

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Alexandria and Five Mile Slough Culvert Replacement Project, Plan Participation and Buffer Reduction

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to SJCOG, Inc. to 1) Allow the Alexandria and Five Mile Slough Culvert Replacement Project; and 2) Allow a Revision to the Incidental Take Minimization Measures for Giant Garter Snake (GGS) and Western Pond Turtle (WPT) Buffers for this Project

DISCUSSION:

SUMMARY:

The project applicant, City of Stockton Public Works, is requesting coverage under the San Joaquin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP) through the City of Stockton's Community Development Department. Though the project is in a mapped area of the Plan, there are various outside permitting needs. The project site is located on the north side of Benjamin Holt Lane and east of Plymouth Road, Stockton in the Central Zone (attachments 1 & 2).



RECOMMENDATION:

SJCOG, Inc. staff and HTAC recommend the SJCOG, Inc. Board to:

- 1) Allow the project to participate under the SJMSCP to provide biological coverage for the project impacts to the habitat types under the federal and state permits; and
- 2) Allow a revision to the Incidental Take Minimization Measures (ITMM) for Giant Garter Snake (GGS) and Western Pond Turtle (WPT) buffer for this project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If the project is approved, SJCOG, Inc. will be provided mitigation for the project impacts as required under the SJMSCP for approximately 0.44 acres. The impacts for this project would consist of 0.44 acres of Urban (U) habitat impacts. There are no fees for Urban (U) habitat impacts.

BACKGROUND:



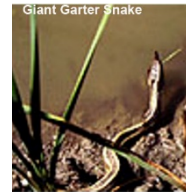
This project consists of replacing a deteriorated corrugated metal pipe culvert with a new concrete box culvert (attachment 3).

The project is currently seeking outside permitting for portions of the project with the following agencies:

- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a Section 404 permit,
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) for an Encroachment permit,
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for a Section 7 Consultation, and
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a 1602 permit

In order to construct and replace the deteriorated corrugated metal pipe culvert, the project will impact potential Giant Garter Snake (GGS) habitat within the suggested 200-foot buffer and Western Pond Turtle (WPT) within the 300-foot buffer. As identified in Section 5.59 of the Plan, HTAC, on a case-by-case review, can establish a setback and buffer zone to be used by the project in place of the 200 and 300 feet suggested.

Because the construction of portions of the project will be within the suggested 200-foot and 300-foot buffer areas, the project proponent has requested a reduction in the buffer to a 0-foot setback for the impacts within Five-Mile Slough. The reduction of these buffers is necessary for the construction of this project. All other ITMM measures for GGS (e.g., construction window between May 1 and October 1 and required survey work) and WPT will remain standard.



The applicant may be responsible for mitigating for the habitat impacts caused by this project by either paying the appropriate fees at the time of ground disturbance or dedicating land in lieu of a fee at the appropriate SJMSCP ratio. There are no fees for Urban (U) habitat land impacts.

Adjacent Vegetation and Land Use

Location	SJMSCP Vegetation Map Classification	Habitat Type Category	Actual Use of Property
Site	Urban (U)	Urban (U)	Urban (U)
North	Urban (U)	Urban (U)	Urban (U)
South	Urban (U)	Urban (U)	Urban (U)
East	Urban (U)	Urban (U)	Urban (U)
West	Urban (U)	Urban (U)	Urban (U)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

- Habitat Technical Advisory Committee: Recommended Approval
- SJCOG, Inc. Board: Action Required

ATTACHMENTS:

1. General Location Map
2. Project Location Map
3. Project Site Map

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