



AGENDA SUMMARY EUREKA CITY COUNCIL

TITLE: First Slough Fish Passage and Habitat Connectivity Project
Presentation

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PREPARED BY: Kelly Allen, Project Manager

PRESENTED FOR: Action Information only Discussion

RECOMMENDATION

1. Receive an informational presentation on the process to restore fish passage and coastal habitat to First Slough.

FISCAL IMPACT

No Fiscal Impact Included in Budget Additional Appropriation

COUNCIL GOALS/STRATEGIC VISION

- Environmental sustainability
- Sea Level Rise adaptation

DISCUSSION

First Slough is a tributary finger of the Eureka Slough, and extends from the Eureka Slough Bridge to Myrtle Avenue at 8th Street, where a new passage culvert was installed in 2019. From Myrtle Avenue, the stream continues adjacent to Cooper Gulch Park up to 14th Street (between N and P Streets), from there extending into urban Eureka generally toward the Eureka High School campus. The First Slough Fish Passage Restoration Project will restore fish passage for salmonids upstream of Cooper Gulch Park. Once the project is complete, salmonids will be able to migrate upstream under 14th Street, which is currently a barrier to fish. Salmonids will also be able to migrate through what are now barriers in the gulch at N Street and M Street. The existing culverts at 14th Street and M Street would be replaced. The existing culvert at the N Street crossing would not be replaced; instead, it would be removed entirely.

Typically, the City would complete CEQA for a project such as this. However, because this project is exclusively for restoration purposes, the project is statutorily exempt under Section 21080.56 of the Public Resources Code, administered via the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) process.

Part of the SERP process is to meet with representatives of local agencies, stakeholders, and tribal officers to bring awareness to the process and project. The City's Development Services Department is coordinating with the tribal officials regarding cultural resources. City staff has also invited the Cooper Gulch neighborhood group to this meeting to hear the presentation. The presentation will meet requirements for outreach in the SERP process, as well as inform the Council and public of the status of the project.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

- City Attorney
- City Clerk/Information Services
- Community Services
Development Services
- Finance
- Fire
- Personnel
- Police
Public Works