

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Russian River Estuary Management Project Environmental Impact Report

	<u>Page</u>
Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Glossary	vii
Executive Summary	ES-1
1. Introduction	1-1
1.1 Background and Overview of Proposed Project	1-1
1.2 Project Objectives, Purpose, and Need	1-3
1.3 Agency Use of this Document	1-3
1.4 CEQA Process	1-4
2. Project Description	2-1
2.1 Introduction	2-1
2.2 Project Background	2-2
2.3 Proposed Estuary Management	2-11
2.4 Outlet Channel Creation and Maintenance	2-19
2.5 Implementation Schedule	2-23
2.6 Project Alternatives to be Considered	2-23
2.7 Agency Use of this Document	2-28
3. Project Background and Environmental Setting	3-1
3.1 Introduction	3-1
3.2 Estuary Management	3-2
3.3 Estuary Water Plan and Russian River Flows	3-3
3.4 Estuary Water Surface Elevations	3-5
3.5 Estuary Monitoring Programs	3-8
3.6 Estuary Conditions and NMFS' Russian River Biological Opinion	3-16
3.7 Extended Closure Data Report – 2009	3-24
4. Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures	4-1
4.1 Geology and Soils	4.1-1
4.2 Hydrology and Flooding	4.2-1
4.3 Water Quality	4.3-1
4.4 Biological Resources	4.4-1
4.5 Fisheries	4.5-1
4.6 Land Use and Agriculture	4.6-1
4.7 Recreation	4.7-1
4.8 Cultural Resources	4.8-1
4.9 Noise	4.9-1

	<u>Page</u>
4. Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures (continued)	
4.10 Air Quality	4.10-1
4.11 Traffic	4.11-1
4.12 Hazards and Hazardous Materials	4.12-1
4.13 Public Services and Utilities and Public Safety	4.13-1
4.14 Aesthetics	4.14-1
5. Cumulative Impacts	5-1
5.1 CEQA Analysis Requirements	5-1
5.2 Related Projects	5-2
5.3 Description of Cumulative Effects	5-28
6. Alternatives	6-1
6.1 Introduction	6-1
6.2 Alternatives Development	6-2
6.3 Alternatives of the Project Analyzed in the EIR	6-3
6.4 Alternatives Analysis	6-5
6.5 Summary of Comparison of Project Alternatives	6-17
7. Other Topics Required by CEQA	7-1
6.1 Growth Inducement	7-1
6.2 Significant and Unavoidable Impacts	7-2
8. Report Preparers	8-1

Appendices

1. Notice of Preparation, Scoping Report and Scoping Comments	A1-1
2. Air Quality – Supporting Documentation	A2-1
4. Local Regulatory Framework Governing Environmental Resources	A4-1

List of Figures

ES-1 Regional Location	ES-2
ES-2 Estuary Study Area and Maximum Backwater Area	ES-4
ES-3 Estuary Management Area	ES-9
2-1 Regional Location	2-3
2-2 Project Location	2-4
2-3 Estuary Study Area	2-6
2-3a Estuary Study Area and Maximum Backwater Area	2-7
2-4a Historic Sandbar Breaching Events, by Year (1996-2009)	2-9
2-4b Historic Sandbar Breaching Events, by Month (1996-2009)	2-9
2-4c Breaching Events During the Lagoon Management Period versus Breaching Events Outside the Lagoon Management Period, by Year (1996-2009)	2-10
2-5 Historic Practice and Lagoon Management Period Sequences	2-13
2-6 Estuary Management Area	2-15
2-7 Generalized Outlet Channel Profile: Historic Artificial Breaching Practices	2-17
2-8 Generalized Outlet Channel Profile: Proposed Estuary Management Plan	2-18
2-9 Photos of Russian River Estuary: Natural Outlet Channel Closed, and Created Outlet Channel Conditions, July 2010	2-20

	<u>Page</u>
List of Figures (continued)	
3-1 Comparison of Lower Russian River Minimum Flow Requirements and Anticipated Hydrologic Flow Range for Estuary Management Project	3-5
3-2 Water Surface Elevations at All Breaching Events (Agency, Citizen, Natural) 1996-2009	3-6
3-3 Frequency of Water Surface Elevations at All Breaching Events (Agency, Citizen, Natural) 1996-2009	3-7
3-4a Estuary Study Area: Elevation Contours	3-9
3-4b Estuary Study Area: Elevation Contours	3-10
3-4c Estuary Study Area: Elevation Contours	3-11
3-4d Estuary Study Area: Elevation Contours	3-12
3-4e Estuary Study Area: Elevation Contours	3-13
3-5 Estuary Water Level at Jenner Gage (2003)	3-15
3-6 Salinity Profiles in Russian River Estuary	3-25
3-7 Dissolved Oxygen Profiles in Russian River Estuary	3-27
3-8 Temperature Profiles in Russian River Estuary	3-28
4.1-1 Bedrock and Superficial Geology	4.1-3
4.1-2 Regional Faults	4.1-11
4.2-1 Russian River Watershed	4.2-3
4.2-2 FEMA Flood Zones – Jenner Gage	4.2-6
4.2-2a 100-year FEAM Flood Zone	4.2-7
4.2-3 Tsunami Inundation Map	4.2-10
4.2-4 Estuary Water Level at Jenner Gage (2003) and Proposed Project Condition	4.2-18
4.3-1 Estuary Study Area: Biological and Water Quality Sampling Locations	4.3-4
4.4-1 Vegetation Communities within the 14-foot Elevation (NGVD) Study Area	4.4-7
4.4-2 Vegetation Communities within the 14-foot Elevation (NGVD) Study Area	4.4-8
4.4-3 Vegetation Communities within the 14-foot Elevation (NGVD) Study Area	4.4-9
4.4-4 Vegetation Communities within the 14-foot Elevation (NGVD) Study Area	4.4-10
4.4-5 Vegetation Communities within the 14-foot Elevation (NGVD) Study Area	4.4-11
4.4-6 Pinniped Haulouts at the Russian River Estuary and Surrounds	4.4-17
4.4-7 Average Daily Numbers of Seals	4.4-18
4.4-8 Maximum Seal Counts at Jenner Pre- and Post-Breaching:1996 to 2000	4.4-19
4.4-9 Average Seal Numbers at Jenner Haulout versus River Haulouts	4.4-20
4.4-10 Average Seal Numbers at Jenner Haulout versus Coastal Haulouts	4.4-20
4.4-11 CNDDDB Special Status Animals	4.4-34
4.4-12 CNDDDB Special Status Plants and Critical Habitat	4.4-35
4.4-13 Pinniped Ude of Outlet Channel During Open Estuary Conditions	4.4-80
4.5-1 Estuary Study Area: Typical River Profiles and Estimates Volume Summary	4.4-21
4.6-1 General Plan Land Use Designations	4.6-3
4.6-2 Important Farmland and Williamson Contracted Land	4.6-7
4.14-1a Characteristic Views of the Russian River Estuary	4.14-4
4.14-1b Characteristic Views of the Russian River Estuary	4.14-5
4.14-2 Photos of of the Russian River Estuary: Natural Closure and Channel Creation, July 2010	4.14-9
6-1 Jenner Jetty from the North, c. 1929	6-9
6-2 Drawing of Jenner Jetty, Road and Seawall	6-11
6-3 Approach to the Jenner Jetty from the South, 2010	6-12
6-4 Jenner Jetty from the South, 2010	6-13
6-5 Jenner Jetty from the Northeast, 2010	6-14
6-6 Number of Properties at Select Elevations	6-17
6-7a Alternative Flood Management Measures 14 Foot Contour Management Zone Jenner Area	6-37

	<u>Page</u>
List of Figures (continued)	
6-7b Alternative Flood Management Measures 14 Foot Contour Management Zone Jenner Area	6-38
6-7c Alternative Flood Management Measures 14 Foot Contour Management Zone Jenner Area	6-39
List of Charts	
2-1 RRIFR Program Elements	2-2
List of Tables	
ES-1 Summary of Impact Determinations and Mitigation Measures	ES-20
2-1 Breaching of the Russian River Estuary, 1996-2009	2-8
2-2 Comparison of Physical Elements of Pilot Channel Versus Proposed Outlet Channel	2-14
2-3 Summary of Applicable Permits	2-29
3-1 Average Number of Harbor Seals Observed at the Jenner Haulout, Goat Rock State Beach, Closed Conditions, by Month During Monitoring of Artificial Breaching Activities, 1996 – 2000	3-34
4.1-1 Properties of the NRCS-Mapped Soul Units in the Project Area	4.1-5
4.1-2 Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale	4.1-10
4.1-3 Active and Potentially Active Regional Faults in the Vicinity of the Estuary Project Area	4.1-12
4.2-1 Russian River Monthly Average Flows, USGS Guerneville Gage (Water Years 1984-2009)	4.2-4
4.3-1 Summary of Well Data for Adjacent Domestic Wells	4.3-10
4.3-2 Beneficial Uses of Lowed Russian River	4.3-12
4.3-3 Basin Plan Water Quality Objectives for Applicable Beneficial Uses	4.3-13
4.3-4 Lower Russian River Water Quality Impairments	4.3-15
4.4-1 Average Number of Harbor Seals Observed at the Jenner Haulout, Goat Rock State Beach, Closed Conditions, by Month During Monitoring of Artificial Breaching Activities, from 1996 to 2000	4.4-19
4.4-2 Special-Status Plant Species with Potential to Occur in the Project Area	4.4-23
4.4-3 Special-Status Animal Species with Potential to Occur in the Project Area	4.4-29
4.4-4 Extent of Vegetation within Existing Topographical Ranges Adjacent to Russian River Estuary – within 14 Foot Elevation	4.4-76
4.5-1 Special-Status Species Observed in the Russian River Watershed	4.5-6
4.5-2 Federally-managed Marine Fish Species with Designated Essential Fish Habitat in the Russian River Estuary	4.5-14
4.5-3 Storage Volume Provided by Proposed Project	4.5-20
4.7-1 Extent of Beach (Mudflat/Gravel) within Existing Topographical Ranges Adjacent to Russian River Estuary within 14 foot Elevation	4.7-9
4.8-1 Cultural Resources Studies Within or Adjacent to the Proposed Project Area	4.8-5
4.8-2 Archaeological Sites Within ½-mile of the Proposed Project Area	4.8-6
4.8-3 Culturally Sensitive Plants Species in the Vicinity of the Estuary Management Project Area	4.8-8
4.9-1 Maximum Allowable Exterior Noise Exposures for Non-transportation Noise Sources	4.9-5
4.9-2 Noise Levels Associated with Construction Equipment	4.9-8
4.9-3 Vibration Source Levels from Construction Equipment	4.9-9

	<u>Page</u>
List of Tables (Continued)	
4.10-1 Air Quality Data Summary (2005-2009) for the Russian River Estuary Management Area	4.10-2
4.10-2 Ambient Air Quality Standards for Criteria Pollutants	4.10-7
4.10-3 Recommended AB32 Greenhouse Gas Measures to be Initiated by CARB by 2012	4.10-9
4.10-4 Estimated Project-Generated Criteria Pollutants (Tons per Year)	4.10-13
4.10-5 Estimated Project-Generated Criteria Pollutants (Metric Tons per Year)	4.10-15
5-1 Planned and Approved Projects in the Estuary Management Project Area and Vicinity	5-5
5-2 Proposed Interim Restoration Projects	5-21
5-3 Summary of Other Plans, Policies, Programs, and Habitat Restoration Projects and Relationship to Estuary Project	5-30
6-1 Significant but Mitigable Impacts Associated with the Proposed Project	6-19
6-2 Ability of Project Alternatives to Meet Project Objectives	6-21
6-3 Impact Comparison of Project Alternatives	6-22
8-1 List of Preparers	8-1