



NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

From: Department of Parks and Recreation
Northern Buttes District
400 Glen Dr.
Oroville, CA 95966

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination, in compliance with §21108 of the Public Resources Code

Project Title: Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park, Habitat Restoration and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Development Project

State Clearinghouse Number: 2007082160

Contact Person: Denise Reichenberg

Phone: (530) 895-4304

Project Location: Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park, Butte County, California

Project Description:

State Parks, with planning assistance from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), is proposing to implement the project on two parcels known as the Singh Unit and Nicolaus property (collectively known as the project site) along the Sacramento River within and adjacent to Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park (BSRSP or Park), west of the City of Chico in Butte County, California. The Singh Unit is owned by State Parks and located within BSRSP. The Nicolaus property is currently owned by TNC, but would be transferred to State Parks, as part of the proposed project, prior to implementation of habitat restoration activities and recreation facilities development. After transfer of the Nicolaus property to State Parks, the current BSRSP headquarters (located in the Indian Fisheries subunit) would be relocated to the existing farm complex on the Nicolaus property, which is on higher, less frequently flooded ground than the current headquarters location. Both the Singh Unit and Nicolaus property are currently in agricultural production (walnut and/or almond orchards). There is a Williamson Act contract on the Nicolaus property. Prior to habitat restoration or recreation facilities development on the Nicolaus property, the contract will either be phased out, amended or a new contract will be executed, which allows for such uses.

Habitat Restoration

The first project objective is to restore natural topography and vegetation on the Singh Unit and natural vegetation on the Nicolaus property. This includes the removal of two human-made berms on the Singh Unit; the removal of orchards from both properties; the removal of nonnative vegetation (including eucalyptus trees on the Singh Unit adjacent to River Road); and restoration of the following natural communities:

- cottonwood mixed riparian forest,
- valley oak savannah,
- mixed riparian forest,
- valley oak riparian forest, and
- native grasslands.

The Singh Unit and Nicolaus property present a unique opportunity for habitat restoration because they are located near the confluence of the Sacramento River, Big Chico Creek, and Mud Creek. The protection and restoration of habitat on these two parcels will aid in the recovery of special-status species, rehabilitate natural processes along the river, protect and restore riparian habitat, and improve water quality.

Outdoor Recreation Facilities Development

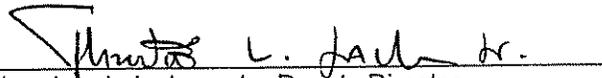
The second project objective is to develop outdoor recreation facilities on both the Nicolaus property and the Singh Unit. The inclusion of the Nicolaus property within BSRSP, and restoration of the Nicolaus property and the Singh Unit, presents an opportunity to enhance and expand the Park's recreational and public access opportunities. Therefore, the project will include the creation of new trails on both properties, aligned to connect with existing and proposed trails and facilities within the Park. It will also result in the construction of new day-use and overnight camping facilities on the Nicolaus property. The Park headquarters will be

relocated to the existing farm complex on the Nicolaus property, which is on higher, less frequently flooded ground compared to the current headquarters location. By expanding outdoor recreation facilities and restoring habitat at BSRSP, this project will increase public accessibility to the middle reach of the Sacramento River, while providing more habitats for riparian plant species and river-dependent wildlife.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has approved this project and has made the following determinations:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
 The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Negative Declaration was prepared and adopted, pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
 A Final Environmental Impact Report has been completed in compliance with CEQA, and has been presented to the decision-making body of this Department for its independent review and consideration of the information, prior to approval of the project.
3. Mitigation measures were were not made conditions of project approval.
4. A Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan was was not prepared for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project
6. Findings were were not made on environmental effects of the project

The Environmental Impact Report and record of project approval may be examined at the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Valley Sector Office, located at 525 The Esplanade, Chico California 95926.



Theodore L. Jackson Jr., Deputy Director
Park Operations

10-14-08
Date

