# **Certification of Consistency**

# C20161

Step 1 - Agency Profile		
A. GOVERNMENT AGENCY:	Local Agency	
Government Agency:	State and Federal Water Contractors Age	ency (SFCWA)
Primary Contact:	Byron Buck, Executive Director	
Address:	1121 L Street, Suite 806	
City, State, Zip:	Sacramento, CA 95814	
Telephone/Fax:	(916) 476-5056 / FAX (916) 476-5057	
E-mail Address:	tbeltran@sfcwa.org	
B. GOVERNMENT AGENCY ROLE IN COVERED ACTION: Will Approve / Will Carry Out / Will Fund		Will Approve / Will Carry Out / Will Fund

# **Step 2 - Covered Action Profile**

Project	
	Project

Title: Tule Red Tidal Restoration Project

B. PROPONENT CARRYING OUT COVERED ACTION (If different than State or Local Agency):

Proponent Name:	Byron Buck, Executive Director
Address:	1121 L Street, Suite 806
City, State, Zip:	Sacramento, CA 95814

# C. OPEN MEETING LAWS

Agencies whose actions are not subject to open meeting laws (Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act [Gov. Code sec 11120 et seq.] or the Brown Act [Gov. Code sec 54950 et seq.]) must post their draft certification on their website and in their office for public review and comment, and mail to all persons requesting notice (Administrative Procedures Governing Appeals, Rule 3). A state or local public agency that is subject to open meeting laws is encouraged to post the draft certification on their website and in their office and in the office for public review and comment and to mail to all persons requesting notice.

Any state or local public agency that is subject to open meeting laws with regard to its certification is also encouraged to take those actions. It is encouraged to upload any evidence that the project, plan or program went through for public review and comment as part of a Bagley-Keene or Brown Act meeting.

Is your agency subject to open meeting laws (Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act [Gov. Code sec 11120 et seq.] or the Brown Act [Gov. Code sec 54950 et seq.])? (Note: Select "Yes" if your agency or organization is subject to open meeting laws. Select "No" if your agency or organization is not subject to open meeting laws.)

If your agency is not subject to open meeting laws (Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act [Gov. Code sec 11120 et seq.] or the Brown Act [Gov. Code sec 54950 et seq.]) did your agency, at least 10 days prior to the submission of a certification of consistency to the Delta Stewardship

# Council, post the draft certification on your website and in the office for public review and comment, and mail the draft certification to all persons requesting notice?

Any state or local public agency that is subject to open meeting laws with regard to its certification is also encouraged to take those actions. It is encouraged to upload any evidence that the project, plan or program went through for public review and comment as part of a Bagley-Keene or Brown Act meeting.

Note: Any public comments received during this process must be included in the record submitted to the Council in case of an appeal.

# D. COVERED ACTION SUMMARY: (Project Description from approved CEQA document may be used here)

Historically, the Suisun Marsh was a tidal marsh system. In the late 1800s, the Marsh was diked for water management to support agriculture and duck hunting club activities. The Project site is located in Suisun Marsh (Solano County), adjacent to Grizzly Bay, the DFW Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, and the Grizzly King Duck Club. This property has long been managed as the Tule Red Duck Club (420 acres). The property is owned and managed by Westervelt Ecological Services (WES), with a small portion owned by CDFW (70 acres). The vast majority of the site is managed marsh, with a small area of tidal marsh at the northern end of the site and along the bayside margin of the natural berm. Upland habitat is located along the uppermost crowns of the adjacent levees. The Project would restore habitat for delta smelt, longfin smelt and salmon by restoring estuarine marsh and shallow water habitat in the Suisan Marsh area, thereby restoring approximately 420 acres of existing managed brackish wetlands to tidal habitat. The Project would provide four primary habitat features: 1) a breach of the natural berm at the northern part of the Project area to allow for full daily tidal exchange through the interior of the Project site; 2) a network of tidal channels to regularly convey water across the marsh plain; 3) a series of tidal pannes/basins intended to retain water for periods of up to 2 weeks to maximize aquatic food production; and 4) a habitat berm created along the eastern perimeter of the property, which is designed to provide transitional and refugia habitat for sensitive species including the salt marsh harvest mouse. The Project would partially fulfill the 8,000-acre tidal restoration obligations of the Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA), satisfying the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2008 Biological Opinion for Delta Smelt, the 2009 National Marine Fisheries Service's Biological Opinion for the Coordinated Operations of the State Water Project (SWP) and the Federal Central Valley Project (CVP), and the Longfin Smelt Incidental Take Permit for the SWP. The Project is consistent with the requirements in the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan (Suisun Marsh Plan, or SMP) (Reclamation et al., 2013). It is also identified as a priority restoration project under the California EcoRestore program.

E. STATUS IN THE CEQA PROCESS:	NOD has been filed
F. STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER:(if applicable)	2003112039
G. COVERED ACTION ESTIMATED TIME LINE:	
ANTICIPATED START DATE: (If available)	06/15/2016
ANTICIPATED END DATE: (If available)	10/31/2019
H. COVERED ACTION TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:	11000000

I. IF A CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY FOR THIS COVERED ACTION WAS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED, LIST DSC REFERENCE NUMBER ASSIGNED TO THAT CERTIFICATION FORM: ECs and MMs.pdf, App. C\_Methym\_and\_DO\_Memo.pdf, App. D.1\_Salinity\_Memo.pdf, App. D.2\_Basis of Design\_30Nov2015.pdf, App. E\_SpecialStatus\_Plant\_Species.pdf, App. F\_CCR\_BR\_LeastTern\_Memo.pdf, App. H\_Cultural report.pdf, Additional Conservation Measures.pdf, Tule Red AMMP Draft 3-01-2016.pdf, Tule Red - Detailed Findings\_4-29-2016 final.pdf, Tule Red - MMs and Consistency with DP MMRP.pdf, FRPA implementation\_strategy.pdf

# Step 3 - Consistency with the Delta Plan

# **DELTA PLAN CHAPTER 2**

#### <u>G P1/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002</u> - Detailed Findings to Establish Consistency with the Delta Plan.

G P1/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002 identifies what must be addressed in a certification of consistency filed by a State or local public agency with regard to any covered action and only applies after a "proposed action" has been determined by a State or local public agency to be a covered action because it is covered by one or 12 Revised: July 2019 more of the regulatory policies listed under Delta Plan Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 7 of this form. Inconsistency with this policy may be the basis for an appeal.

A certification of consistency must include detailed findings that address each of the regulatory policies identified in Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 5002-5013 and listed on this Form that is implicated by the covered action.

As outlined in Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002 (b)(1), the Delta Stewardship Council acknowledges that in some cases, based upon the nature of the covered action, full consistency with all relevant regulatory policies may not be feasible. In those cases, the agency that files the certification of consistency may nevertheless determine that the covered action is consistent with the Delta Plan because, on whole, that action is consistent with the coequal goals. That determination must include a clear identification of areas where consistency with relevant regulatory policies is not feasible, an explanation of the reasons why it is not feasible, and an explanation of how the covered action nevertheless, on whole, is consistent with the coequal goals. That determination is subject to review by the Delta Stewardship Council on appeal.

# Specific requirements of this regulatory policy:

# a. <u>G P1(b)(1)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (b)(1)</u> - Coequal Goals

As outlined in **Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002 (b)(1)**, the Delta Stewardship Council acknowledges that in some cases, based upon the nature of the covered action, full consistency with all relevant regulatory policies may not be feasible. In those cases, the agency that files the certification of consistency may nevertheless determine that the covered action is consistent with the Delta Plan because, on whole, that action is consistent with the coequal goals. That determination must include a clear identification of areas where consistency with relevant regulatory policies is not feasible, an explanation of the reasons why it is not feasible, and an explanation of how the covered action nevertheless, on whole, is consistent with the coequal goals. That determination is subject to review by the Delta Stewardship Council on appeal.

#### Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Answer Justification:

# b. <u>G P1(b)(2)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (b)(2)</u> - Mitigation Measures

**G P1(b)(2)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (b)(2)** provides that covered actions not exempt from CEQA, must include all applicable feasible mitigation measures adopted and incorporated into the Delta Plan as amended April 26, 2018, (unless the measure(s) are within the exclusive jurisdiction of an agency other than the agency that files the certification of consistency), or substitute <u>mitigation measures</u> that the agency that files the certification of consistency finds are equally or more effective. For more information, see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, and Delta Plan Appendix O, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, which are referenced in this regulatory policy.

#### Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Answer Justification:

The Project is consistent with all applicable mitigation measures, as described in the attached document ('Detailed Findings - Mitigation Measures, Best Available Science, and Adaptive Management') and additional documents referenced within. <u>Tule Red - Detailed Findings\_4-29-2016 final.pdf</u>, <u>CEQA\_Addendum-Tule Red.pdf</u>, <u>App. B\_TuleRed ECs and MMs.pdf</u>, <u>CEQA\_NOD\_3\_17\_2016.pdf</u>, <u>Additional Conservation Measures.pdf</u>, <u>Tule Red - MMs and Consistency with DP MMRP.pdf</u>

# c. <u>G P1(b)(3)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (b)(3)</u> - Best Available Science

**G P1(b)(4)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (b)(4)** provides that an ecosystem restoration or water management covered action must include adequate provisions, appropriate to its scope, to assure continued implementation of adaptive management. For more information, see <u>Appendix 1B</u>, which is referenced in this regulatory policy. Note that this requirement may be satisfied through both of the following:

(A) An adaptive management plan that describes the approach to be taken consistent with the adaptive management framework in Appendix 1B; and

(B) Documentation of access to adequate resources and delineated authority by the entity responsible for the implementation of the proposed adaptive management process.

# Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

	The Project documents the use of best available science practices as relevant
	to the purpose and nature of the Project, as described in the attached
	document ('Detailed Findings - Mitigation Measures, Best Available Science,
Answer Justification:	and Adaptive Management') and additional documents referenced within.
	Therefore, the Project is consistent with this policy. <u>Tule Red - Detailed</u>
	Findings_4-29-2016 final.pdf, Tule Red AMMP Draft 3-01-2016.pdf, App.
	D.2_Basis of Design_30Nov2015.pdf

d. <u>G P1(b)(4)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (b)(4)</u> - Adaptive Management

**G P1(b)(4)/Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (b)(4)** provides that an ecosystem restoration or water management covered action must include adequate provisions, appropriate to its scope, to assure continued implementation of adaptive management. For more information, see <u>Appendix 1B</u>, which is referenced in this regulatory policy. Note that this requirement may be satisfied through both of the following:

(A) An adaptive management plan that describes the approach to be taken consistent with the adaptive management framework in Appendix 1B; and

(B) Documentation of access to adequate resources and delineated authority by the entity responsible for the implementation of the proposed adaptive management process.

# Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification:

Finding A: The Project includes an adaptive management and monitoring plan (AMMP; uploaded) that has been developed in accordance and is consistent with the Delta Plan Appendix 1B framework. Finding B: The Project proponent has access to adequate resources and delineated authority to implement the proposed adaptive management process. The Project involves ecosystem restoration, and includes adequate provisions, appropriate to its scope, to assure continued implementation of adaptive management, as described above and in the attached document ('Detailed Findings - Mitigation Measures, Best Available Science, and Adaptive Management'). This project's AMMP will be funded under the current DWR/DFW funding agreement for implementation of the Fish Restoration Program (FRP), as DFW will likely be the long term land owner and manager and will, as such, be reimbursed for management and monitoring by DWR under the attached 2010 FRP Agreement. Therefore, the Project is consistent with this policy. <u>Tule Red AMMP Draft 3-01-2016.pdf</u>, <u>Tule Red - Detailed</u> <u>Findings\_4-29-2016 final.pdf</u>, <u>FRPA implementation\_strategy.pdf</u>

# **DELTA PLAN CHAPTER 3**

<u>WR P1 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5003</u> - Reduce Reliance on the Delta through Improved Regional Water Self-Reliance Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy? N/A The covered action does not involve water that is exported from transfe

Answer Justification:	The covered action does not involve water that is exported from, transferred
Answer Justification.	through, or used in the Delta.

#### WR P2 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5004 - Transparency in Water Contracting

#### Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

The covered action does not involve entering into or amending water supply or water transfer contracts subject to DWR Guideline 03-09 and/or 03-10 (each dated July 3, 2003), (Appendix 2A).

#### **DELTA PLAN CHAPTER 4**

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (c) - Conservation Measure

**Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5002, subd. (c)** provides that a conservation measure proposed to be implemented pursuant to a natural community conservation plan or a habitat conservation plan that was: (1) Developed by a local government in the Delta; and (2) Approved and permitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to May 16, 2013 is deemed to be consistent with the regulatory policies listed under Delta Plan Chapter 4 of this Form (i.e. sections 5005 through 5009) if the certification of consistency filed with regard to the conservation measure includes a statement confirming the nature of the conservation measure from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

#### Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Answer Justification:

ER P1 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5005 - Delta Flow Objectives

#### Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

The covered action does not significantly affect flow in the Delta.

#### ER P2 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5006- Restore Habitats at Appropriate Elevations

#### Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification:

The Project proposes habitat restoration that will be carried out at appropriate elevations for the types of habitat restoration efforts that are planned. The Project is consistent with the SMP as well as with ERPP Goal 4 (Habitats). The Project site is identified on the Ecosystem Restoration Program's Delta Conservation Strategy Map as within the existing intertidal range (CDFG 2011, Delta Stewardship Council 2013). Existing and postproject elevations are appropriate for intertidal wetlands (App. D.2 Hydraulic and Geomorphic Basis of Design Report). The Project will restore tidal wetlands by reconnecting lands currently at appropriate intertidal elevations to tidal exchange. The Project will also create and enhance refugia habitat between tidal and upland elevations in order to accommodate high tides and future sea level rise. The Project would not conflict with land elevations identified for "intertidal" (CEQA Addendum Section 3.3.5 Land Use). Based on the above, the Project is consistent with this policy. <u>App. D.2\_Basis of Design 30Nov2015.pdf, CEQA Addendum-Tule Red.pdf</u>

#### ER P3 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5007 - Protect Opportunities to Restore Habitat

# Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy? Yes

The Project protects opportunities to restore habitat. The Project is consistent with Delta Plan policy ER P3. The Suisun Marsh is one of six priority habitat restoration areas designated by the Delta Plan (Delta Stewardship Council 2013). The conversion of managed wetlands to tidal wetlands under the proposed project would be consistent with restoring habitat and would support ER P3 in protecting opportunities to restore habitat (CEQA Addendum - Section 3.3.5 Land Use). <u>CEQA\_Addendum-Tule Red.pdf</u>

#### ER P4 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5008 - Expand Floodplains and Riparian Habitats in Levee Projects

Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

Answer Justification:

The covered action does not construct new levees or substantially rehabilitate or reconstruct existing levees.

# ER P5 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5009 - Avoid Introductions of and Habitat for Invasive Nonnative Species

#### Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification:

The Project includes measures to avoid Introductions of and habitat improvements for invasive nonnative species. As summarized in the Project's CEQA Addendum (Section 3.3.5 Land Use Policies), the Project could result in introduction or spread of noxious weeds or invasive plant species due to soildisturbing activities associated with grading and construction, or tidal exchange. Common reed (Phragmites australis) occurs at the site and is currently managed by chemical control. The Project includes multiple environmental commitments to avoid introducing invasive nonnative species and the Project would control invasive species through various environmental commitments and design measures (CEQA Addendum Appendix B - ECs and MMs). The Project also includes an Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plan (AMMP) that incorporates monitoring and management responses to control non-native invasive species. The SMP EIS/EIR and CEQA Addendum determined that restoration activities would have a less-than-significant impact on invasive plant species and noxious weeds (CEQA Addendum: Section 3.3.2.2 Noxious Weeds/Invasive Plans;

Table 3-7 - Impact Checklist; Section 3.3.5 – Land Use Policies). Non-native invasive aquatic species, such as striped bass and Asian clams, already occur in Suisun Marsh, and no policies or control measures exist to feasibly eliminate or control these species. Numerical modeling of the Project design and observations of other tidal marsh sites indicate that a scour hole (a feature associated with predatory non-native fishes) would not likely form at the entrance to the Project site (Section 3.3.1.3 Hydrology). Based on the above, the Project is consistent with the restoration goals of the SMP and Delta Plan Policy ER P5. <u>CEQA\_Addendum-Tule Red.pdf</u>, <u>App. B\_TuleRed ECs and MMs.pdf</u>, <u>Tule Red AMMP Draft 3-01-2016.pdf</u>

# **DELTA PLAN CHAPTER 5**

# DP P1 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5010 - Locate New Urban Development Wisely

#### Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

 Answer Justification:
 The covered action does not involve new residential, commercial, or industrial development.;

# <u>DP P2 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5011</u> - Respect Local Land Use When Siting Water or Flood Facilities or Restoring Habitats Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

Yes

Answer Justification:

The Project is a habitat restoration project which respects local land use. The Project site selection and Project design both took into account existing local land uses and will not create conflicts with existing or planned local land uses. There has been extensive communication and coordination with neighbors. Prior to acquisition in 2011, Westervelt studied the existing characteristics of the property as well as the surrounding land uses to determine if selection of the site was in alignment with the considerations for siting tidal restoration projects from the SMP. WES then consulted with Steve Chappell of the Suisun Resource Conservation District and the staff of CDFW Grizzly Island Wildlife Area to get their opinion of the effect of the project. After acquisition, contact was made by WES Executive Vice President Greg Sutter with all adjoining landowners (Grizzly King, Mendoza, Honker Farms, Merganser, Westwind, Montezuma, Sprig Farms, and St. Germain) to discuss their ongoing operations and water management of the other properties to determine whether or not the proposed project would have a negative effect on existing surrounding land uses. The Design takes into account the needs of neighboring properties that share the tidal channel to the north of the project by avoiding any increased tidal flows within those channels that could dampen tidal levels for flooding or draining those properties. Stated project objectives include: • The Project should result in no impacts to the existing Roaring River Distribution System. • The Project should result in an improvement to water drainage over the existing CDFW Grizzly Island Wildlife Area drainage system. • The Project should result in no impacts to water supply, drainage, or access to the Grizzly King Duck Club. These objectives were drivers in site selection, selection of the preferred restoration design alternative, and the final Project design. As summarized in the CEQA Addendum (Sec. 3.3.5 - Land Use Policies), the Project does not include the siting of water or flood facilities. The conversion of managed wetlands to tidal wetlands is not considered an incompatible use with the existing land use designations of the Project area or of the

adjacent areas in the vicinity (primarily designated by Solano County as "marsh" and "agriculture"). The overall current use of the Suisun Marsh, in general, and of the Project area specifically, for recreational activities (hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, walking, etc.) would not change. In addition, restoration of the Project site would not affect water management on the adjacent Grizzly King property because the proposed habitat berm would protect this adjacent property from the expected tidal exchange once the existing natural berm is breached and the project site it is fully restored. Finally, the CDFW Grizzly Island Wildlife Area would continue to be managed by CDFW under its current management plan and the Project would not affect that management. Under the Project design, the existing drain that allows CDFW to pump discharged drain water from the managed wetlands of the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area onto the Project site would be modified by installation of a spray aeration structure and constructing a pooling area, as described in Chapter 2 of the CEQA Addendum. This modification would not impact the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area because it would not change the hydrodynamics of the drain (i.e., the drain would continue to drain from the CDFW property onto the Project site) and because it would result in improved water quality (i.e. higher dissolved oxygen) from the CDFW area onto the Project site. The CEQA Addendum (Section 3.3.5 - Land Use Policies) concludes that implementation of the SMP, including restoration projects envisioned by the SMP such as the Project, would not alter existing land use patterns; conflict with existing land use plans, policies, and regulations; or conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. The Project also would not alter the existing land use patterns; conflict with existing land use plans, policies, and regulations; or conflict with the existing SMP. Based on the above, the Project is consistent with the restoration goals of the SMP and Delta Plan Policy DP P2 CEQA Addendum-Tule Red.pdf

# **DELTA PLAN CHAPTER 7**

<u>RR P1 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5012</u> - Prioritization of State Investments in Delta Levees and Risk Reduction Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy? N/A

	The covered action does not involve discretionary State investments in Delta
Answer Justification:	flood risk management including levee operations, maintenance, and
	improvements.

#### RR P2 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5013 - Require Flood Protection for Residential Development in Rural Areas

# Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

The covered action does not involve new residential development of five or more parcels.

#### RR P3 / Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 5014 - Protect Floodways

#### Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

The covered action does not encroach within any floodway.

#### Is the covered action consistent with this portion of the regulatory policy?

N/A

Answer Justification:

The covered action does not encroach in any of the following floodplain areas:

(1) The Yolo Bypass within the Delta;

(2) The Cosumnes River-Mokelumne River Confluence, as defined by the North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project (McCormack-Williamson), or as modified in the future by the California Department of Water Resources or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (California Department of Water Resources 2010); and

(3) The Lower San Joaquin River Floodplain Bypass area, located on the Lower San Joaquin River upstream of Stockton immediately southwest of Paradise Cut on lands both upstream and downstream of the Interstate 5 crossing. This area is described in the Lower San Joaquin River Floodplain Bypass Proposal, submitted to the California Department of Water Resources by the partnership of the South Delta Water Agency, the River Islands Development Company, Reclamation District 2062, San Joaquin Resource Conservation District, American Rivers, the American Lands Conservancy, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, March 2011. This area may be modified in the future through the completion of this project.

05/05/2016