

Date: August 4, 2008

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties and Organizations

Subject: Notice of Intent to Adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Iron Canyon Fish Ladder Rehabilitation project in Upper Bidwell Park

The City of Chico intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines.

Project Title: **Iron Canyon Fish Ladder Rehabilitation**

Lead Agency: City of Chico  
Capitol Project Services  
411 Main St,  
Chico, CA 95928

Project Location: The project is located on Big Chico Creek in Bidwell Park in the City of Chico, Butte County. The site is located near the Salmon Hole and Parking Lot P areas of Upper Bidwell Park, accessible from Upper Park Road, a gravel road that roughly parallels the creek, in T22N, R2E, undesignated section of Arroyo Chico Land Grant (see **Figure 1: Project Location Map** and **Figure 2: Site Vicinity Map**).

The project staging area is located on the canyon rim just south of Parking Lot P and the channel construction area is located upstream of Salmon Hole.

Project Description: The project will repair existing weirs, expand and modify existing weirs, and install 6 new weirs at the Iron Canyon Fish Ladder (Fish Ladder) on Big Chico Creek in Bidwell Park, Chico, California. The Fish Ladder was constructed in the mid 1950s to provide spring run salmon passage during low to moderate flows, so that the fish can reach holding and spawning habitat upstream. The ladder has suffered damage and now does not function as designed. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) developed final designs and specifications (pending permit and funding agency conditions) and has provided funding to the California State University, Chico Research Foundation to complete environmental review, obtain permits and develop construction funding. The Foundation is working with the City of Chico, the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance, the CA Department of Fish and Game and the CA Department of Water Resources to complete these tasks.

Environmental Review Process: The City of Chico has prepared an initial study/proposed mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) on the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of CEQA. The IS/MND describes the proposed Iron Canyon Fish Ladder Rehabilitation and provides an assessment of the project's potential impacts on the environment. The IS/MND concludes that any potentially significant

impacts that may result from the proposed project can be avoided, eliminated, or reduced to a level that is less than significant by the adoption and implementation of specified mitigation measures.

Public Review Period: The IS/MND is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days starting August 4, 2008. Written comments should be submitted and received at the following address no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 3, 2008.

Ms. Tracy R. Bettencourt  
Capitol Project Services  
411 Main St,  
Chico, CA 95928  
Phone (530) 879-6903  
Email: [tbettenc@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:tbettenc@ci.chico.ca.us)

A copy of the draft IS/MND may be reviewed at the following locations:

City of Chico Planning Division, 411 Main Street, Second Floor, Chico, California  
Butte County, County Clerk/Recorder's Office, 25 County Center Drive, Oroville,  
California