

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY / NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION / NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**M&T Chico Ranch/Llano Seco Rancho Fish Screen Facility Short-term Protection Project
Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study, Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact,
and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announce the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS), Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the M&T Chico Ranch/Llano Seco Rancho Fish Screen Facility Short-term Protection Project. These documents have been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Project Location and Description

The Proposed Project involves implementation of interim measures to protect and maintain the viability of the M&T Chico Ranch/Llano Seco Rancho fish screen and pumping facility (M&T/Llano Seco Pumps Facility), located on the Sacramento River at approximately River Mile 192.5. These measures include: (1) implementation of up to two additional maintenance dredging operations; (2) a time extension for the temporary rock-toe and tree revetment to remain in place on the USFWS Capay Unit of the SRNWR, and what is now The Nature Conservancy (TNC) fee title property immediately south of the Capay Unit until a long-term solution is developed and completed; and (3) ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the revetment, which would extend until a long-term solution is developed and completed. Implementation of these measures, in concert, are intended to sustain the viability of the M&T/Llano Seco Pumps Facility, including meeting existing fish screen criteria, and water supply and delivery responsibilities, as well as to maintain the viability of a range of alternatives under consideration for a long-term solution.

USFWS and CDFW have determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment based upon the EA/IS. A proposed FONSI and a proposed MND have been prepared in accordance with these findings. No final decision on the FONSI or the MND will be made by the Lead Agencies until after the public review period is completed and comments are considered.

Document Review and Availability

The Draft EA/IS, Proposed FONSI, and Proposed MND will be available for a 45-day public review period beginning on December 18, 2013. Written comments on the document should be received at the address shown below no later than January 31, 2014.

As part of the NEPA/CEQA process, a public meeting also will be held to provide interested parties with an opportunity to provide verbal or written comments on the Draft EA/IS. Information regarding the public meeting is provided below.

DATE: **January 10, 2014**

TIMES: **Afternoon Session – 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**
 Evening Session – 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

LOCATION: **Chico Masonic Family Center, 1110 West East Avenue, Chico, CA**

Comments submitted during the public review period will be considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to approval of the project and will be used informing the process and final decision on issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact and Mitigated Negative Declaration under NEPA and CEQA.

Electronic copies of the Draft EA/IS, Proposed FONSI, and Proposed MND are available at the following websites:

- ❑ Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum Website – <http://www.sacramentoriver.org/srcaf>
- ❑ Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge Website – http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento_River/

Hardcopies of the Draft EA/IS, Proposed FONSI, and Proposed MND are available for public review at the following locations:

- ❑ California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
- ❑ United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 752 County Road 99W Willows, California 95988
- ❑ Butte County Library, Chico Branch, 1108 Sherman Avenue, Chico, California 95926
- ❑ Willows Library, 201 N Lassen Street, Willows, California 95988

Under the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, CDFW and USFWS will provide documentation in alternate formats to individuals with disabilities. To obtain such services, please contact Tina Johnson, CDFW Public Information Officer, at 916-651-1214.

Written comments may be mailed to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Attention Ms. Katherine Hill
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Or

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Attention Mr. Daniel W. Frisk
752 County Road 99 W
Willows, CA 95988

Comments may also be submitted electronically to: M&TLlanoSecoProject@hdrinc.com