



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123

TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

Application Number: 05-0781 Don Hill, Department of Public Works, for David Allen Bowersock

The Valencia Creek Fish Ladder project consists of the demolition and replacement of a failed fish ladder and baffle system located on Valencia Creek between Soquel Drive and Highway One. The purpose is to improve fish passage in over three miles of Valencia Creek upstream. The project requires dewatering of two box culverts and the intervening 200 feet of active channel. The project is located on Valencia Creek, in the Aptos, Area.

APN: 041-042-11 & -14; 041-052-13 & -17

Matthew Johnston, Staff Planner

Zone District: Parks & Recreation

ACTION: Negative Declaration with Mitigations

REVIEW PERIOD ENDS: February 3, 2006

This project will be administratively considered by Environmental Planning Principal Planner after February 3, 2006.

Findings:

This project, if conditioned to comply with required mitigation measures or conditions shown below, will not have significant effect on the environment. The expected environmental impacts of the project are documented in the Initial Study on this project attached to the original of this notice on file with the Planning Department, County of Santa Cruz, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, California.

Required Mitigation Measures or Conditions:

None
 Are Attached

Review Period Ends February 3, 2006

Date Approved By Environmental Coordinator February 6, 2006

for: Paola Levine
KEN HART
Environmental Coordinator
(831) 454-3127

If this project is approved, complete and file this notice with the Clerk of the Board:

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

The Final Approval of This Project was Granted by Matthew Johnston for Ken Hart
on 2/22/06. No EIR was prepared under CEQA.

THE PROJECT WAS DETERMINED TO NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

Date completed notice filed with Clerk of the Board: 2/23/06

NAME: Don Hill for Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works
APPLICATION: 05-0781
A.P.N: 41-042-14, 41-052-13,17

NEGATIVE DECLARATION MITIGATIONS

1. In order to ensure that mitigation measures 2 – 4 (below) are communicated to the various parties responsible for constructing and inspecting the project, prior to any disturbance on the property the applicant shall convene a pre-construction meeting on the site. The supervisor for the contractor, project engineer, County inspector and Environmental Planning staff shall attend. The results of the pre-disturbance biological surveys will be collected, training of workers by the project biologist will be verified, and the requirements for biologic monitoring set.
2. In order to avoid impacts to special status wildlife species the applicant shall:
 - a) Prior to issuance of the Riparian Exception, submit a letter from CDFG approving the design of the fish ladder, baffles, and plan for the stream bypass;
 - b) Prior to issuance of the Riparian Exception, ensure that final plans, specifications and bid documents implement all terms and conditions of the biological consultation, the SAA and these mitigation measures;
 - c) Prior to exercising the Riparian Exception, complete the biological consultation with NMFS and obtain a stream alteration agreement (SAA) issued by CDFG;
 - d) Conduct pre-disturbance surveys for California Red legged frogs (CRLF), Southwestern Pond turtle, Foothill yellow legged frog, and San Francisco wood rat according to USFWS protocol (CRLF) and the recommendation of the Preliminary Biological Constraints Analysis, Kittleson et al, November, 2005. If CRLF are found the project shall cease pending consultation and direction from US Fish and Wildlife Service. If other individuals are found a qualified biologist shall relocate the animals and prevent re-entry into the work area;
 - e) Conduct pre-disturbance surveys for nesting protected birds. If nests are found either the project biologist shall recommend, in consultation with CDFG, a minimum setback from nests or work shall be postponed until young are fledged;
 - f) A qualified biologist shall be on site to monitor initial vegetation removal, which shall be done by hand.
3. In order to minimize impacts from installation of a stream bypass on wildlife and water quality the applicant shall:
 - a) Implement the mitigation measures given in Preliminary Biological Constraints Analysis including fish relocation, fish monitor on site, silt control and timing of bypass;
 - b) The project engineer shall approve the contractor's specific plan for the bypass in advance and shall inspect the bypass operation in the field to ensure compliance with these measures.
4. In order to mitigate potential impacts from erosion and water quality degradation, the project shall not take place between October 15 and April 15. The erosion control measures shall be installed, concrete cured, and the bypass removed by October 15. If the stream bypass is not installed by July 15 then the project must be postponed until the following April 15.