



Agenda Date: 10/18/2005
Agenda Placement: 9A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Cathy Gruenhagen for Hillary Gitelman - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning
REPORT BY: Hillary Gitelman, Director, 253-4805
SUBJECT: Comments Regarding CA Dept. of Fish & Game Salt Pond Project

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Conservation, Development and Planning requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a letter commenting on the California Department of Fish and Game's proposal to restore tidal wetlands and open water habitat on 1,400 acres of salt ponds and associated lands south of the Napa County Airport.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Department of Fish and Game is requesting comments on the scope and content of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will be prepared regarding conversion of 1,400 acres of salt ponds south of Napa County Airport to tidal wetland and open water habitat. If the project is approved and implemented, the portion of the site north of the Northwest Pacific Railroad tracks would be managed as part of the Fagan Marsh Ecological Reserve; land south of the railroad tracks would be designated as the Green Island Unit of the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The California Department of Fish and Game has proposed restoration of 1,400 acres of salt ponds south of Napa County Airport to tidal wetland and open water habitat, and is requesting County comments prior to preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. (See the notice and description provided in Attachment A.)

Staff of the County Departments of Public Works and Department of Conservation, Development and Planning recommend that the County respond by expressing qualified support for the project, and requesting a thorough analysis of potential impacts, including those associated with increased bird activity near the airport. (See the draft letter provided in Attachment B.)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report
- B . Comment Letter

CEO Recommendation: Approve
Reviewed By: Andrew Carey