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to hydrology/water quality resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

## **Mitigation Measures**

No adverse environmental impacts to hydrology or water quality have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

## IX LAND USE AND PLANNING

### Analysis

- a. Would the project physically divide an established community?

**NI** The project will not divide a physically established community. The Del Rio Woods summertime recreation area has been a part of the community for the past century and the new dam would continue that historical use.

- b. Would the project conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

**NI** The project does not conflict with applicable land use and zoning designations.

- c. Would the project conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

**NI** There are no habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans in the project area.

### Cumulative Impacts

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to land use and planning resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

### Mitigation Measures

No adverse environmental impacts to land use and planning have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

## **X MINERAL RESOURCES**

### **Analysis**

- a. Would the project 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?

**NI** The project is located within the Russian River channel that supports aggregate materials and mining operations. Generally, aggregate transport downstream in the river occurs during the winter high flow months when the dam will be lowered. Implementation of the project will not result in the loss of aggregate materials in the river.

- b. Would the project 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?

**NI** The project is not located within a mineral resource recovery site delineated in the Sonoma County Resource Aggregate Management Plan.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to mineral resources resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No adverse environmental impacts to mineral resources have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

## XI NOISE

### Analysis

- a. Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

**NI** The project will not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels. As a summer dam project at the site of similar historical use, the project is not noise inducing. The Del Rio Woods beach is open from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. so beach noise is constrained to daytime hours.

- b. Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

**LSM** Sheet pile and steel H pile driving will be required during about a one to two week period during construction of Phase I and Phase II of the dam. Pile driving can result in ground borne vibration and noise. The nearest residences are approximately 200 feet distance from the pile driving activities. Mitigation Measure N1 will restrict pile driving to the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Based on the distance to the nearest residences, time constraints imposed by Mitigation Measure N1 and limited duration of pile driving activities, impacts from ground borne vibrations are considered to be less than significant.

- c. Would the project result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

**NI** The project will not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels. As a summer dam project at the site of similar historical use, the project is not noise inducing.

- d. Would the project result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

**LSM** As indicated in (b.) above, there will be a temporary increase in noise levels due to pile driving as well as other construction related activities. Mitigation Measure N1 is proposed to reduce temporary increases in construction related noise to acceptable levels.

- 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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

**NI** The project is not located within an airport land use plan.

- f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

**NI** The project is not located within the vicinity of an airstrip.

## Cumulative Impacts

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to noise resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

## Mitigation Measures

- N1** The project plans and specifications shall provide for the following:
1. All equipment and vehicles used for construction will be maintained in proper mechanical condition with engine mufflers installed.
  2. The contractor shall locate stationary construction equipment, such as generators and/or air compressors, as far as possible from sensitive residential property boundaries. Such equipment shall be turned off when not in use.
  3. The District shall establish a Noise Disturbance Coordinator to respond to noise complaints associated with the project, especially during pile driving operations.
  4. Construction activities shall generally be restricted to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Noise generating construction activities shall generally be prohibited on Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. Should special circumstances necessitate performance of construction work outside the hours and days specified herein, the contractor may request and the District's Construction Manager may approve such work.
  5. Pile driving activities shall be restricted to the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## **XII POPULATION AND HOUSING**

### **Analysis**

- a. Would the project induce substantial 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)?

**NI** The project will not induce population growth. It is essentially a replacement of a historically operated recreational facility.

- b. Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

**NI** The project will not displace any housing.

- c. Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

**NI** The project will not displace any people.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to population and housing resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No adverse environmental impacts to population and housing have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

## **XIII PUBLIC SERVICES**

### **Analysis**

- 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:
  - i. Fire protection?

**NI** The project will not impact fire protection. The area has been used as a recreational site for the past century. Fire protection and/or emergency response is not expected to increase by the site's continued use as a recreational area.
  - ii. Police protection?

**NI** The project will not impact police protection. The area has been used as a recreational site for the past century. Police protection and/or emergency response is not expected to increase by the site's continued use as a recreational area.
  - iii. Schools?

**NI** The project will have no impact to schools.
  - iv. Parks?

**NI** The project will allow for the continued use of the site as the Del Rio Woods summer recreation area. This is considered a beneficial impact.
  - v. Other public facilities?

**NI** The project will not impact other public facilities.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to public services resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No adverse environmental impacts to public services have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

## **XIV RECREATION**

### **Analysis**

- 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?

**NI** Implementation of the project is not anticipated to increase use of the swim area. The facility has historically been used for summer recreation and the summertime dam has been in existence for much of the time.

- 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 environment?

**NI** The project does not expand the existing recreational facility, only the nature of the dam. It is expected that the new flashboard dam will improve the environment compared to the historically used gravel berm by reducing downstream sediments during dam removal.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to recreation resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

### **Mitigation Measures**

No adverse environmental impacts to recreation have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

## **XV TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC**

### **Analysis**

- a. Would the project cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?

**NI** The project will not increase traffic loads in the project vicinity beyond historical levels. The dam is essentially a replacement project and will not generate any new trips to or from the facility.

- b. Would the project exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

**NI** The project will not exceed any level of service. As indicated in (a.) above, the project is essentially a replacement project and does not increase trips to or from the site.

- c. Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

**NI** The project will not impact air traffic patterns.

- d. Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

**NI** The project will not result in transportation or traffic related hazards.

- e. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

**NI** Existing emergency access to the site via Fitch Mountain Road and the Del Rio Woods parking lot will remain intact during construction and during times that the recreation facility is open.

- f. Would the project result in inadequate parking capacity?

**NI** As indicated in (a.) above, the dam is a replacement project and will not impact existing parking capacity at the Del Rio Woods parking lot.

- g. Would the project conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

**NI** The project will have no impact to alternative transportation.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to transportation/traffic resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

## Mitigation Measures

No adverse environmental impacts to transportation/traffic have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

## XVI UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

### Analysis

- a. Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?  
**NI** The project will not generate wastewater and will have no impact to wastewater treatment requirements.
- b. Would the project require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?  
**NI** The project is not growth inducing and does not require or result in construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities.
- c. Would the project require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?  
**NI** The project will not result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities. The summertime dam will be lowered in the winter to avoid any impact to high flows in the Russian River.
- d. Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?  
**NI** The project does not require new or expanded entitlements.
- e. Would the project 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?  
**NI** The project is not growth inducing and will not result in an increase of wastewater.
- f. Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?  
**NI** Replacement of the summer dam is not expected to change historical use of the recreational facility and will not increase solid waste disposal needs.

### Cumulative Impacts

There are no adverse cumulative environmental impacts to utilities and service systems resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

## Mitigation Measures

No adverse environmental impacts to utilities and service systems have been identified; therefore, no mitigation is required.

## **XVII MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

- a. Does the project have the potential to 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, 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? **No.**
- 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)? **No.**
- c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? **No.**

# DETERMINATION

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.

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*Signature*

Justice Donald B. King, President

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*Printed Name*

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*Date*

For:

Del Rio Woods Recreation and  
Park District

## DOCUMENT PREPARATION

### Prepared by:

Justin Witt—Environmental Planner, Brelje & Race

Charles Logie—Principal, LTD Engineering, Inc.

### Additional Sources:

*Water Quality Certification Application for an Inflatable Dam.* Prepared by Fred Euphrat, Soil & Water, Inc. March 4, 2003.

*Stream Inventory and Assessment Report—Del Rio Woods Summer Dam, Russian River, California.* Dennis Haligan, Natural Resources Management Corporation. December 17, 2001.

*Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study and Mitigation and Monitoring Plan—Del Rio Woods Summer Dam Project.* Prepared by Brian R. Wirtz with environmental analysis prepared by Fred Euphrat, Soil & Water, Inc. April 2003.

*Biological Opinion—Issuance of a section 404 permit for the placement of the Del Rio Woods temporary summer dam in the Russian River near the town of Healdsburg, California.* National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Region. File Number 151422SWR04SR9142. Issued April 6, 2004.

# MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN

## Del Rio Woods Summer Dam

Pursuant to Section 21081.6 of the State CEQA Guidelines<sup>1</sup>, the mitigation measures listed in this Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) are to be implemented as part of the proposed project. The MMRP identifies the time at which each mitigation measure is to be implemented and the person or entity responsible for implementation. The initials of the designated responsible person will indicate completion of their portion of the mitigation measure. The Del Rio Woods Recreation and Park District (District) Project Manger's signature on the Certification of Compliance will indicate complete implementation of the MMRP.

The mitigation measures included in the MMRP are considered conditions of approval of the proposed project. The District agrees to implement the mitigation measures proposed in the MMRP. Implementation of the mitigation measures included in the MMRP is expected to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

### TIME OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Project Design: The mitigation measure will be incorporated into the project design and/or included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction contract.
- Pre-construction: The mitigation measure will be implemented prior to project construction.
- Construction: The mitigation measure will be implemented during construction.
- Post-construction: The mitigation measure will be implemented after construction.

### RESPONSIBLE PERSONS AND DEPARTMENTS

The District will be responsible for the overall implementation of the MMRP. Generally, the District's Project Manger will sign off on the mitigation measures included in the MMRP. Periodically, other District staff or regulatory agencies will be involved in the implementation of specific mitigation measures. In these instances, the staff, department, or agency will be identified in the MMRP.

### CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

The District will be responsible for providing signatures on the Certification of Compliance. The Certification of Compliance is a double-check to ensure that the MMRP was fully implemented.

### RECORD KEEPING

The District's Project Manger will maintain the records of the MMRP. When the MMRP is fully implemented, the original signed copy will be maintained by the District.

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<sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations Title 14.

## CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

Complete the Certification of Compliance after mitigation measures have all been initialed. Use this Certification of Compliance to ensure the full implementation of each mitigation measure.

### Project Design

The District's Project Manger has reviewed the project design, the plans, and the contract special provisions to verify that designated mitigation measures have been incorporated.

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*Signature & title*

*Date*

- BR1 Biological Resources
- CR1 Cultural Resources
- CR2 Cultural Resources
- CR3 Cultural Resources
- HM1 Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- HM2 Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- N1 Noise

### Pre-construction

The District's Project Manger has verified that designated mitigation measures were implemented prior to construction.

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*Signature & title*

*Date*

- BR1 Biological Resources

### Construction

The District's Project Manger has verified that designated mitigation measures were implemented during construction.

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*Signature & title*

*Date*

- BR1 Biological Resources
- CR1 Cultural Resources
- CR2 Cultural Resources
- CR3 Cultural Resources
- HM1 Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- HM2 Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- N1 Noise



## CULTURAL RESOURCES

**CR1** *The project plans and specifications shall provide that in the event prehistoric-era or historic-era archaeological site indicators are unearthed during the course of grading, excavation and/or trenching, all ground disturbing work in the vicinity of the discovery shall cease and all exposed materials shall be left in place. Prehistoric-era archaeological site indicators could include chipped chert and obsidian tools and tool manufacture waste flakes, grinding implements such as mortars and pestles, and locally darkened soil containing the previously mentioned items as well as fire altered stone and dietary debris such as bone and shellfish fragments. Historic-era archaeological site indicators could include items of ceramic, glass and metal, and features such as structural ruins, wells and pits containing such artifacts. After cessation of excavation, the contractor shall immediately contact the District. The District shall contact a qualified professional archaeologist immediately after the find. Such archaeologist shall conduct an evaluation of significance of the site, and assess the necessity for mitigation. The contractor shall not resume construction activities until authorization to proceed is received from the District.*

### Implementation & Monitoring

Project Design: District's Project Manager will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction contract.

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Initials

Date

Construction: District's Project Manager will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction by having a qualified staff person present during ground disturbing work.

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Initials

Date

**CR2** *The project plans and specifications shall provide that in the event paleontological site indicators are unearthed during the course of grading, excavation and/or trenching, all ground disturbing work in the vicinity of the discovery shall cease and all exposed materials shall be left in place. After cessation of excavation, the contractor shall immediately contact the District. The District shall contact a qualified professional geologist or paleontologist immediately after the find. Such consultant shall conduct an evaluation of significance of the site, and assess the necessity for mitigation. The contractor shall not resume construction activities until authorization to proceed is received from the District.*

### Implementation & Monitoring

Project Design: District's Project Manager will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction contract.

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Initials

Date

Construction: District's Project Manager will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction by having a qualified staff person present during ground disturbing work.

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Initials

Date

**CR3** *If human remains are encountered during grading, excavation or trenching, all construction activity shall cease and the contractor shall immediately contact the District and the Sonoma County Coroner's Office. If the remains are determined by the Coroner's Office to be of Native American origin, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted and the procedures outlined in CEQA §15064.5(e) shall be implemented by the District or its designee.*

**Implementation & Monitoring**

Project Design: District's Project Manager will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction contract.

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*Initials* *Date*

Construction: District's Project Manager will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction by having a qualified staff person present during ground disturbing work.

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*Initials* *Date*

## HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

**HM1** *In the event of an accidental spill, the contractor shall be required to follow the provisions of § 5163 through 5167 of the General Industry Safety Orders (California Code of Regulations, Title 8) to protect the project area from being contaminated by accidental release of any hazardous materials. If hazardous materials are encountered during construction or occur as a result of an accidental spill, the contractor shall halt construction immediately, notify the District, and implement remediation in accordance with the project specifications and applicable requirements of the RWQCB. Disposal of all hazardous materials shall be in compliance with current California hazardous waste disposal laws.*

*In addition, the contractor shall do the following to minimize the potential for accidental discharges within the Russian River:*

- 1. Equipment fueling and repair shall not occur within the banks of the Russian River and shall only be conducted on an appropriate surface and with appropriate spill prevention and remediation equipment on-site.*
- 2. Equipment shall be inspected for leaks daily and any leaks discovered shall be repaired prior to use.*

### Implementation & Monitoring

Project Design: District's Project Manager will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and included in the project specifications prior to awarding a construction contract.

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*Initials*

*Date*

Construction: District's Project Manager will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**HM2** *The project plans and specifications shall require that construction vehicles and equipment have appropriate exhaust systems and/or spark-arresting devices installed and that vehicles and equipment be parked appropriately away from combustible materials.*

### Implementation & Monitoring

Project Design: District's Project Manager will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and included in the project specifications prior to awarding a construction contract.

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*Initials*

*Date*

Construction: District's Project Manager will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials*

*Date*

**NOISE**

**N1** *The project plans and specifications shall provide for the following:*

- 1. All equipment and vehicles used for construction will be maintained in proper mechanical condition with engine mufflers installed.*
- 2. The contractor shall locate stationery construction equipment, such as generators and/or air compressors, as far as possible from sensitive residential property boundaries. Such equipment shall be turned off when not in use.*
- 3. The District shall establish a Noise Disturbance Coordinator to respond to noise complaints associated with the project, especially during pile driving operations.*
- 4. Construction activities shall generally be restricted to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Noise generating construction activities shall generally be prohibited on Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. Should special circumstances necessitate performance of construction work outside the hours and days specified herein, the contractor may request and the District's Construction Manger may approve such work.*
- 5. Pile driving activities shall be restricted to the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.*

**Implementation & Monitoring**

Project Design: District's Project Manager will verify that the mitigation measure is incorporated into the project design and included in the project specifications and contract special provisions prior to awarding a construction contract.

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*Initials* *Date*

Construction: District's Project Manager will verify that the mitigation measure is implemented during construction.

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*Initials* *Date*