

Recommendations to Help Avoid Significant Fish, Wildlife and
Native Plant Resource Impacts for California Environmental
Quality Act (CEQA) Projects in Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity,
Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Lassen and Modoc Counties

BY

The Department of Fish and Game
(Northern California-North Coast [Region 1])

These suggestions can help reduce most potential impacts on
the following resources to "less than significant" under the
CEQA.

Department biologists have relied on scientific research and
literature and professional experience to develop the following
recommendations to protect the public's fish, wildlife and native
plant resources.

It is our understanding that the CEQA process is intended
to: (1) identify potentially significant impacts, (2) determine
if such impacts can be avoided, (3) describe feasible mitigation
for unavoidable impacts and (4) identify the overriding
considerations when mitigation is not feasible.

The intent of these suggestions is to promote the second
step of avoidance. If avoidance is not possible or if mitigation
is required, please contact Department staff to determine if
assistance is possible.

RIPARIAN HABITAT

For lead agency planning purposes, most rivers and tributaries should be designated by the Department with the accompanying buffer to provide the required level of protection. For an example, the following map (example 2) has the main and secondary tributaries identified. Solid line streams are main tributaries requiring either a 100-foot minimum buffer, which includes the riparian vegetation plus 50 feet, whichever is greater. Dotted line streams are secondary tributaries requiring either a 50-foot minimum buffer or a buffer which includes the riparian vegetation plus 25 feet, whichever is greater.

Example: Upper Sacramento Valley (urban and rural setting)

From Top of Bank (minimum) or From Outside edge from existing riparian

150 feet Sacramento River	75 feet
100 feet Main Tributaries	50 feet
50 feet Secondary Tributaries	25 feet

If development restrictions related to mandatory requirements do not allow a project to completely avoid the area of the buffer zone outside the riparian vegetation, the project proponent may average the setback distance along the riparian habitat for the length of the project.

Flood plain - it should be noted that this habitat protection does not compensate for "additional flooding problems" with full buildout in upper watershed. Additional project generated water should be retained and released by use of detention ponds, etc., to mimic natural conditions.

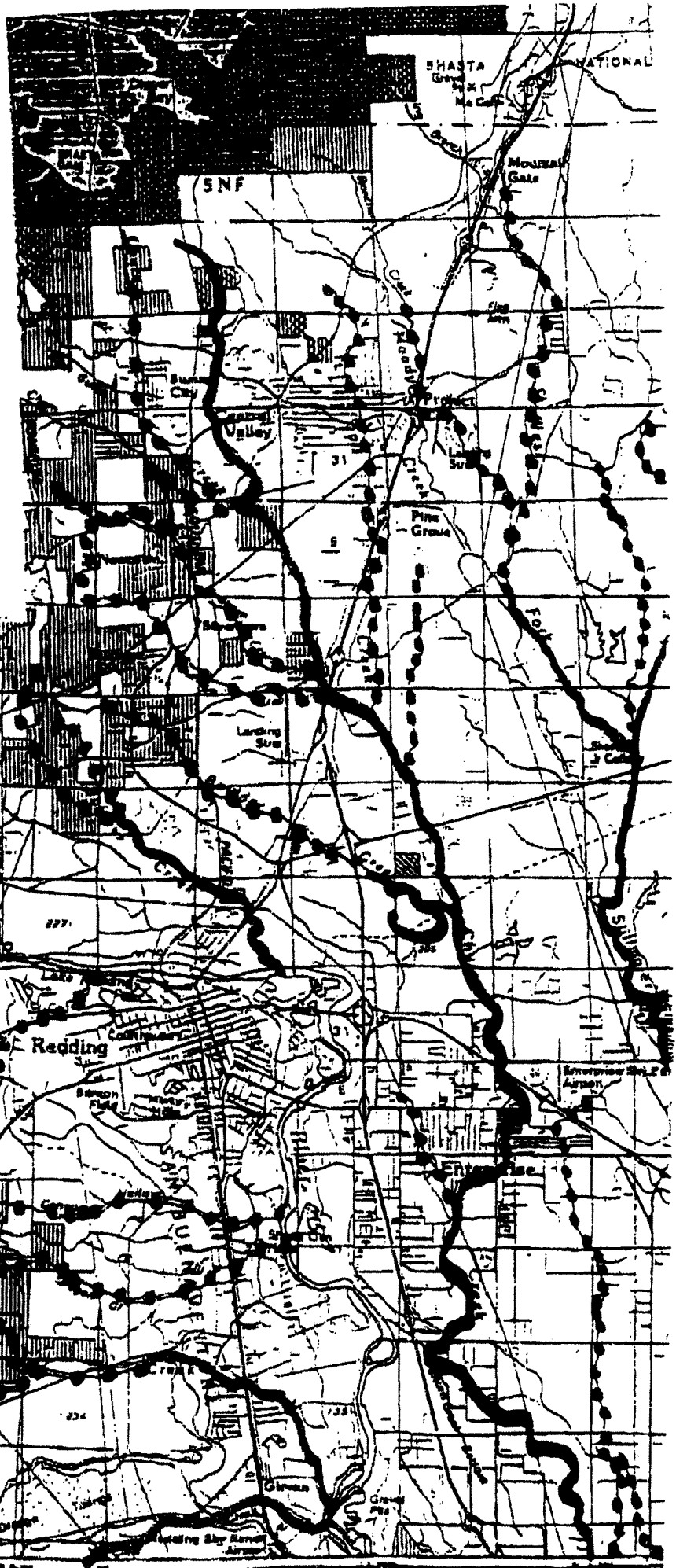
EXAMPLE 2. NORTH WEST AREA

———— Main Tributaries

50 feet from riparian dripline or
100 feet from bank, whichever
is greater.

••••• Secondary Tributaries

25 feet from riparian dripline or
50 feet from bank, whichever
is greater.



WETLANDS

Wetland Habitats - includes wildlife habitat relationships (WHR) habitat types: wet meadows, fresh emergent wetlands, saline emergent wetlands, riverine, lacustrine, estuarine, and small seeps and springs (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988). These criteria do not apply to and will not protect vernal pools or dune hollow wetlands. The wetland size should be considered the most important factor for the application of buffers to protect this resource. Wetland buffers are upland areas that surround or lie adjacent to a wetland that assist in reducing potential adverse impacts to wetland functions and values from adjacent disturbance (see example 1).

<u>Size of Wetland</u>	<u>Wetland Buffer Needed</u>
0 - 1.0 ACRE	50 FEET
1.1 - 5.0 ACRES	75 FEET
5.1 + ACRES	100 FEET

EXAMPLE 1.

EXAMPLE OF A WETLAND BUFFER

