

Dianne Johnson

From: Hubbard, Kristin@Wildlife <Kristin.Hubbard@wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 10:35 AM
To: Dianne Johnson
Cc: McKannay, Adam@Wildlife
Subject: RE: Z2102/UP2106 15 DAY

Good morning,

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the application for the Goodwin Zone Change (Z2102) and Use Permit (UP2106) project (Project) and has the following comments:

Biological Surveys

The application addresses the completion of a biological survey on the Project site. These surveys should occur prior to any new construction or site modification to avoid impacts to natural resources that may occur on the site. A basic biological assessment would include botanical, wildlife, and habitat surveys (conducted at the appropriate time of the year) to determine whether focused or protocol-level surveys are warranted. The Department recommends all plant and wildlife species identified in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and other biological resource databases (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Native Plant Society, or other pertinent references) be analyzed for the potential to occur within the Project area.

The CNDDDB is a positive sighting database. It does not predict where something may be found. The Department maps occurrences only where we have documentation that the species was found at the site. There are many areas of the state where no surveys have been conducted and therefore there is nothing on the map. That does not mean that there are no special status species present. Field verification for the presence or absence of sensitive species and habitats is an important component of meeting CEQA requirements for adequate disclosure of potential impacts to wildlife, plants, and sensitive natural communities.

If special status species are found during surveys, occurrence information should be submitted to the Northern Region office and CNDDDB. All surveys should be conducted prior to approval of the Project and survey results shall be e-mailed to the Department at R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov.

The following should be included in the biological assessment:

1. Date/time/weather conditions during the survey(s).
2. A description of the natural environment.
3. A list of common and special status plant and wildlife species as well as habitats present onsite at the time of the survey(s).
4. Rare/local/unusual species and habitats present during the survey(s).
5. A thorough assessment of rare plants and sensitive natural communities should be conducted following the Department's March 2018 *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=18959&inline>).
6. If habitat is present for special status plants or wildlife, focused species-specific surveys should be conducted at the appropriate time of year and/or time of day when the species are active or otherwise identifiable. Acceptable species-specific survey procedures should be developed in consultation with the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Links to some survey procedures are provided on the

Department's website (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols>). All surveys should be conducted prior to approval of the Project and survey results provided in the subsequent environmental document.

7. Impacts to and maintenance of wildlife corridor/movement areas and other key seasonal use areas should be fully evaluated and disclosed.
8. A discussion of impacts associated with increased lighting, noise, human activity, impacts of free-roaming domestic animals including dogs and cats, changes in drainage patterns, changes in water volume, velocity, quantity, and quality, soil erosion, and/or sedimentation in streams and watercourses on or near the Project site.
9. Mitigation measures for adverse Project-related impacts to sensitive plants, wildlife, and habitats should be developed and thoroughly discussed. Mitigation measures should first emphasize avoidance and reduction of Project impacts. For unavoidable impacts, the feasibility of on-site habitat restoration or enhancement should be discussed. If on-site mitigation is not feasible, off-site mitigation through habitat creation, enhancement, acquisition and preservation in perpetuity should be addressed.

Botanical Surveys

If the biological assessment determines habitat for special status plant species occurs onsite, botanical surveys should be conducted. These surveys should cover the entire Project site and be conducted during the appropriate blooming period, prior to the approval of this Project. Botanical surveys should follow the Department's March 20, 2018, *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities*, available here: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=18959>.

If no special status plant species are found during the botanical survey, no other measures will be required. However, if drought conditions exist, additional pre-construction surveys for special status plant species may be warranted. If special status plant species are found during the botanical surveys, the plants should be marked by a qualified biologist familiar with the species. If the area can be avoided, exclusionary fencing will be placed around the plants and no pedestrian or vehicular entry shall be allowed. Botanical survey results shall be emailed to the Department at R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov.

California Endangered Species Act

Please be advised that a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) permit must be obtained if the project has the potential to result in "take" of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the project. Issuance of a CESA Permit is subject to CEQA documentation; the CEQA document must specify impacts, mitigation measures, and a mitigation monitoring and reporting program. If the Project will impact CESA listed species, early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to the Project and mitigation measures may be required to obtain a CESA Permit. Information on how to attain a CESA permit is available here: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/CESA/Permitting>.

Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement

For any activity that will divert or obstruct the natural flow, or change the bed, channel, or bank (which includes associated riparian resources) of a river or stream, or use material from a streambed, the Department will require a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Notification, pursuant to section 1600 et seq. of the Fish and Game Code (FGC), from the applicant. Project activities, which would be subject to LSA Notification requirements, include construction of stormwater features that discharge on or over the streambank and modification of associated riparian resources growing on the bank. Work within ephemeral streams, washes, and watercourses with subsurface flow are also subject to notification requirements. Issuance of an LSA Agreement is subject to CEQA. The Department, as a responsible agency under CEQA, will consider the CEQA document for the Project when issuing an LSA Agreement. The CEQA document should fully identify the potential impacts to the stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring, and reporting commitments for completion of the agreement. To obtain information about the LSA notification process, please access our website at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA>.

Nesting Birds

If the Project has the potential to directly impact nesting bird habitat or indirectly disturb nesting birds through audio or visual disturbance, the Department recommends the following measures be implemented to protect nesting birds and raptors protected under FGC sections 3503 and 3503.5:

- a) Conduct vegetation removal and other ground-disturbance activities associated with construction from September 1 through January 31, when birds are not nesting; or
- b) Conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting birds if vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities are to take place during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31). These surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than one week prior to vegetation removal or construction activities during the nesting season. If an active nest is located during the pre-construction surveys, a non-disturbance buffer shall be established around the nest by a qualified biologist in consultation with the Department. No vegetation removal or construction activities shall occur within this non-disturbance buffer until the young have fledged, as determined through additional monitoring by the qualified biologist. The results of the pre-construction surveys shall be sent electronically to the Department at R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov.

Lighting

The Department recognizes the adverse effects that artificial lighting has on birds and other nocturnal species. The effects are numerous and include impacts to singing and foraging behavior, reproductive behavior, navigation, and altered migration patterns. To minimize adverse effects of artificial light on wildlife, the Department recommends that lighting fixtures associated with the Project be downward facing, fully shielded, and designed and installed to minimize photo-pollution and spillover of light onto adjacent wildlife habitat.

Trenching

If trenching will occur as a result of Project activities, it should be covered securely prior to stopping work each day, or a ramp should be provided in the trench to prevent wildlife entrapment. If pipes are left out onsite, they should be inspected for animals prior to burying, capping, moving, or filling.

Survey Results

If any special status species are found during surveys, the Department requests that CNDDDB forms be filled out submitted to CNDDDB and a copy of the form be sent to the Regional office at R1CEQARedding@wildlife.ca.gov. Instructions for providing data to the CNDDDB can be found at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Submitting-Data>.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to review this Project early in the environmental review process. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kristin

From: Dianne Johnson <dmjohnson@co.siskiyou.ca.us>

Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 11:29 AM

To: Jeff Clausen <jjclausen@co.siskiyou.ca.us>; James Smith <jsmith@co.siskiyou.ca.us>; Nancy Ogren <nogren@co.siskiyou.ca.us>; sisqrkd@sisqtel.net; felicia@ci.yreka.ca.us; Al Morris <sushabal@gmail.com>; Pisano, Nicholas@CALFIRE <Nicholas.Pisano@fire.ca.gov>; Hubbard, Kristin@Wildlife <Kristin.Hubbard@wildlife.ca.gov>; Brian Christensen <bchristensen@co.siskiyou.ca.us>; Craig Kay <ckay@co.siskiyou.ca.us>; Eric Olson

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Thomas Deany <tdeany@co.siskiyou.ca.us>
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Subject: Z2102/UP2106 15 DAY

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Good morning,

Please see attached 15 day review for application Z2102/UP2106. Please note, all responses to the application must be received by **December 2, 2021**.

Thank you,

Dianne Johnson

Planning Permit Technician
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