



Agenda Date: 3/21/2006  
Agenda Placement: 6G

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

---

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Hillary Gitelman - Director  
Conservation, Development & Planning  
**REPORT BY:** Jeff Sharp, Planner III , 259-5936  
**SUBJECT:** Comments Regarding CA Dept. of Fish & Game Salt Pond Project Draft Environmental Impact Report

---

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Director of Conservation, Development and Planning and Director of Public Works request approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a letter commenting on the California Department of Fish and Game's Draft Environmental Impact Report covering their 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 soliciting comments on their Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) 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. The DEIR addresses but is only partly responsive to comments provided by the County as part of the initial environmental scoping for the project. The attached draft comment letter on the DEIR calls for additional actions and project modifications by the project sponsor.

### **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 released a DEIR for public review and comment on their proposed restoration of 1,400 acres of salt ponds south of Napa County Airport to tidal wetland and open water habitat. This public review period ends on March 23, 2006.

As part of the initial environmental scoping process for the project, the County sent a letter to the Department of Fish and Game on October 18, 2005 that provided support for the goals of habitat restoration and regional trail connectivity, while also raising concerns regarding potential impacts to the Napa County Airport, water quality and flooding, and compatibility with the County General Plan. Additional input was provided to the Department by the County in a letter of January 13, 2006 regarding the County's interest in developing a continuous recreational trail between the cities of American Canyon and Napa that would traverse the eastern side of the project site.

The DEIR appears to adequately address some but not all of the points previously raised by the County. A draft letter addressing remaining concerns and deficiencies is attached.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . Draft letter to CA Department of Fish and Game

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi