



CITY OF REDDING

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PLANNING DIVISION

777 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001-2718

P.O. Box 496071, Redding, CA 96049-6071

530.225.4020 FAX 530.225.4495

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

State Clearinghouse No. _____

SUBJECT

Lake Redding Boat Ramp Rehabilitation Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Lake Redding boat ramp will be widened 10 feet and extended 25 feet into the river to improve low-flow access and to make the facility more user-friendly. Boaters are currently unable to use the ramp during low-flow conditions, because the ramp does not extend into the water during that time. Steel pylons associated with the floating aluminum dock will be replaced to provide a stronger anchor system for the dock. The parking lot will be used for contractor staging and materials storage. The boat ramp will be closed during construction, which is anticipated to last 60 to 90 days.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The boat ramp is located within the City-owned Caldwell Park along the Sacramento River. The park has facilities such as lawn areas, a swimming-pool complex, recreation center, skate park, and playground equipment. A railroad trestle runs above and adjacent to the ramp, and Quartz Hill Road runs along the north side of the park.

The main stem Sacramento River is the dominant aquatic feature in the vicinity of the proposed project. The river channel is approximately 550 feet wide at the project site. The Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) diversion dam, which includes recently rehabilitated upstream and downstream fish-passage facilities, is located 1,400 feet downstream, and Keswick Dam, which is a complete barrier to upstream fish migration, is located about three miles upstream of the project site. The river's surface elevation in the project reach is controlled by operation of the ACID's diversion dam, which requires installation of dam boards that raise the water surface by about six feet during the irrigation season, typically from April through October, creating a run-of-the-river impoundment locally known as Lake Redding.

The riverbank and riverbed within the proposed project study area have been altered from a natural state by construction and operation of the existing boat ramp, parking area, picnic facilities, and walking trail. A narrow strand of riparian vegetation, consisting of willows and introduced eucalyptus trees, provides some shade along the riverbank immediately downstream of the boat ramp. The riverbed within the project study area is dominated by large cobble and small boulder substrates, and the channel thalweg (primary invert) occurs approximately 30 feet beyond the end of the existing boat ramp.

FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION

The City of Redding conducted an Initial Study (attached), which determined that the proposed project could have significant environmental effects. Subsequent revisions in the project proposal create the specific mitigation measures identified below. The project avoids or mitigates the potentially significant environmental effects identified, and the preparation of an environmental impact report will not be required. There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the City, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment. If there are substantial changes that alter the character or impacts of the proposed project, another environmental impact determination will be necessary.

The project includes measures to mitigate potentially significant impacts to biological resources, recreational activities, and sensitive noise receptors within the project site.

Prior to approval of the project, the lead agency may conclude, at a public hearing, that certain mitigation measures identified in the Mitigated Negative Declaration are infeasible or undesirable. In accordance with CEQA Section 15074.1, the lead agency may delete those mitigation measures and substitute other measures which it determines are equivalent or more effective. The lead agency would adopt written findings that the new measure is equivalent or more effective in mitigating or avoiding potential significant effects and that it, in itself, would not cause any potentially significant effect on the environment.

- 1. Based on the whole record (including the Initial Study and any supporting documentation) and the mitigation measures incorporated into the project, the City of Redding has determined that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.**
- 2. The Mitigated Negative Declaration, with its supporting documentation, reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the lead agency, which is the City of Redding.**

DOCUMENTATION

The attached Initial Study documents the reasons to support the above determination.

MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Construction activities will be scheduled between October 15 and December 15 to minimize impacts to spawning and incubating salmon.
2. Vibratory pile-driving equipment will be used for installing the sheet piles for the coffer dams and for the floating-dock pylons. Standard hammer-style pile drivers will not be used.
3. Large rock will be placed on the sides and end of the dock that will provide enhanced rearing and cover habitat for salmon.
4. Removal of shaded riparian aquatic (SRA) habitat will be avoided by using cranes or other similar equipment as needed to place materials and drive sheet piles.

5. All work will occur within a coffer dam to isolate work activities from the river and to minimize water-quality degradation. The work site within the coffer dam will be dewatered to a detention/sedimentation basin located in the parking lot to prevent concrete, sediment, and other pollutants from entering the river. The basin will be used to remove pollutants to the extent feasible, using the best available technology and the best conventional technology (BAT/BCT) prior to discharge back to the river.
6. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented, and monitoring will be conducted as needed to ensure that turbidity levels do not exceed the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Basin Plan standard of 20 percent of background. Standard BMPs will be used, such as straw bales and wattles, silt fence, and mulching.
7. All conditions will be implemented as required in resource agency permits for the project. Permits will include a Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement, RWQCB Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements, and a permit from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
8. All reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions of the Biological Opinion obtained for the project from the federal National Marine Fisheries Service will be implemented to ensure effects to threatened and endangered species are minimized to the extent feasible. All conditions of the DFG Consistency Determination will be also followed to minimize effects to State-listed sensitive species.
9. A spill contingency plan will be written which outlines management of hazardous materials, maintenance of equipment, and contingency procedures in the event of a hazardous materials spill.

PUBLIC REVIEW DISTRIBUTION

Draft copies or notice of this Mitigated Negative Declaration were distributed to:

- State Clearinghouse
- Shasta County Clerk of the Board
- Butte Environmental Council
- California Native Plant Society
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Department of Fish and Game
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- State Lands Commission
- State Reclamation Board
- State Boating and Waterways
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Shasta County Sheriff's Office
- Shasta County Department of Resource Management
- Shasta County Public Works

- Shasta County Air Quality Management District
- Shasta County Historic Society
- Shasta County Library
- Sacramento River Preservation Trust
- City of Redding Police Department
- City of Redding Fire Department
- All property owners within 300 feet of the property boundary

PUBLIC REVIEW

- (✓) Draft document referred for comments September 2, 2005.
- () No comments were received during the public review period.
- () Comments were received but did not address the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration findings or the accuracy/completeness of the Initial Study. No response is necessary. The letters are attached.
- () Comments addressing the findings of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and/or accuracy or completeness of the Initial Study were received during the public review period. The letters and responses follow (see Response to Comments, attached).

Copies of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Initial Study, documentation materials, and the Mitigation Monitoring Program may be obtained from the Development Services Department, City of Redding, 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001. Contact Jonathan Oldham, Environmental Compliance Manager, at 530-225-4046.

September 1, 2005
Date of Draft Report



Jonathan Oldham
Environmental Compliance Manager

Date of Final Report

JO:amf
Envirdoc05\MND-LakeRdgramp.wpd
Attachments:

- A. Location map
- B. Initial Study
- C. Mitigation Monitoring Program
- D. Comments and Response to Comments (if any)