



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

NOV-20 2013

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

2014 JAN -6 P 3:23

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Environmental Assessment for Nonessential Experimental Population Designation and 4(d) Take Provisions for Reintroduction of Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon to the San Joaquin River Below Friant Dam

LOCATION: The San Joaquin River Restoration Area from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River, and portions of the Central Valley.

SUMMARY: The proposed action is the designation of a nonessential experimental population (NEP) of Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (spring-run Chinook) under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in portions of the San Joaquin River, and to establish take exceptions for the proposed NEP for particular activities inside the experimental population's geographic range and outside of the designated boundary of the NEP area. In view of the information presented in both the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) documents prepared for the designation of an NEP of spring-run Chinook below Friant Dam in the San Joaquin River, CA, and the conclusion reached in the NMFS Section 7 informal Consultation for the proposed action, it is hereby determined that the proposed action will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. In addition, all beneficial and adverse impacts of the proposed action have been addressed to reach the conclusion of no significant impacts.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Will Stelle
Regional Administrator, West Coast Region

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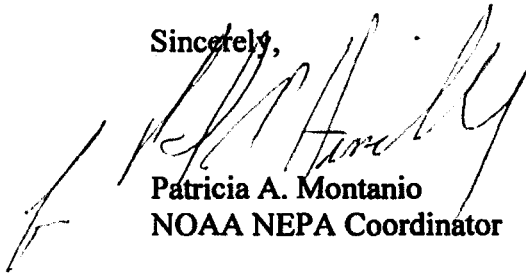
The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement was not prepared. A



copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI), including the environmental assessment, is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed EA/FONSI we will consider any comments submitted that would assist us in preparing future NEPA documents. Please submit any written comments to the Responsible Official named above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia A. Montanio', is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P' and 'M'.

Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator