

Public Notice

Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration for the M&T Chico Ranch/Llano Seco Rancho Pumping Plant Maintenance of Channel Alignment Sacramento River Mile 192.5

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) announce the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (EA/IS-MND) for the M&T Chico Ranch/Llano Seco Rancho Pumping Plant Maintenance of Channel Alignment Sacramento River Mile 192.5. The EA/IS-MND has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The proposed project involves the placement of 1520 feet of rock toe and tree revetment on the west side of the Sacramento River at River Mile 192.5 on land owned and managed by USFWS as part of the Capay Unit of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge to protect the M&T Chico Ranch/Llano Seco Rancho pumping plant by stabilizing the site. The proposed project also includes evaluation of a gravel bar adjacent to Bidwell-Sacramento State Park. River meander and sediment deposition jeopardizes the continued operation of the M&T Chico Ranch/Llano Seco Rancho pumping facility and the outfall for the City of Chico Wastewater Treatment Plant. The pumping facility was relocated from Big Chico Creek to the present location in 1997 to reduce impacts on spring-run and winter-run Chinook salmon with funds made available pursuant to the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Bay-Delta Accord Category III, Wildlife funds, Wildlife Conservation Board funds and Ducks Unlimited funds.

The document is being circulated for a 30-day review and comment period. Written comments on the document should be received by the agencies at the addresses shown below no later than September 7, 2007. Any written comments received will be considered by the agencies in preparing the final EA/IS-MND.

- Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Attention: Kevin Foerster, 752 County Road 99W, Willows, CA 95988;
- DFG, Attention: Tracy McReynolds, 2545 Zanella Way, Suite F, Chico, CA 95928.

The document is available for review at the following locations:

- Butte County Library, Chico Branch, 1108 Sherman Avenue, Chico, CA;
- City of Willows Library, 201 North Lassen Street, Willows, CA; and
- Ducks Unlimited website at <http://ducks.org/Page2444.aspx>