

Date: July 06, 2009

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

Subject: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE BRAD B. FREEMAN BIKE TRAIL REALIGNMENT PROJECT

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for preparation of an Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Brad B. Freeman Bike Trail Realignment Project (proposed project). The IS/MND describes the proposed project and the potential impacts on the environment. DWR has concluded that potentially significant impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed project would be avoided, or reduced to a less-than-significant level, by the adoption and implementation of the mitigation measures specified in the IS/MND. Therefore, DWR intends to adopt an MND pursuant to the requirements of CEQA (Section 21000 et seq., Public Resources Code) and the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15000 et seq., Title 14, California Code of Regulations).

Project Location: The proposed project is in Butte County just north of the city of Oroville. It is located on the left (east) side of the Thermalito Diversion Pool/Feather River, from approximately 850 feet south of the Thermalito Diversion Dam to approximately 175 feet north of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) bridge crossing over the Thermalito Diversion Pool. This location corresponds to a portion of Section 5, Township 19N, Range 4E of the Oroville, California U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle. The approximately 6.38-acre project area includes four parcels: Assessor Parcel Numbers 033-010-038, 033-010-039, 033-101-040, and 033-101-041.

Description of the Proposed Project: DWR is proposing to realign and improve a section of the existing Brad B. Freeman Bike Trail along the east (left) bank of the Thermalito Diversion Pool and the Feather River downstream of the Thermalito Diversion Dam. The proposed project is linear and would involve the relocation of approximately 1,150 linear feet (0.217 mile) of bicycle trail out of the UPRR right-of-way. Approximately 3,309 linear feet (0.627 mile) of existing trail would also be improved. In addition to the proposed realignment of the trail, the following improvements are proposed:

1. Clear and grub a 5-foot swath along 3,309 linear feet of the trail.
2. Construct three rock berms in the Thermalito Diversion Pool to allow trail users safe passage over sections of water that fall within the proposed realignment. The berms would have a top width of 8 feet and 2:1 side slopes. Berms would be constructed using 1,332 tons of rock, 6,162 square feet of geotextile fabric, and 175 tons of gravel.
3. 42-inch-diameter culverts would be installed to allow water to pass through the rock berms.
4. Covered fencing would be installed at the railroad bridge undercrossing. The covered section of the trail would include a 25-foot section on each side of the railroad bridge and

a 20-foot section under the bridge. Both 25-foot sections upstream and downstream of the bridge would include a metal decking attached to the top of the fence.

5. 232-feet of barbed wire fencing would be installed along the UPRR property line to keep trail users from trespassing onto UPRR property.
6. New signage would be installed along the trail.

Public Review Period: The draft IS/MND is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days beginning July 06, 2009. Comments on the draft IS/MND are welcomed and should be submitted and received at the following address no later than 3:30 p.m. on August 05, 2009:

California Department of Water Resources
Attn: Gail Kuenster
460 Glen Drive
Oroville, CA 95966
Fax (530) 534-2394
kuenster@water.ca.gov

Document Availability: The draft IS/MND is available for review at:

Department of Water Resources, Oroville Field Division, 460 Glen Drive, Oroville, CA 95966

Butte County Clerk/Recorder Office, 25 County Drive, Oroville, CA 95966

DWR Website: <http://www.water.ca.gov/recreation/locations/oroville/environmental.cfm>