

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the 2011 Georgiana Slough Non-Physical Barrier Study

The State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR), acting as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State lead agency have made available for public review and comment the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the 2011 Georgiana Slough Non-Physical Barrier (GSNPB) Study. The 2011 GSNPB Study is the installation, operation, and analysis of the effectiveness of a barrier using bio-acoustical technology at the divergence of Georgiana Slough and the Sacramento River. The barrier is intended to create a behavioral deterrent for out-migrating juvenile salmonids to prevent entry to Georgiana Slough using sound, bubbles, and lights. In order to evaluate the efficacy of the barrier as a fish deterrent at this location, during barrier operation, a series of controlled releases of acoustically-tagged juvenile salmon smolts would be released at a selected location approximately 3 to 6 miles upstream of the barrier. Acoustic tag tracking systems would continuously monitor the area surrounding the barrier for fish presence, position, and passage through the area.

Barrier construction would begin mid- to late February 2011. Following installation, the barrier would be operated for up to 60 days, beginning after March 1, 2011. Upon completion of operation, the entire barrier structure and associated structures and equipment would be removed. Barrier removal would be complete by the end of May 2011. All disturbed areas will be restored to pre-project conditions. No known hazardous waste sites exist in the project area.

The 2011 GSNPB Study MND is available for review from December 27, 2010 through January 25, 2011. The MND may be viewed at the following website:

http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/sdb/GS/index_gs.cfm

Copies may also be requested from Ms. Darla Cofer, at the below address or at (916) 653-7129. Comments may be emailed to dcofer@water.ca.gov or mailed to:

Ms. Darla Cofer
South Delta Branch Assistant
California Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 215-23
Sacramento, CA 95814

