



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 23, 2021

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FROM: PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES, TIA SAR, PLANNER II

SUBJECT: CDP_2020-0038 – REQUEST FOR ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION TO CONSOLIDATE PERMIT AUTHORITY FOR THE NATURE CONSERVANCY PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TEN MILE RIVER TO INCREASE WINTER REARING FOR COHO SALMON AND OTHER SALMONIDS.

The applicant, the Nature Conservancy (TNC), is proposing to implement a habitat restoration project to increase winter survival and rearing capacity for Coho Salmon on the main stem of the Ten Mile River. The applicant has requested a consolidated permit to process all improvements under one permit, expediting the review process.

The Main stem Ten Mile Habitat Enhancement Project, Phase 1, will include construction of several engineered log jams, seasonally flooded alcoves, and creation of an off-channel seasonally flooded wetland. Phases 1A (CDP_2017-0025, Resolution No. 17-140) and 1B (CDP_2020-0005, Resolution No. 20-029), consisted of restoration on the nearby South Fork of the Ten Mile River and were completed in 2018 and 2020 respectively.

The proposed improvements include construction of in-channel and off-channel habitat elements across several sites along an approximately 2500-linear-foot the Ten Mile River. The habitat enhancements include a series of in-stream, large wood structures and associated off-channel habitat alcoves intended to increase habitat complexity in a stretch of channel that currently has very little winter habitat value; an off-channel flooded wetland to provide foraging habitat and off-channel refugia for juvenile salmonids during storm events; and bank softening, berm breaching, and tree recruitment to facilitate natural geomorphic processes and increase connectivity between the channel and adjacent floodplains. These new habitat elements will significantly improve winter and spring rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids within this stretch of the Ten Mile River.

The project activities are split between Coastal Commission retained jurisdiction (for in-channel improvements including engineered log jams) and Mendocino County coastal jurisdiction (for off-channel improvements including the alcoves and flooded wetland). The attached *Parcels Map* shows the exact location of proposed improvements. Each proposed improvement is considered development as defined in Mendocino County Code (MCC) Section 20.308.035, and therefore the improvements in each jurisdiction would require a Coastal Development Permit, as per MCC Section 20.532.010.

The proposed consolidation request by the applicant would allow for streamlined processing of this project. The alternative would be the processing of multiple Coastal Development Permits by multiple jurisdictions, which would not allow analysis of the project as a whole. By authorizing the consolidation, the Board of Supervisors would allow the California Coastal Commission to process a Coastal Development Permit for the proposed improvements to the Ten Mile River. Otherwise, a separate Coastal Development Permit would be processed by both jurisdictions, California Coastal Commission and Mendocino County, for the improvements within each jurisdiction. However, at the request of the applicants, a resolution is being sought which would consolidate the permit review process under the California Coastal Commission for the specific project only, and streamline the permit process.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a Resolution to allow the California Coastal Commission to process a consolidated Coastal Development Permit for The Nature Conservancy to increase winter rearing habitat for Coho Salmon and salmonids on the Ten Mile River Main stem, and authorize chair to sign same.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Draft Resolution to the Board of Supervisors
- B. The Nature Conservancy Consolidation Request, dated December 18, 2020
- C. Application
- D. Location Map
- E. Appeal Area
- F. Parcels Map
- G. Project Plans submitted by The Nature Conservancy
- H. CDP_2017-0025 - Resolution 17-140
- I. CDP_2020-0005- Resolution 20-029