Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

☒ Office of Planning and Research

For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ County Clerk
County of: Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, and Yolo
Address: See attached page

From:

Public Agency: Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
Address: P.O. Box 1025, Willows, CA 95988

Contact: Jeff Sutton, General Manager
Phone: 530-934-2125

Lead Agency (if different from above):
_____
Address: _____
Contact: _____
Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): SCN# 2002-042-075

Project Title:
Red Bluff Diversion Dam Fish Passage Improvement Project

Project Location (include county):
Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, and Yolo Counties

Project Description:

See attached page for a brief project description.

This is to advise that the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority has approved the above
☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency
described project on June 4, 2008 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project [☒ will ☐ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☒ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
   ☐ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☒ were ☐ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the Negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at: Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
5513 Highway 162, Willows, CA

Signature (Public Agency) Jeff Sutton [Jeffrey P. Sutton] Title: General Manager

Date: June 4, 2008 Date received for filing at OPR: _____

County Clerk Addresses:

Tehama County Clerk
PO Box 250
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Colusa County Clerk
546 Jay Street, Suite 200
Colusa, CA 95932

Glenn County Clerk
516 West Sycamore Street
Willows, CA 95988

Yolo County Clerk
625 Court Street, Room B01
Woodland, CA

Project Description:

Since construction of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) in the mid-1960s, concern has been expressed regarding the dam's effect on both upstream and downstream anadromous fish migration. The dam was built with 11 movable gates. When the gates are lowered (gates-in) into the Sacramento River, the elevation of the water surface behind the dam rises, allowing gravity diversion into the Tehama-Colusa (TC) and Corning Canals for delivery to irrigation districts. Raising the gates allows the river to flow virtually unimpeded, which allows for fish passage but precludes gravity diversion into the canals.

Over the years, the dam gates have been raised more frequently in order to enhance fish passage. As a result, the ability to divert irrigation water has been gradually decreased from year-round to the current 4-month, gates-in operation (May 15 to September 14). Detailed studies show that the current gate operations and fish ladders do not adequately allow passage of all federally threatened and endangered fish species. The need for the project reflects these two primary issues: improvement of the long-term ability to reliably pass anadromous fish and other species of concern, both upstream and downstream, past RBDD; and improvement of the long-term ability to reliably and cost-effectively move sufficient water into the TC and Corning Canal systems.

The Draft EIS/EIR evaluated project alternatives that could address the aforementioned issues. The selected project represents a combination of alternatives that were evaluated in the Draft EIS/EIR. Project facilities will include construction of a pumping plant at the Mill Site with an initial installed capacity of 2,180 cubic feet per second (cfs) and a footprint that will allow expansion to 2,500 cfs, if necessary. Prior to completing construction of the new pumping plant, the current 4-month gates-in operation (May 15 through September 15) will continue.

Reclamation currently anticipates operating RBDD with the gates in between July 1 and the end of the Labor Day weekend after the pumping plant has been constructed and is operational. TCCA does not advocate a change in gate operations, but will defer to CVP-OCAP findings and subsequent ESA determinations.