COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
May 18, 2005

SINKYONE WILDERNESS STATE PARK ROAD RESTORATION

File No. 05-025
Project Manager: Su Corbaley

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Consideration and possible approval of the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park Road Restoration Negative declaration, and authorization to disburse up to $655,000 to the Mendocino County Resources Conservation District to complete the five-year project to decommission 44 miles of abandoned roads in the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

LOCATION: Lost Coast region of Northern Mendocino County

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Integrated Marine and Coastal Resources Enhancement

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Project Location and Site Map

Exhibit 2: Roads Identified for Restoration

Exhibit 3: Mitigated Negative Declaration

Exhibit 4: Mitigation Monitoring Program

Exhibit 5: Letters of Support

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31251 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of up to $655,000 (six hundred fifty-five thousand dollars) to the Mendocino County Resources Conservation District ("MCRCD") to decommission the final eight miles of a 44-mile road decommissioning project in the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, in northern Mendocino County, to improve anadromous salmonid habitat by improving the quality of water discharging to the Mattole and Eel Rivers, both coastal draining systems, and to coastal draining watersheds within the Park, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds, MCRCD shall submit for review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, schedule,

budget and the names of any contractors to be used for the activities under this authorization, and provide evidence that all permits necessary to this project have been issued.

2. An agreement meeting the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 31116(c) to protect the public interest in improvements funded under this grant shall be recorded in the official records of Humboldt County."

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and criteria of Chapter 5.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31251 to 31270) regarding protection of coastal resources.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.
3. The Conservancy has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3) adopted by the California Department of Parks and Recreation on January 30, 2003 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and the Mitigation Monitoring Program (attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 4) developed to mitigate potentially significant environmental effects, and finds that the project avoids, reduces or mitigates the possible significant environmental effects to a level of insignificance, and that there is no substantial evidence that the road decommissioning activities in the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 Cal. Code Regulations Section 15382.
4. There is no evidence before the Conservancy that the road decommissioning activities will have a potentially adverse effect on wildlife resources as defined under California Fish and Game Code 711.2, and The Conservancy finds, on the basis of substantial evidence, that the presumption of adverse effect on wildlife resources contained in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 753.5(d) is rebutted by the information detailed in the initial study and mitigated negative declaration."

PROJECT SUMMARY:

The proposed authorization would enable the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District ("MCRCD") to complete a five-year program to decommission roads in the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park (Exhibit 1). The work will constitute the fourth and fifth years of a five-year program, which has included an assessment of 129 miles of logging roads, implementation planning, environmental and permitting, and two years of implementation. The road assessment identified 44 miles of abandoned logging roads that were releasing significant amounts of sediment into the park's creeks and streams that drain to the Mattole and Eel Rivers, and smaller coastal watersheds (Exhibit 2). To date approximately 29 miles of abandoned road, and associated stream crossings, have been removed, eliminating 115,000 cubic yards of sediment

from entering the rivers' and streams' systems. The final 15 miles of road must be restored prior to 2007, when the park will receive a wilderness designation under the California Wilderness Act (Public Resources Code, Division 5, Chapter 1.3) making use of heavy equipment impossible.

The first three years of the 5-year project has been funded in large part by California State Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR") and the California Department of Fish and Game ("DFG"). The proposed Conservancy authorization will augment the funds necessary to carry out the final two years of the effort. DPR has adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (Exhibit 3), and has prepared a Mitigation Monitoring Program (Exhibit 4) for consideration by the Conservancy.

The Mattole and Eel Rivers are included on the EPA's 303(d) list for impairments associated with excessive sediment and high temperatures; the two rivers support four species of threatened and endangered anadromous salmonids, including coho and Chinook salmon, and steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout. The Mattole River, Anderson Creek, and Indian Creek are all listed as habitat recovery units in the coho Salmon Recover Strategy (CA DFG, 2004) for maintaining critical habitat for coho salmon. Anderson and Indian Creeks are tributaries to the South Fork Eel River, which support Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Wolf Creek, and Little Jackass Creek coastal watersheds support coho salmon and coastal cutthroat trout.

The entire project area lies within an area that was clear-cut and tractor logged prior to the State Park ownership. Some of the clear-cut areas are located adjacent to old growth forest. The sites contain a dense network of skid roads that were abandoned after logging operations ceased in the early 1980s, and have numerous stream crossings and inboard road construction that interrupt and concentrate runoff onto slopes prone to landslides, and into the drainage systems of the watersheds in which they lie. Many gullies and landslides exist that are related to the road network proposed for restoration.

The impacts to the environment from past land-use practices have caused stream diversions, stream crossing failures, embankment fill failures, and interception and diversion of surface and shallow subsurface flows that have significantly reduced watershed function. The road-decommissioning project will result in the removal of roads and failed crossings to restore the slopes and streams to a natural state. The techniques employed in the proposed project will apply Road Restoration Best Management Practices and will include removal of shrubs and trees on the work area, excavation of the road base and grading (where practicable) to contour to a natural slope, mulching the graded site with vegetative material obtained on-site during the work, post-project monitoring and maintenance. Due to historic inhabitance of the coastal area by Sinkyone Native Americans, there are archeological sites throughout the park. The project will have a State Archeologist on site during the construction season to provide general oversight. Additionally, cultural monitors from the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council ("ITSWC") who own approximately 4,000 acres to the east, and share a boundary with, the State Park, will be located at each work site to provide appropriate direction should artifacts be discovered.

MCRCD has for over three years successfully completed each phase of this project on time and within budget using a variety of grant sources. The proposed authorization would enable completion of the decommissioning project.

Site Description: The Sinkyone Wilderness State Park is located in northern Mendocino County in a remote section of California known as the Lost Coast. It is comprised of 8,200 acres and shares a north-south boundary with the 3,844-acre InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness. Together,

the properties consist of a rejuvenating coastal redwood habitat that had been harvested for its timber, and was slated for additional harvest in the early 1980s when it was purchased by the Trust for Public Lands. Coastal salmon streams meander through the properties. Historically, the Sinkyone, a coastal Native American population, inhabited the lands. The area is significant for its cultural resources and for is remarkable scenic, open space and habitat values, including habitat for coho and Chinook salmon, and steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout. The habitat has been degraded by erosion from abandoned lumber haul roads releasing sediment into the river and stream systems, including those watershed systems where roadwork proposed under this authorization would occur.

Project History: The Conservancy has been involved with projects in the Sinkyone Wilderness since the early 1980s when it partially funded the acquisition by the Trust for Public Lands of over 7,000 acres of timberlands slated for harvest, including approximately 3,000 acres of the 8,200 acres that makes up the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park today. Since that time, the Conservancy has funded various activities on the State Park property and on the adjoining InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness, owned since 1996 by the ITSWC. Those projects, including stream restoration and public access planning, have a benefit to the State Park by increasing the available fish spawning and rearing habitat along Wolf Creek that drains to the Pacific Ocean, and increasing access links to the coast. This project will further the efforts of improving fish habitat in the watersheds draining the state park land.

In 2001, the MCRCD conducted an assessment of the roads within the entire State Park property and identified 129 miles of failing, or highly likely to fail, roads and stream crossing in need of restoration. Of those 129 miles MCRCD, working with DPR, prioritized 44 miles for immediate restoration. Between 2002 and the end of 2004, 29 miles of those roads were restored. In October 2004, after receiving an award of $500,000 for project from the DPR Off-Highway Division, MCRCD approached the Conservancy about a possible grant of $855,000 to balance the funds necessary to complete the final 15 miles of road restoration. During the course of project discussion and development with the Conservancy, MCRCD secured a commitment of $200,000 from the ITSWC from its Proposition 13 grant from the State Department of Water Resources for road restoration training and cultural monitoring. With the DPR and ITSWC funds, MCRCD is requesting $655,000 from the Conservancy to complete the project.

The project is a priority for the Conservancy because it will address restoration in an area of the coast that the Conservancy has invested heavily in, and because it will further the Conservancy's objectives of improving salmonid fish habitat by improving watershed health for the benefit of threatened and endangered salmonids.

PROJECT FINANCING:

Coastal Conservancy	$655,000
Department of Parks and Recreation	500,000
InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council	200,000
Total Project Cost	*$1,355,000*
Total Conservancy Cost	**$655,000**

Conservancy funds will be used to decommission the final 8 miles of the planned 44-mile road restoration project. In 2004, the Department of Parks and Recreation granted funds from its Off-Highway Vehicle Division to the MCRCD for 7 miles of road restoration activities. The InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council will contribute labor, and a portion of its Prop 13 Funds granted to it from the State Department of Water Resources for road restoration training and cultural monitoring associated with road restoration. The above funding will complete the five-year project. Earlier phases (years 1 – 3) of the road restoration activities were funded by DPR ($1,271,000) and the California Department of Fish and Game ($132,721).

The expected source for the Conservancy funds for this project is the fiscal year 2003-2004 appropriation from Proposition 40, the "California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002". Proposition 40 funds may be used for protecting coastal resources, improving water quality, and watershed protection programs in accordance with the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code Section 5096.650). This project is consistent with Proposition 40 in that it will protect the spawning resources for coastal salmonids by improving the water quality of the coastal watersheds. In addition, the proposed project is appropriate for Proposition 40 grant funding priority, since it includes a commitment of matching funds (Public Resources Code §5096.651). As discussed below, the project is consistent with Chapter 5.5 of Division 21.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

This project would be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 5.5 of the Conservancy's enabling legislation, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding integrated coastal and marine resource protection. This project is consistent with Chapter 5.5 pertaining to enhancement of coastal resources.

Consistent with Public Resources Code section 31220(a), the Conservancy has consulted with the State Water Resources Control Board in the development of this grant to ensure consistency with Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30915) of Division 20.4 of the Public Resources Code. Consistent with Section 31220(b), the proposed project will (1) restore fish habitat within a coastal waters and coastal watersheds by reducing sedimentation that degrades spawning and rearing habitat; (2) reduce threats to coastal and marine fish by providing habitat that will foster population successes; and (3) reduce unnatural erosion and sedimentation of coastal watersheds through decommission and removal of abandoned roads that are not maintained. As required by section 31220(c) the project will include a monitoring and evaluation component through post-project erosion monitoring and reporting. As also required by Section 31220(c), the project is consistent with state and regional watershed planning as described below under "Consistency with Local Watershed Management Plan/State Water Quality Control Plan".

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):

Consistent with the Conservancy's **Goal 6, Objective A**, the proposed project will result in improved habitat for anadromous fish through the implementation of road restoration activities to reduce the soil eroding from abandoned roads entering coastal watershed rivers and streams. Salmonids utilize the affected rivers for spawning; juvenile salmonids utilize the systems as

summer and winter habitat before returning to the coastal waters.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted January 24, 2001, in the following respects:

Required Criteria

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes:** See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation" section above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See the "Project Financing" section above.
3. **Support of the public:** The proposed project is supported by several agencies and legislators, including State Senator Wes Chesbro, State Assemblymember Patty Berg, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council. See Exhibit 4 for Letters of Support.
4. **Location:** The roads to be restored under the proposed project are located within watersheds that drain to the Mattole and Eel Rivers, or directly to the Pacific Ocean. All of the watersheds where work would occur drain to the coastal zone of California. The proposed work will benefit coastal resources that have for years experience impaired salmonid fish spawning and rearing habitat; reducing erosion and sedimentation will improve those habitats' functions.
5. **Need:** As described under "Project Financing", above, the MCRCD has secured approximately 50 percent of the project funding. Without Conservancy funding, the project would not be completed before the Park received formal Wilderness status, and the opportunity to decommission the roads would be lost.
6. **Greater-than-local interest:** The public-trust value of California's anadromous fish populations is epic and a resource that if further reduced or degraded could irreparably damage a significant economic base in California, and particularly for the coastal regions that would benefit from this project. The Mattole and Eel Rivers have a long history of people coming from far and wide to establish livelihoods or enjoy the sport of fishing. The decline of fish populations has caused significant economic impact to the commercial and sport fishing industry. Undertaking efforts to reduce sedimentation to the streams to improve salmonid habitat of these coastal watersheds will increase salmon populations and benefit the overall economic condition of the state of California. Additionally, the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park draws thousands of visitors annually to experience the wild and rugged area known as the Lost Coast of California. Decommissioning roads in the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park enhances the visitors' experiences returning the contour of the land to a natural state.

Additional Criteria

7. **Urgency:** The project must be completed by 2007, when the Department of Parks and Recreation anticipates final approval of the Park's designation as wilderness. After the designation, it will not be possible to deploy the heavy equipment necessary to remove the roads, and the opportunity to reduce the significant sedimentation to these fish-bearing streams and rivers would be lost.

9. **Leverage:** See the "Project Financing" section above.

12. **Readiness:** The environmental review has been completed and adopted by DPR, and all the necessary permits have been obtained. MCRCD is prepared to release a bid for the work upon execution of a grant agreement with the Conservancy. The MCRCD has an ability to complete the project on time, as demonstrated by the completion of the assessment phase and the decommissioning of 29 miles of road in the first three years of the project.

15. **Cooperation:** The project includes strong coordination between DPR, the InterTribalSinkyone Wilderness Council and the grantee to successfully plan and carry out the project.

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES:

The Humboldt County Local Coastal Plan, South Coast Area Plan (LCP) discusses land use for this region of Humboldt County. Several sections of the LCP relevant to this project are as follows.

Section 3.41.A.1.g identifies as environmentally sensitive areas critical habitats for rare or endangered species on state or federal lists. The listed species Chinook, coho salmon and steelhead trout inhabit and spawn in the Mattole River.

Section 3.41.E.2 identifies the Mattole River as a significant coastal stream, and incorporates by reference Section 30231 of the Coastal Act, regarding maintaining the biological productivity and the quality of coastal streams. Implementing this project will enable MCRCD to restore significant habitat for Chinook and coho and steelhead salmon.

Chapter 3.1 of the Mendocino County General Plan (MCGP), Coastal Element defines as environmentally sensitive areas as "those areas in which plant or animal life or their habitats . . . are especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and development." That chapter further lists environmentally sensitive habitat areas to include, among other areas, "anadromous fish streams." Further, Section 3.1-10 of the MCGP states, "Areas where riparian vegetation exists are environmentally sensitive habitat area, and development within such areas shall be limited to only those uses which are dependent on the riparian resources." The Mattole and Eel River watershed systems, including their tributaries, support habitats significant to the Chinook and coho and steelhead salmon, while the Coastal watersheds of Mendocino County lying within the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park also support coastal cutthroat trout; this project will restore that habitat and protect it from further degradation.

Chapter 5 of the MCGP Land Use Element discusses the state of fisheries in Mendocino County, including the status of Chinook and coho salmon on the South Fork of the Eel River. Specifically, finding 5.C of that plan states that over the past four decades, "[c]ounts of… King [Chinook] salmon declined 70 percent and silver [coho] salmon 64 percent in the South Fork Eel

River. The plan lists as short and long-term goals for fisheries in Mendocino County, including doubling the number of salmon and steelhead presently within the County's streams, and achieving and maintaining optimum natural production of salmon and steelhead in each Mendocino County Watershed, respectively. In order to achieve those goals, the plan lists policy 5.a., to "[p]rotect, maintain, restore and enhance salmon and steelhead spawning and nursery habitat."

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN/

STATE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN:

The Mattole River has been designated a Critical Coastal Area by the California Coastal Commission due to sedimentation from natural and human sources, including timber activities in its headwaters and upper tributary reaches. Section 2.3.3 of the North Coast Regional Watershed Initiative Chapter (North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board *Feb. 2005*) of the State Water Planning Strategic Plan, discusses the Mattole River Watershed and contamination from nonpoint sources such as timber activities, and recommends local and regional efforts to reduce the sources of sedimentation that adversely affect coho and Chinook habitat.

Section 2.5 of the North Coast Regional Watershed Initiative Chapter of the State Water Planning Strategic Plan, discusses the Eel River Watershed and lists four watershed management goals and activities, including as Goal 1, to protect and enhance salmonid habitat. It specifically addresses the issue of sedimentation stating that logging roads are a concern due to increased runoff and delivery of sediment to local water bodies and recommends developing strategies for erosion prevention and reduction of sedimentation to support implementation of the TMDL process.

The proposed project is consistent with the above plan in that it will reduce sediment deposition to the Mattole River, and to the Eel River through its tributaries, Anderson and Indian Creeks.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The proposed authorization involves the decommission of abandoned lumber haul roads and the removal of associated stream crossings to improve natural fish spawning and rearing habitat Specifically, the proposed project will include: clearing vegetation from the road beds and a small adjacent work area in order to access the area; removal of the roads, road crossings and failed culverts with heavy equipment: re-grading the slope to a natural contour; and mulching the work site to promote new vegetation growth and reduce post project erosion. Additional and concurrent activities will include monitoring for archaeological resources and post project erosion monitoring and reporting.

The project is subject to CEQA review and findings. On January 30, 2003, DPR adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park Road Restoration Project for which DPR is the CEQA lead agency, and on March 11, 2003 filed a Notice of Determination of its findings of no significant impact, as mitigated. The scope of the project encompasses work to be undertaken by MCRCD.

The Conservancy is acting as a CEQA responsible agency with respect to the project. Staff has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration. The Declaration discusses potential environmental impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and noise which might result from the project. Over 60 mitigation measures are adopted which reduce all of the potential impacts from the project to less than significant. The following is a summary of the potential impacts and mitigation measures for each of the foregoing categories.

- With respect to air quality, potential impacts to ambient air quality and to worker exposure from the use of heavy equipment were identified. However, the project will not have substantial adverse effects due to mitigation measures such as maintenance of engines in good condition in proper tune to reduce exhaust levels; maintaining minimum traffic speeds to reduce dust; suspending excavation and grading activities during sustained winds or wind gusts exceed 25 mph or 35 mph, respectively, or when operator visibility is obscured; limiting the number of heavy equipment vehicles operating simultaneously to eight at any work site; maintaining the seals, etc., on heavy equipment cabs; immediately repairing exhaust leaks; and position project inspectors and monitors upwind from active work area (see the Mitigation Negative Declaration (MND), pp. 18 – 20, and 63)
- With respect to biological resources, potential impacts to plants, fish, birds, and trees were identified. However, the project will not cause a significant cumulative effect because project activities are designed to improve and restore stream habitat, to provide a long-term benefit to both anadromous salmonids and other fish and wildlife, and the project will be implemented to avoid short-term adverse impacts through mitigation measures such as:
    - (Plants): avoiding rare or threatened plants and not modifying the canopy covers or soils adjacent to individuals or populations
    - (Fish): restricting field work to the months between July 11 and October 15 of each year or only during dry spells beyond October 15; working only in dry channels or in channels flowing below the minimum required for fish survival; utilizing temporary stream diversions, or filter structures to capture turbid discharge; mulching disturbed soils; and monitoring high-risk sedimentation sites with DPR-qualified biologists or resource ecologists.
    - (Birds): restricting work at sites within one-quarter mile of potential marbled murrelet habitat to the period between September 15 and March 24*;* restricting work within one-quarter mile of Spotted Owl habitat to the period between July 10 and January 31; training project inspectors in the identification of raptor nests and raptor breeding behavior to eliminate disturbances to occupied, and unoccupied, raptor nests; and establishing a no-work zone around active raptor nests.
    - (Trees): Striking trees with heavy equipment shall be avoided. (Id., pp. 21 – 29 and 63 – 64).

- With respect to cultural resources, potential impacts to archaeological resources (artifacts and remains) have been identified. However the project will not have a substantial adverse effect due to mitigation measures such as maintaining a DPR-qualified cultural resource specialist at all sites to ensure no excavation work takes place in any areas where site-specific surveys identified archaeological sites, protecting sites where heavy equipment must travel; consultation with an ITSWC representatives, and proper legal notifications with county and Native American agencies (Id., pp. 30 – 32 and 65).
- With respect to geology and soils, potential impacts to water quality and worker safety have been identified. However, the effects will not pose a significant threat due to mitigation measures including applying appropriate contour techniques to ensure natural appearing grades and slopes and preventing sloughing; mulching; working only during dry season and periods between rains; eliminating sediment transport during in stream work by stream diversion or water filtration; monitoring conditions and minimizing work time in high-risk areas subject to instability; and halting work for further evaluation in newly discovered unstable areas (Id., pp.33 – 37 and 66).
- With respect to hazards and hazardous materials, potential significant impacts have been identified. However, the impacts will be reduced to less than significant with mitigation measures including inspecting equipment for, and immediately repairing, leaks; developing and adhering to a spill response plan; cleaning and (non-emergency) repairing equipment outside park boundaries; and developing a fire safety plan for avoiding and suppressing fire (Id., pp. 38 – 41 and 67).
- With respect to hydrology and water quality, measures to mitigate the potential significant impacts identified include leaving exposed seeps or springs uncovered; removing excess excavated materials; reducing contour slopes on road sections immediately adjacent to stream crossing; employing stream diversion or filtering; winterizing roads in areas where work can continue beyond October 15; and halting work beyond October 15 where soils are saturated (Id., pp.42 – 48 and 68).
- With respect to noise, potential impacts have been identified, and will be reduced by mitigation measures such as limiting construction activities to the hours between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. or 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. near campgrounds; equipping vehicles with mufflers, or where appropriate, utilizing best available noise control techniques such as engine enclosures, shields, silencers, etc.; staging stationary noise sources as far from sensitive receptors as possible, and muffling to the extent feasible if staged near the sensitive resources; and requiring workers to wear hearing protection devices during operations (Id., pp. 50 – 52 and 69).

With these changes and mitigations, staff believes that the potentially significant effects will be reduced to a level of insignificance. The required mitigations will be monitored through a Mitigation Program, consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21081.6. Specifically, the reporting program requires that all of the mitigation measures outlined in the Mitigated Negative Declaration will be implemented and that DPR prepares a report on the progress of those measures be submitted to the California Department of Fish and Game annually for the duration of the project.

The mitigated effects of road restoration activities will not contribute to adverse environmental impacts that are cumulatively significant. In fact, by reducing sedimentation to the water courses,

the project will result in cumulative benefits to the Mattole and Eel Rivers, and the coastal watersheds of the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

Staff therefore recommends that the Conservancy find that the project, as mitigated, will not have a significant effect on the environment. Staff further recommends that the Conservancy find that the project will not have an adverse effect as described in 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 753.5(d) regarding the potential for adverse effect on wildlife resources as defined under California Fish and Game Code Section 711.2, and find that there is no evidence that the road restoration activities will have a potentially adverse effect on wildlife resources as defined under California Fish and Game Code Section 711.2.

Upon approval, staff will file a Notice of Determination for the project.