



MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Lead Agency: San Bernardino Valley
Water Conservation District
1630 W. Redlands Boulevard
Redlands, California 92373

Contact: Daniel Cozad, District Manager
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Project Title: The Plunge Creek Conservation Project

State Clearinghouse Number: 2018011024

Project Location: Within Plunge Creek, beginning approximately 0.5 mile upstream of the end of Abbey Way, downstream to near the confluence of Elder Creek.

Project Description: The proposed Project consists of the excavation of two pilot channels from the active channel of Plunge Creek, through the historic floodplain, and back to the active channel, with the primary goals of: 1) increasing the area of suitable habitat for the federally listed as endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat (SBKR) and other sensitive species; and 2) increasing groundwater recharge opportunities without increasing the risk of flooding or erosion on non-District owned or managed land. The duration of the Project is approximately one month and includes sediment removal and relocation, channel scouring, and installation of water splitters. All elements from the project are derived directly from the channel material, placed in a manner to achieve the design results. The sediment removal would consist of heavy machinery removing cobbles, sands, and other fine sediments deposited in historic floods that are currently blocking old channels. The sediment removed during this part of the project would be used to build a wall that would protect an existing mine from flooding due to the scouring events that would occur in the newly restored channel. The proposed splitters would exist to assist in directing flow, allowing for control over which channels received the scouring flow and enabling water resource controllers to keep the active Plunge Creek channels in their current state as well. The project will occur over approximately 1.7 miles of Plunge Creek. The Project will impact 8 acres temporarily and 5.9 acres permanently. Of these impacts, 0.61 acre of permanent and 0.63 acre of temporary impacts will be subject to Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code (FGC). The project is specifically identified in the Upper Santa Ana River Wash Habitat Conservation Plan, as the Plunge Creek Habitat Enhancement (CD.06).

Finding: The San Bernardino Water Conservation District's (District) decision to implement this proposed project is a discretionary decision or "project" that requires evaluation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on the information in the project Initial Study, District has made a determination that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is be the appropriate environmental determination for this project to comply with CEQA.

Initial Study: Copies of the Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study are available for review at the District's office located at 1630 W. Redlands Boulevard, Redlands, California 92373. The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study was circulated for public review and comment from January 15, 2018 and ends on February 13, 2018.

Mitigation Measures: All mitigation measures identified in the Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study are summarized and are proposed for adoption as conditions of the project. These measures will be implemented through a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program as part of the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study.

Signature

Title

Date