

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
January 19, 2012

**NAPA RIVER RUTHERFORD REACH RESTORATION:
REACH 8 IMPLEMENTATION**

Project No. 04-068-02
Project Manager: Betsy Wilson

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$1,000,000 to Napa County to restore one or more sections of “Reach 8” of the Rutherford Reach of the Napa River.

LOCATION: Approximately one mile of the Napa River, midway between Rutherford Road and Oakville Cross Road, in Napa County (Exhibit 1).

PROGRAM CATEGORY: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy

EXHIBITS

- Exhibit 1: [Project Location and Site Map](#)
- Exhibit 2: [Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan](#)
- Exhibit 3: [Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration](#)
- Exhibit 4: [Project Photographs](#)
- Exhibit 5: [Project Design of Phase 4b](#)
- Exhibit 6: [Project Letters](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31160-31165 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to Napa County to restore one or more sections of “Reach 8” of the Rutherford Reach Restoration Project on the Napa River, subject to the following conditions.

1. No Conservancy funds shall be disbursed for the project until the Executive Officer of the Conservancy has reviewed and approved in writing:
 - a. A final work plan, including a budget and schedule.
 - b. The name and qualifications of any contractors that Napa County intends to retain to carry out the project.

- c. A signage plan that acknowledges Conservancy funding.
 - d. A written agreement between Napa County and the owner of any property on which project work will occur, permitting the work to be undertaken, allowing for access to the property for the purposes of undertaking the work, and agreeing to subsequent monitoring and maintenance.
2. Napa County shall provide evidence that all permits and approvals necessary for each component of the project to be funded have been obtained.
 3. Prior to the approval of the project as complete, and prior to the final disbursement of retained funds, Napa County shall provide evidence to the Executive Officer of the Conservancy that the County has implemented the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 2.”

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 project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31160-31165, regarding the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed the IS/MND for the “*Napa River Rutherford Reach Restoration Project*” and adopted by the Napa County Department of Public Works on November 20, 2008 (attached to the accompanying staff recommendation as Exhibit 3) with respect to the restoration of Reach 8. The Conservancy finds that the project as conditioned avoids, reduces, or mitigates the possible significant environmental effects to a level of insignificance and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as mitigated, will have a significant effect on the environment, as defined in 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15382.”

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends that the Conservancy authorize a grant of up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to Napa County to restore one or more sections of Reach 8 of the Rutherford Reach of the Napa River. Restoration of the nearly 1-mile long Reach 8, located midway between Rutherford and Oakville Cross Roads, is being undertaken as part of the 4.5 mile total Napa River Rutherford Reach Restoration Project (Project). The proposed restoration of Reach 8 will improve water quality by reducing excessive sedimentation to the channel, improve salmonid and aquatic habitat, expand and enhance the native riparian corridor, protect property, reduce the impacts of flooding, and enhance riparian wildlife habitat and vineyard production through the removal of non-native invasive plants.

With Conservancy funding, the preliminary project design for the Napa River Rutherford Reach Project was completed in 2008. The Project is a pioneering private-public partnership for reach-scale river restoration efforts in the Napa River watershed. The collaborative effort among private landowners, Napa County, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District,

Napa County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD) and others was designed to meet multiple objectives including restoration of spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids, reduction of bank and channel bottom erosion, improvement of riparian habitat and cover, and the provision of flood management services along 4.5 miles of the Napa River between the Zinfandel Lane and Oakville Cross Road Bridges. The Project has been divided into nine subreaches extending downstream from Zinfandel Lane, and is being constructed in phases as implementation funding is obtained. To date, three implementation phases have been fully funded, with construction of the first two miles of the Project in Reaches 1 through 4 (Zinfandel Lane Bridge to Rutherford Cross Road) scheduled to be complete by 2012.

The fourth implementation phase (Phase 4), restoration of Reach 8, was defined as the next priority in Project implementation because of the severely eroding banks in the Reach (see photographs included as Exhibit 4). Final design of Phase 4 is underway and scheduled for completion in early 2012. Phase 4 has been divided into a minimum of three sections, delineated as Phases 4a, 4b, and 4c, for the purposes of obtaining implementation grants. The requested Conservancy grant is anticipated to be used to implement Phase 4b, the restoration of a 0.31 mile section of Reach 8, which includes four contiguous private properties on the west bank owned by Frostfire Vineyards, AJM Vineyards, Robert Glos, and Cakebread Cellars. However, Napa County requests flexibility to apply Conservancy funds to Phases 4a, 4b, and 4c as project funding and construction cost estimates evolve.

Preliminary design plans for Phase 4b (Exhibit 5) include a floodplain bench, a bank stabilization and sediment reduction area, large woody debris habitat structures, boulder clusters to create salmonid feeding lanes and velocity breaks, roughened-channel grade control structures, willow baffles, and 540 linear feet of rock toe protection. Setback of channel banks into donated vineyard land on the east bank will provide a wider functional channel top width, reduce bed shear stress, and increase the riparian corridor by 0.4 acres. An additional 0.87 acres of riparian habitat will be managed to remove invasive species and restore native riparian vegetation. High flow refuge habitat for salmonids will increase by 0.2 acres. Approximately 0.1 acre of existing vineyard will be removed, and a paved road will be setback from along the river bank to accommodate the restoration.

All ten landowners along Reach 8 are participating in the restoration effort. The private landowners have all signed rights of entry agreements for the final design phase and will sign temporary construction easements upon completion of the final design. Several of the landowners are voluntarily donating vineyard and residential land for permanent conversion to natural habitat resulting in an expansion of the native riparian corridor and functional channel width. Napa County will execute the comprehensive Napa River Rutherford Reach Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (2008, Rev. 2011) for the life of the Project (at least 20 years) with staff support from the NCRCD, and dedicated funding from the Rutherford Reach Maintenance Assessment District, which is financed by landowners residing along the Rutherford Reach.

The Napa River watershed covers 462 square miles, and contains 1,400 miles of anadromous streams that drain into San Pablo Bay in the San Francisco Bay Estuary. Over 200 years the valley has been converted to an agricultural landscape with pockets of urban development. Watershed ownership is 95% private, 3% state, and 2% federal. Once a broad, shallow, multiple-threaded network, the mainstem Napa River is now a single deeply incised channel that is disconnected from the floodplain, restricting development of bars and inset benches, precluding the establishment of a diverse riparian community, and reducing the quality and

quantity of aquatic habitat for native species such as Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. A 2007 regional study conducted by the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration and funded by the Conservancy identified the Napa River watershed as an "anchor watershed" in the San Francisco Bay Area for steelhead trout, making it a priority for conservation efforts.

Napa County and its Department of Public Works provides for the construction, maintenance, and improvement of facilities and infrastructure within the unincorporated area of Napa County. With Conservancy funding, Napa County recently completed the repair of the fish passage at Zinfandel Lane at the upstream limit of the Rutherford Reach. Napa County has also received grants and successfully managed grant projects from other state and federal agencies for natural resource related projects.

Site Description: The Rutherford Reach of the Napa River is approximately 4.5 miles long and lies 20 miles upstream of the mouth of the river. As part of the Napa Valley, it is composed of alluvial fan and valley fill deposits that were washed down from the adjacent mountain slopes to the east and west.

The Napa Valley was converted to grazing and croplands in the 1840s. Until the 1960s, orchards, vineyards, field crops, and small-scale urbanization were the primary land uses. Since that time, grape production has rapidly increased, and is currently the predominant land use within the Rutherford Reach.

Until the 1940s, the mainstem of the river was still well connected to its floodplain and flooded annually. The Napa River and its riparian corridor have been modified in numerous ways due to human uses of adjacent lands. At present, the river flows almost entirely within a single channel, and is disconnected from its former floodplain due to the entrenchment of the river, made more pronounced by the construction of flood levees downstream.

Downcutting on the Napa River has caused banks to become higher and steeper, leading to instability and collapse. Large flood flows that would previously have spread out onto the floodplain, dissipating erosive energy, are now confined and concentrated with a deep narrow channel where they continue to cause accelerated erosion of both the riverbed and banks, causing associated problems for landowners and the environment. The river along the Rutherford Reach suffers from accelerated bank erosion and slumping, resulting in a loss of valuable vineyard land, infrastructure, aquatic habitat, and riparian woodland.

Reach 8 is incised and generally narrows from upstream to downstream. The upper, wider portion of the reach offers significant point bars and vegetated inset floodplain surfaces. In approximately the middle of the reach, the channel makes two large bends. The upstream bend shows severe erosion, and the downstream bend is revetted, indicating earlier erosion problems. Erosion problems and steep banks continue in the downstream portion of the reach, with few inset floodplain or terrace surfaces.

As the river bed has incised, it has converted a complex aquatic environment of riffle and pools into a simpler system with lower value to native aquatic wildlife such as Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, a federally listed threatened species and California freshwater shrimp, a federally listed endangered species. Other native fish continue to occupy the river, including Pacific lamprey, tule perch, and Sacramento splittail. Although substantially diminished from historic conditions, native fish diversity in the Napa River is unsurpassed in Central Valley and Sierra streams. The Napa River watershed has been identified as an "anchor watershed" in the San Francisco Bay Area for steelhead trout.

Project History: In 2002, the Rutherford Dust Restoration Team (RDRT) was created as a subcommittee of the long-standing Rutherford Dust Society, a non-profit association of vintners and growers owning or managing land within the Rutherford wine-growing region of the Napa Valley, to address the environmental and economic problems associated with the degradation of the Napa River channel. RDRT initiated the restoration planning process and funded the development of a conceptual restoration plan for the Rutherford Reach. The landowners with river frontage agreed to a yearly assessment to contribute to the restoration project.

In 2004, following completion of the conceptual restoration plan, RDRT and the NCRCD secured funding from the Conservancy and Napa County “Measure A” funds to complete detailed engineering designs, environmental review documents, and permit applications for the restoration of the Rutherford Reach. The design and permitting phase was completed in 2008 and the Project is now being constructed in phases. Construction was also completed in fall 2011 on the companion fish barrier repair project at the Zinfandel Lane Bridge with funding support by Conservancy, opening up access to approximately 65 miles of salmonid habitat in the watershed upstream of the Rutherford Reach.

Beyond the Rutherford Reach efforts, the Napa River has long been of concern to the Conservancy. In 1996, the Conservancy funded technical studies for the lower reach (between the City of Napa and the river mouth), which resulted in development of a multi-objective flood management plan that follows the “living river” principle. This plan replaced a US Army Corps of Engineers trapezoidal concrete channel design that regulatory agency staff and others contended would have no benefit to natural resources, and little benefit to the community other than flood control. The Conservancy has since funded two property acquisitions to implement flood management and habitat improvements recommended in the plan.

The Conservancy has funded several watershed assessments within the Napa River watershed which have led to the identification of projects that could be implemented on private lands to reduce erosion and sedimentation and improve instream and adjacent habitat. The Conservancy has also recently funded a study of high-priority fish passage barriers in the Napa River basin and a historical ecology assessment of the Napa Valley.

Additionally, since the 1990s, the Conservancy has been involved with the acquisition and large-scale restoration within the Napa-Sonoma marshes at the mouth of the river.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$1,000,000
Napa County “Measure A” Funds	2,600,000 (secured)
CA Dept of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund	400,000 (secured)
Ritz Carlton Wetland Mitigation Fund	300,000 (pending)
SF Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 319(h) Fund	750,000 (pending)
To Be Determined	<u>150,000</u>
Total Project Costs	\$5,200,000*

* Total project costs are for the entirety of Reach 8 (Phase 4). The estimated cost for Phase 4b only is \$2,000,000 with the Conservancy and Napa County each proposed to provide half of the funding.

The anticipated source of Conservancy funds is an appropriation to the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program from the “Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006” (Proposition 84). Proposition 84 authorizes the use of these funds for purposes of the protection of coastal waters and watersheds and to protect and restore the natural habitat values of coastal waters and lands. (Public Res. Code § 75060). Funds may be used for projects consistent with the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code. (Public Res.Code § 75074). This project is also appropriate for prioritization under the selection criteria set forth in Section 75071 in that there are non-state matching contributions toward the restoration and will contribute to the long term protection of the water and biological quality of the Napa River.

In-kind contributions include vineyard acreage that is donated by private landowners for conversion to riparian habitat. The area to be converted to riparian habitat in Reach 8 is 2.7 acres at a worth of approximately \$8,100,000.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

This project is undertaken pursuant to Chapter 4.5 of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, Public Resource Code Sections 31160-31165, to address resource goals in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Section 31162 of the Public Resources Code authorizes the Conservancy to undertake projects and award grants in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area, including Napa County. All of the proposed project area is within Napa County.

Under Section 31162(b), the Conservancy may act to protect, restore, and enhance natural habitats and watersheds of regional significance. The proposed project would assist in the restoration of up to 1 mile of river corridor with some of the highest quality natural habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead trout in the Bay Area.

The proposed restoration of Reach 8 satisfies all of the criteria for determining project priority under 31163(c), since the project: 1) is supported by adopted regional plans including; the *Central Napa River Watershed Plan* (Napa County Resource Conservation District, 2005), the *Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan for California* (California Department of Fish and Game, 1996, updates to Steelhead Tasks in 2010), *Napa River Sediment Total Maximum Daily*

Load and Habitat Enhancement Plan (Regional Water Quality Control Board, 2009; State Water Resources Control Board, 2010), and the *Napa County General Plan - Conservation Element*, (Napa County, 2008); 2) serves a regional constituency, in that the project is designed to improve water quality, improve riparian habitat for state and federal special status species, and supports an important agricultural commodity of the state; 3) can be implemented in a timely manner as matching funds for this phase of the project are secured; 4) provides benefits to anadromous fish that would be lost if the project is not quickly implemented; and 5) will include significant matching funds from Napa County and significant in-kind contributions from private landowners.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S 2007 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):

Consistent with **Goal 10, Objective H** of the Conservancy's 2007 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will restore between one-third and one mile of riparian habitat.

Consistent with **Goal 12, Objective C**, implementation of the proposed project will promote conservation technologies and assist farmers in complying with best-management practices (i.e., agricultural practices that are suitable for reducing or minimizing water quality impacts, as part of an overall watershed approach). Restoration of a native riparian corridor and creation of expanded riparian vegetation buffers between vineyard land and the river serve to reduce non-point source fine sediment pollution into the Napa River by stabilizing severely eroding riverbanks and filtering surface runoff.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on June 4, 2009, 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 project has widespread public support, including that of Congressman Mike Thompson, State Senator Noreen Evans, Napa Valley Vintners, the Rutherford Dust Society, Napa County Resource Conservation District, and Friends of the Napa River. Project letters are included as Exhibit 6.
4. **Location:** The Rutherford Reach of the Napa River lies within the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area, consistent with Sections 31161 and 31162 of the Public Resources Code.
5. **Need:** The costs of the Rutherford Reach Restoration Project are being borne by private landowners, Napa County "Measure A" watershed improvement sales tax funds, and state and federal agency habitat restoration grants. Napa County has successfully secured

matching funds for and began construction of three phases of implementation (Reaches 1-4). Without funds from the Conservancy, the implementation of Phase 4 (Reach 8) of the project will not move forward until alternative funds are made available to match Napa County's funding.

6. **Greater-than-local interest:** The Napa River historically supported the largest steelhead run in the Bay Area and it has recently been identified as an "anchor watershed" for steelhead trout, a federally-listed threatened species. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service has designated the Napa River watershed as "critical habitat" for recovery of the Central Coast steelhead. Restoration of salmonid habitat has been supported by regional fisheries experts as an effective means of also supporting recovery of the extensive native fish assemblages still present in the Napa River watershed. Restoration of Reach 8 will also increase riparian habitat quantity and quality to the benefit of bird and other wildlife species, both endemics and migratory species.
7. **Sea level rise vulnerability:** The project is not located in an area close to a shoreline that is vulnerable to sea level rise.

Additional Criteria

8. **Urgency:** The banks along the Rutherford Reach of the Napa River are unstable, resulting in loss of riparian vegetation, excess deposition of sediment, and degradation of riffle-pool habitat, which is important for salmonids, including Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Unless projects to repair this damage are undertaken soon, these declines will continue to impair the threatened and endangered aquatic wildlife that live in the river. Given that the Napa River watershed is considered an "anchor watershed" for steelhead trout in the Bay Area and essential for protection of the species, delays create a significant impact on the resource.
9. **Resolution of more than one issue:** The project provides benefits for special status species recovery, including Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, wildlife habitat enhancement, water quality improvement, and property protection.
10. **Leverage:** See the "Project Financing" section above.
11. **Conflict resolution:** The project will resolve conflicts between the needs of agricultural operations and natural resources with and along the river.
12. **Innovation:** A pioneering private-public partnership, the Rutherford Reach Restoration Project serves as Napa County's model for reach-scale river restoration efforts in the Napa River watershed. In 2010, Congressman Mike Thompson presented the Rutherford Dust Society with a Congressional Records Statement for excellence in watershed restoration. Congressman Thompson has also presented Certificates of Congressional Recognition to each landowner participating in the Project, as well as to each of the local and regulatory agencies on the restoration team, for their outstanding service to the community.
13. **Readiness:** The final design and permitting for Reach 8 restoration is currently underway and expected to be completed by spring 2012. The three sections of Reach 8 will be ready for construction by summer 2012, with actual timing of construction of each section contingent upon the receipt of funding.

14. **Cooperation:** The Napa River Rutherford Reach project involves private landowners, nonprofit organizations and local, state, and federal government agencies. Landowner input and participation is a significant component of the project.
15. **Vulnerability from climate change impacts other than sea level rise:** Scenarios of climate change for the North Bay predict drier conditions in the Napa Valley in 30 years, with approximately 75-150 mm of additional water needed to maintain natural and cropland vegetation cover. Drier conditions may result in a lower local water table, limiting the riparian vegetation that can be establish on existing channel vertical slopes. Grading back existing vertical banks to create floodplain benches and stabilize banks will create a plantable slope for native riparian vegetation that affords greater access to a variable water table and thereby provides for a resilient successional vegetation regime. In addition, restoration of Reach 8 will improve channel habitat and provide for additional channel capacity, making the overall condition of the area more resilient to the impacts that climate change might have in the region.
16. **Minimization of greenhouse gas emissions:** The proposed project requires the use of construction equipment that emits greenhouse gases (GHG) and thus may have some potential to contribute to climate change. The principal GHG source would be tailpipe emissions during restoration earthwork. The project includes the following mitigation measures to ensure that project emissions are reduced to the extent feasible: use of biodiesel fuel in construction equipment and vehicles, and recycling and/or reuse of construction waste and debris.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), Napa County, as lead agency, prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the “*Napa River Rutherford Reach Restoration Project*”. On November 20, 2008, the Napa County Department of Public Works adopted the IS/MND (Exhibit 3).

The IS/MND identified potentially significant impacts of the Project in the areas of aesthetics, air quality, cultural resources, elimination of key cultural resources (California prehistory), and cumulative impacts. The IS/MND also identified mitigation measures that would avoid impacts, or reduce them below the level of significance, such that the Project would not result in significant adverse impacts on the environment. A majority of the impacts are short-term and associated with the construction phase of the project. Over the long term, the project would benefit Napa River hydrology/hydraulic function, riparian and aquatic resources, and the species that depend on them.

Aesthetics: Project construction would result in some temporary visual disruption on local viewsheds due to vegetation removal, earthwork, construction staging, and other project activities. To avoid or reduce these adverse visual effects, Napa County will require project contractors to: maintain project work and staging areas in a clean, orderly condition at all times; store equipment and materials in construction staging areas and/or away from public view; and remove any debris not slated for onsite reuse promptly at regular intervals. Information signage for the project will include the name and contact information for a County staff person to serve as the designated visual disturbance coordinator.

Air Quality: The principal concern about the effect of construction projects on air quality relates to the potential for earthwork and other activities to generate dust, including inhalable particulate matter (PM10) that poses a human health hazard. To address the potential for dust generation, Napa County has included a project measure requiring project contractors to implement dust control Best Management Practices (BMPs) consistent with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD's) *Feasible Control Measures for Construction Emissions of PM10*. Construction emissions are generally considered less than significant if the contractor implements dust control BMPs consistent with BAAQMD guidance.

In addition, short-term increases in windblown dust and/or tailpipe emissions could create a concern, particularly with construction occurring in close proximity to residences, wineries, and other facilities. To reduce these short-term impacts to less than a significant level, Napa County or the project contractor will prepare and implement a tailpipe emissions reduction plan. Napa County will provide advance written notification of proposed construction activities and schedule to all property owners within 500 feet of the construction sites.

Cultural Resources: There is some potential for construction activities to impact archeological resources and human remains. However, project activities are not expected to have a significant adverse effect because the following mitigation measures will be implemented: archaeological investigations near known archaeological sites will be conducted prior to ground-breaking; a qualified archaeologist and a Native American representative will be on-site to monitor site preparation and construction activities; work will be stopped if cultural resources are discovered during project activities; and human remains, if discovered, will be protected consistent with California State law.

Elimination of Important Examples of the Major Periods of California History or Prehistory: Since the Napa Valley area has a long history of human use and habitation, the project area is considered highly sensitive for cultural resources and project earthwork would have some potential to result in damage or loss affecting important documentation of California prehistory. However, the mitigation measures being incorporated into the project to protect Cultural Resources (see above discussion) will reduce these impacts to less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts:

- Air Quality. Napa County is a nonattainment area for several state and federal air quality standards. With the project measures and mitigation measures discussed in the above Air Quality section in place, the project is not expected to make a considerable contribution to existing regional air quality concerns. However, to further reduce project emissions, the County will coordinate with its contractors and BAAQMD to prepare and implement an emissions control plan for heavy-duty equipment and vehicles. Possible control measures include use of late-model engines, low-emission diesel products, alternative fuels, and engine retrofit technology.
- Climate Change. The proposed project requires the use of construction equipment that emits GHG and thus may have some potential to contribute to climate change. The majority of the emissions would come from worker trips, hauling of materials, and operation of excavators, trucks, backhoes, and cement trucks. Napa County estimates GHG emissions to be 125 metric tons. The County will require the contractor to implement the following air quality measures during construction as recommended by the BAAQMD to the extent they are feasible: 1) use of biodiesel fuel in construction equipment and vehicles; and 2) recycling

and/or reuse of construction waste and debris. In addition, the tailpipe emissions reduction plan to be prepared and implemented as an air quality mitigation measure will include measures to maintain construction equipment in good condition and to minimize truck idling near residences and other facilities.

- Traffic and Transportation. Although it would generate a comparatively small number of vehicle trips, project construction nonetheless has the potential to make a cumulatively considerable contribution to traffic flow in the county. To minimize these impacts, Napa County will require the construction contractor to prepare and adhere to a traffic control plan (TCP). The TCP will identify route restrictions, signage, striping, detours, flagging operations, and/or other strategies for use during construction to avoid effects on local traffic circulation. In addition, the plan will require the contractor to avoid using State Route 29 between Rutherford Cross Road and the Oakville Grade during peak hours. Napa County will also coordinate the timing and routing of project traffic with other County offices and with local jurisdictions to minimize any potential overlap with other construction and roadway improvement projects.

In addition to mitigation measures, the IS/MND identifies several project measures, referred to in the document as environmental commitments, that have been adopted for the Project to reduce or avoid adverse effects that could result from project construction, maintenance, or operation. The project measures address: Informational Measures (informational signage), Water Quality (implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan; in-channel work limited to the dry season), Construction and Maintenance Noise (limited work hours; sound-control devices on equipment), Air Quality (dust control measures), Traffic and Circulation (traffic control plan), Biological Resources (vegetation protection measures; preconstruction surveys and, if present, protection measures for California freshwater shrimp, northwestern pond turtle, and migratory birds; salmonid protection measures including work limited to the dry season, procedures for flow diversion, and procedures for fish relocation), Berm Design and Construction (geotechnical investigations; topsoil protection measures), Safety and Minimized Exposure to Hazardous Materials (stop work if hazardous materials encountered followed by appropriate assessment and remediation; herbicide application measures), and Waste Management (waste reduction measures). The project measures will be incorporated into construction documents prepared for the project and will thus be contractually required of all construction contractors.

Napa County has prepared a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) (Exhibit 2) for the Project. Prior to the Conservancy's approval of the project as complete and prior to the final disbursement of retained funds, Napa County will provide evidence to the Conservancy that the MMRP has been implemented.

With the changes incorporated into the resolution, project measures, and mitigations, staff believes that the potentially significant effects have been reduced to a level of insignificance. Staff therefore recommends that the Conservancy find that the proposed project, as mitigated, will not have a significant effect on the environment. Upon approval, staff will file a Notice of Determination for this project.