

FINAL • MARCH 2026

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Bouldin Island Multi-Benefit Levee Setback Project

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By Deputy: aambriz



PREPARED FOR


Reclamation District No. 756
(Bouldin Island)
343 East Main Street, Suite 815
Stockton, CA 95202

PREPARED BY

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Suggested citation:

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Cover photo: Existing Bouldin Island levee within the Project Area that will be set back to create a planting bench.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Reclamation District No. 756 Bouldin Island Multi-Benefit Levee Setback Project	
CEQA lead agency name and address	Reclamation District No. 756 343 East Main Street, Suite 715 Stockton, CA 95202
CEQA responsible agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Department of Water Resources, (funding) • California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement) • Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Section 401 Permit) • Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (landowner)
Contact person and phone number	Nathan Hershey, District Engineer MBK Engineers 455 University Avenue, Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95825 Office: (916) 456-4400 Fax: (916) 456-0253
Project location	Bouldin Island, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, San Joaquin County
Project sponsor's name and address	Russell E. Ryan, Trustee 343 East Main Street, Suite 715 Stockton, CA 95202 Office: (209) 943-5551
Zoning	Agriculture
Description of Project	Levee rehabilitation, waterside bench to create shaded riverine aquatic habitat; crown, slope, and toe berm fill; all-weather roadway; quarry stone armoring topped with soil slurry to fill voids; and pump station relocation.
Surrounding land uses and setting	The Project is on land zoned for agriculture and is adjacent to the Mokelumne River.
Other public agencies whose approval is required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 Permit) • Delta Stewardship Council (Consistency Determination)
Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project Area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?	The Wilton Rancheria and Lucy Beyhan of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation requested formal consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1. Natural Investigations has forwarded the requests for formal consultation to the District and other agencies, as appropriate. Consultation will be conducted pursuant to Government Code Sections 65351, 65352.3, and 65562.5.

PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project: Bouldin Island Multi-Benefit Levee Setback Project

Lead Agency: Reclamation District No. 756

Project Location: The proposed Project would be located along the landside and waterside of the western levee (between District Stations 500+00 and 550+00) on Bouldin Island along the Mokelumne River in San Joaquin County. The borrow site is on former agricultural land on the interior of the island. Bouldin Island is situated approximately 6.5 miles southeast of the city of Rio Vista, upstream from the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers in San Joaquin County.

Project Description: Reclamation District No. 756 plans to implement a levee setback on approximately 5,000 linear feet of levee along the Mokelumne River on Bouldin Island to create a waterside planting bench for shaded riverine aquatic habitat, rehabilitate the levee to sustainably meet Bulletin 192-82 standards, and replace the District's Camp 5 Pump Station.

Findings: An Initial Study has been prepared to assess the potential effects of the Project on the environment and the significance of those effects. Based on the Initial Study, Reclamation District No. 756 has determined that the Project, including conservation measures that are part of the Project design, would not have significant effects on the environment. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

- The Project would have no impacts on the following: mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, and wildfire;
- The Project would result in less than significant impacts on the following: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, and utilities and service systems
- Mitigation would be included to reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels for: biological resources and cultural resources.

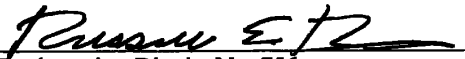
Mandatory Findings of Significance:

- The Project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
- The Project would not have environmental effects that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
- The Project would not have environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.
- The Project would not achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- No substantial evidence exists that the Project would have a negative or adverse effect on the environment.

Proposed Mitigation Measures: Mitigation measures included in the Project to avoid or minimize potential environmental impacts are included in the attached Initial Study, which is hereby incorporated and fully made part of this Mitigated Negative Declaration. Implementation of these mitigation measures would ensure that the potential environmental impacts of the Project are less than significant. Reclamation District No. 756 has agreed to implement each of the identified mitigation measures, which would be adopted as part of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Determination: In accordance with Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Reclamation District No. 756 has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project and finds that the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of Reclamation District No. 756. The lead agency further finds that the Project mitigation measures would be implemented as stated in the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. This Mitigated Negative Declaration is filed in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA guidelines.

I hereby approve this Project:


Reclamation District No. 756

03/18/2026
Date