



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
NORTH COAST REDWOODS DISTRICT
P.O. Box 2006
Eureka, CA 95502-2006

Ruth G. Coleman, Director

IN REPLY REFER TO
D-22 (REDW)

June 26, 2007

Interested Parties:

On behalf of California State Parks North Coast Redwoods District, we are enclosing for your review a Draft Recirculated Revised Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration (Recirculated RIS/MND) for the Redwood Maintenance Facility Relocation Environmental Assessment (EA). This document is being recirculated to present a change in the water system that would serve the new maintenance facility proposed to be constructed on Aubell Lane off Elk Valley Road near Crescent City in Del Norte County. Under the Revised IS/MND, circulated June, 2005, the water supply would have been obtained from the City of Crescent City municipal water supply by connecting to the proposed water system on adjacent Elk Valley Rancheria property. After further site-specific planning, this proposal was determined to be infeasible. The project as now proposed would have an on-site water system consisting of a water well, water storage tank and distribution lines, which would provide water for potable water uses and fire flow. Except for the waterline to the water tank the project would take place within the same footprint as that for the new maintenance facility. The Recirculated RIS/MND analyzes the environmental effects that would occur with the implementation of this on-site water system.

The proposed Aubell maintenance facility would consolidate federal and State maintenance operations, and would be jointly operated by NPS and CDPR. It would replace a CDPR maintenance complex formerly located at Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park that was irreparably damaged by fire. The facility would also replace an existing NPS maintenance facility at the Requa area, which would be restored to a natural state to the extent feasible. Because Aubell is currently on state-owned land, CDPR would transfer to NPS the land and road and utility rights of way needed to construct the facility. This project was analyzed pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act in the Redwood Maintenance Facility Relocation Environmental Assessment and Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, released for public review in December 2004, California State Clearinghouse #2004122039.

The Revised IS/MND was initially circulated in June, 2005 to reflect a change in location at Aubell in response to public input on the original proposal. Neighbors expressed concerns about the impacts on their neighborhood. The project would now be developed at the "Midway" site to move it back to a well-screened area that is about 1000 feet from the nearest house. This Draft Recirculated RIS/MND contains a hard copy of the project description; a list of the changes shown in underlining and strikeouts, with explanations; mitigations, and the reasons for them; and a CD of all of the previous MND documents.

There will be a 30-day comment period on the Recirculated RIS/MND. Following the comment period, all comments from this and the earlier public review period will be

analyzed. A Notice of Determination may be prepared for this document and, if approved, project construction would likely take place from approximately fall 2007 through spring 2009.

We appreciate your interest in this planning effort and welcome your participation. Questions regarding project specifics should be directed to Jeff Bomke or Ray Cozby, project managers, at 707/465-7332 or 7303.

Comments must be submitted in writing by July 31, 2007 and may be sent to:

Mail: Valerie Gizinski
ATTN.: Redwood Maintenance Facility Relocation
South Operations Center
PO Box 7
Orick, California 95555

Fax: 707/488-6485
Email: vgizinski@parks.ca.gov

All inquiries regarding environmental compliance for this project should be addressed to Valerie Gizinski at the address above, or at 707 465-7789.

Sincerely,

Steve Horvitz
District Superintendent