

**City of Yuba City
Staff Report**

Date: December 1, 2009
To: Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council
From: Utilities Department
Presented by: Maria C. Solis, Assistant Utilities Director

Summary

Subject: Public Hearing for the Yuba City Feather River Fish Screen Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study Report

Recommendation: Conduct a public hearing and receive comments on the Environmental Assessment/Initial Study for the Fish Screen Project. No formal action required.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact at this time.

Background:

December 2001 the City petitioned the State Water Resource Control Board for an extension of two water right permits. These permits serve as the main water supply during non summer months. September 2006 the City Council approved an environmental document related to the time extension. The environmental document concludes that the City's current diversions may have a significant adverse impact on the Spring-run and Fall-run Chinook salmon and the Steelhead trout. In order to mitigate this potential impact the City has initiated a project to install fish screens on its Feather River Intake Structure. The environmental document states that it is intended that the fish screens would be constructed by 2010.

September 2006 City Council authorized the Utilities Department to enter into a contract with Jones & Stokes for environmental review for the Yuba City Feather River Diversion Structure Fish Screen Project. The screen project is currently under design by HDR Engineers.

Analysis:

Per the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project. This environmental document assesses the impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed project on the environment and wildlife. The results of the study indicate that mitigation measures would reduce all potential, adverse impacts to less-than-significant levels.

On November 4, 2009 staff filed a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration with the Sutter County Clerk. This notice was published in the Appeal-Democrat and provided to the State Clearing house. The study and all associated documents have been available for public review at the Utilities Department, the Sutter County Library, and online at www.yubacity.net. The public comment period is from November 4 to December 3, 2009

The environmental document is a joint National Environmental Policy Act and CEQA document. The United States Bureau of Reclamation is the lead federal agency because the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has allocated \$900,000 in grant funds for the project that has a total cost of \$6,000,000.

It is anticipated that Council will consider certification of the study December 15, 2009.

Construction is expected to begin next year.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact at this time. When constructed the project it is anticipated that it will be funded with grant funds and State Revolving Fund Loan. The loan will be repaid with a combination of rates and future impact fees. Council approval will be requested prior to any funding process.

Alternatives:

Do not open the public hearing and provide direction to staff.

Recommendation:


Conduct a public hearing and receive comments on the Environmental Assessment/Initial Study for the Fish Screen Project. No formal action required.

Prepared By:



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Administrative Assistant

Submitted By:



Steven R. Jepsen
City Manager

Reviewed By:

Department Head CPL

Finance MS

City Attorney OK by email